



Helping Hands
inspiring change together

News from Uganda...

November/ December 2009

This year thousands of children have been helped thanks to your involvement with Helping Hands. Whether you have given each month, volunteered your time and skills or bought presents from our Christmas stalls and alternative gifts' catalogue you have helped us to help each child feel cared for. As a team, and on behalf of the many families you have blessed, we'd like to thank you for your love and wish you a very Happy Christmas.



Matatu park in Kampala



Latest News from Kamuli...

It has been a busy term for the team. All of the nursery children finished their malaria training leaving **only one thing to do... get their own mozzie net!** Sam travelled into Kampala in a matatu (public minibus) and met Judith who introduced him to our net man. With over 400 new nets, Sam made his way back to the village in a private hire (taxi) as there was no room in the matatu!

All of the older children have completed their primary education. They now have a long holiday before their secondary schools are allocated according to their exam results. **We wish them well as they move on.**

There was a very close call in Kisozi Primary where four **temporary classrooms collapsed.** Amazingly, a teacher had noted that things looked worse than normal and took the young children out to the mango tree only 10 minutes earlier. God does work in these situations one way or another.

Finally, our friends from EMI have surveyed our land and drawn up plans for our base. **We hope to begin building early in 2010** and so start a new phase in our story. More details will follow in January.

Our neighbours from the Muslim school



Joy, David, Cathie & Janepher on our land imagining the houses!



News from UK...



Cathie with Joy on her trip to Uganda in 2008

We have seen lots of you at our Christmas Sales. **Thank you both to our shoppers and those who gave time to man the stalls.** It is great to see so many of you choosing our gifts year after year.

The **Top Bananas** had a training day, preparing them for their trip to Uganda next year. It was lots of fun. We then met up in **Oxford Community Church** to take the Kids' Work there. The youngsters did brilliantly!

LAST ORDERS for Our Alternative Gifts this year will be on Friday 18th December to ensure that you receive your gift cards in time for Christmas. It has been **more popular** than ever this year and will make a significant impact on the children's lives. Thank you.

Love from... Debbie & The Team

Firstly, we want to say **a huge thank you to Cathie Jones** for working tirelessly for Helping Hands for the last five years. She has been a trustee since the beginning and now feels it is time to let someone else take her place. Cathie will remain at the heart of all that we do, **especially in our UK Schools' work**, but will no longer have to attend all of those official meetings! We will appoint a new trustee in the new year.

Thank you to our many Autumn Fund-raisers

Perthshire Cubs

For raising money for mosquito nets and for going out and buying fabulous pens and sharpeners for your Ugandan friends.

Carswell Primary School

For your fantastic wall hanging, harvest festival and for all the money you collected for mosquito nets.

Sunningwell Primary School

For putting on Sunningwell's got Talent and again making sure we have enough nets for every child.

Cote Baptist Church

For inviting the village to a Harvest Supper and sharing the donations between us and Tearfund.

Two Runners

To Megan Prosser (Y8) who ran in New York this month with 20,000 others and to Laura Wood who is about to run in Bicester with her boyfriend, Simon (both will be dressed as Santa!)

Silent Sue!

For those of you who know Sue Westwood (Y6 teacher) you will know how amazing it is that she kept quiet at school for a whole day! She raised £150 towards a new classroom.

Cumnor Primary School

To the children who added to Sue's efforts by dressing up for the day and so added another load of bricks to the building!

