

ENGALYNX

BRINGING HOPE TO RWANDAN ORPHANS

newsletter january 2009

REVIEW OF 2008

Projects Finished & Started

At long last, the Shyorongi Project has been completed and the overseeing of the project handed over to the Local Authority under the Auspices of Mayor Justus.

ESSA – Ecole Sciences et Santé Engalynx is still working with ESSA and the school director, Damien Sebanwa, who is one of the most straight forward, likeable and honest men I have met in Rwanda. He is always courteous, appreciative and willing to show how the money or goods donated has been used. During 2008, he has been allocated a supply of bunk beds for the boys dormitory and a direct donation of £1000.00 for equipment for the school. Manningtree Stour Valley Rotary Club raised £1200.00 with a concert held in November, which is for ESSA.

Gikondo Eighteen widows with children have been set up in a small way to sell goods in the market; a further six are being trained in tailoring on sewing machines bought by Engalynx. Visiting these projects, I can see that the women are very keen and some will do very well. Obviously, some will fall by the way side or may need more support. I have set priorities that widows who have taken orphans into their homes should be given first chance, based on the premise of helping those who are prepared to help their own.

The market manager has been very helpful in the set-up, waiving some of the fees for the widows.

Ruhondo School fees have been paid for 28 children, and uniforms, books etc. health insurance, has also been paid. Pastor Norman Desire has given me a list of the children's names.

The overall expenditure for the above is £7298.64. **Income** for 2008 amounted to £8311.00: the cluster of churches in the Ravenscar area of Yorkshire raised £2319, either directly by members of the churches or with my involvement on my visits.

BUDGET/PROJECTS EXPENDITURE FOR 2009

Gikondo	£3000.00
ESSA	£2000.00
Gikondo School	£2000.00
Transport	£1500.00
TOTAL	£8500.00

The aims for 2009 are to continue supporting ESSA wherever possible and to forward our activities with the widows/orphans in Gikondo. The Gikondo scheme is being set up on a micro-finance basis which means that the scheme should eventually be self-supporting.

There are four areas within the scheme consisting of the widows' market, the tailoring, the office/bureau and the school in Gikondo. There is also some leisure activity.

The office/bureau is dual purpose; this has been set up to provide a bureau offering telephone, e-mail, photo-copying, computing, scanning and printing services. The office consists of two small rooms with electricity and telephone line for e-mail connection. The office has main road frontage with a small front terraced area with a rent of 80,000Rwf.(£104.00 per month.) The bureau facilities should be paying the rent and overheads in six months. Additionally, this enables us to take two boys off the streets to act as

an operator for the services and night-watchman. A bunk bed has been purchased for the rear room, which is also used as a stock room. The initial set-up costs are paid.

There are six women currently training in the tailoring workshop – I have brought back with me six boy's shirts that they have made. I was able to observe the training session.

The school in Gikondo is a new one, built by the Government so fees do not have to be paid. However, the children must have uniforms, shoes, bags and exercise books. Additionally, another Charity has built a dormitory for the girls. The reason for this is that the pupils have to walk many miles to the school and the girls are particularly vulnerable on the journey. The building therefore is to sleep girls only at this stage. They need beds and these are what we shall try to raise funds for.

The leisure side of the plan is very important. We have been given football equipment by Mistley Football Club and we have taken boys from the streets, we have an organiser/trainer, Eric, who has mouldered them into two teams. I was privileged to see them play. This has changed the lives of these boys and we hope to be able to proceed more along these lines. Currently, the hire of a pitch costs 20,000 Rwf. (£26.00) per afternoon; I am hoping to write to the Mayor/Executive Secretary of the District to ask if there is any land we could turn into a sports pitch so that we can also teach the girls Netball. The most important part of this is to give the youngsters a sense of community and fellowship as well as feeling that there is something in life for them.

Engalynx was founded to help the orphans of the 1994 Genocide and I gave myself ten years; that was in 1998. There are still many orphans in Rwanda, many indirectly victims of the activities of that year. The Constitution of the charity is to aid vulnerable children and orphans; by helping the women of Gikondo we are saving vulnerable children and orphans.

FUNDRAISING.

The main function currently being planned for 2009:

HMS VICTOR.

The sailing barge Victor was built in 1895 in Ipswich and fully refitted in 2005/6. We shall take a Wednesday evening in early July, with a cruise on the River, a buffet and drinks. This should be a truly romantic evening on an authentic 19th century sailing vessel including pictures/slides of the work being done in Rwanda. Watch out for your invitation with the date!

“FEEDING US TO FEED THEM”

I have compiled the above named book of African recipes, which is on sale at £5.75 plus P+P £1.00. These recipes are tasty, different and are not over spicy. This makes a good gift OR treat for yourself. I shall also have the **Easter Chicks** with Crème Eggs for sale again this year and a range of carvings, table mats, jewellery made by widows in Rwanda; greetings cards for various occasions.

PLEASE, PLEASE, ask ALL your friends, relatives, contacts for ANY foreign cash they may have left in their wallets, bags or at the back of drawers and to save their used stamps for me. I also have available carvings, table mats, jewellery made by widows in Rwanda; cards, both Rwandan and my own, for various occasions.

I would ask you to remember that I am happy to speak to any group – please call me on 01206 393022.

If you would like any further information, please contact :

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THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR HELP AND SUPPORT DURING 2008.

