

15 years of HUGS and a new decade

What has Helping Uganda Schools been able to do so far?

Helping Uganda Schools (HUGS) started in 1995 and registered as a Charity in 2003. Many of its supporters date back to the early days and these are the things that have been funded over those 15 years.

At St Zoe's Day and Boarding Primary School, Kagoma near Mubende

Since we started HUGS has helped to provide 7 major buildings for classrooms, dormitories, toilets, staff accommodation, photo voltaic electricity supply for lighting, a large water harvesting system to provide fresh water supply, biogas plant for generation of methane from toilet waste so that use of rainforest for cooking can be diminished, school uniforms, books and computers, sports equipment, mosquito nets for 300 children, a 3 tonne pickup truck for both school use and for income generation from rental use, and many other smaller items. In addition we have helped to finance the purchase of 80 acres of land for both the school and for the school farm which produces much of the food needed to feed the children. HUGS also funds a number of free places for the neediest children. Nobody is turned away.

The school now has over 411 in the primary section and 72 in the secondary section where we now have children in years 1 to 3.

The schools have 16 teachers and 15 non teaching staff.

Primary school results for 2009 continued the excellent record with 8 first class and 29 second class in the results. This maintains the school as one of the best in the region.

The Directors full report is on our web site.

At Good Shepherd Special Needs School in Fort Portal

The school now has a 5 acre site and school building with 6 classrooms and a teachers' office. A staff house and guest accommodation, toilet facilities, a kitchen block being built at present, school uniforms and books, vocational aids, a 3 tonne pickup truck which is rented out and has raised enough in the last year to pay all the teacher's wages, and many other smaller items. Good Shepherd is the first and only school for special needs children with learning disabilities in the west of Uganda and has gained considerable support from the parents and the town and region.

St Kizito's, Strive Secondary and PMM Girls School Jinja

Although our main schools are St Zoe's and Good Shepherd we have also been able to help three other large schools in different ways over the years. This has helped them to fund a dormitory block, classrooms, computers, books, water harvesting and solar electricity, sports equipment, science laboratory equipment, copying and printing machinery, chemistry and physics laboratories and many other smaller items

Outcomes

HUGS aims to help sustainable schools which do not rely on donor aid for running costs. The charity funds capital development and the provision of key resources. Local people make the day to day decisions and decide priorities.

Since 1995 well over 1000 children have had a good primary education and several have gone on the secondary schooling (where it exists) and also to University. HUGS donors are currently sponsoring a Medical Student at Gulu University Medical School.

Good Shepherd has the potential to be a centre of excellence for special needs in the west of Uganda and teach others to do this work. Disability does not mean inability and we have seen some really inspirational achievements in the year since this school opened.

The charity has raised nearly £300,000 over the years thanks to the many supporters who have helped.

But now we look to the future.



Lion dance at Good Sheherd



Good Shepherd pupil Dec 2010



Thoughtful boy at a funeral



Sponsored by Boultings Audenshaw



Good Shepherd School Fort Portal



St Zoe's campus in 2017

The next 10 years

During the next 10 years the plan is to focus attention on two major projects, the first being Good Shepherd special needs school and the role it can play in supporting the 500 or so children we have identified in the region who are getting no help or support and no schooling.

The detailed plans for this work are being developed by Sister Theresa with help from Dr Scampion, a consultant paediatrician with experience in this area. Dr Scampion visited again in February this year.

Good Shepherd could become a resource centre and help to train both parents and primary school teachers from the region and establish an outreach service to bring help to a much wider region than is now possible.

The second key project is to develop the St Zoe's Kagoma Secondary School and Vocational centre. At present 80% of primary school leavers have no chance of a secondary education. By giving attention to both academic and vocational skills the school will prepare young people to play a more rewarding and useful role in society. As funds allow we also plan to create bursary or loan schemes to support further education and university attendance and this has already started in a small way.

The pictures on the left show Good Shepherd in December 2009 and the other picture is an architectural impression of the Kagoma site in around 2017 when most of the work could be complete. Seven of these buildings are already in use.

In order to fund all these items we need HUGS to raise about £60,000 per year. We think this is possible with your help.

How can you help?

Could you increase your standing order?

These are the really important and allow us to plan the future.

Some have not been increased for a few years.

Is it possible to increase yours just a little?

No paperwork needed. Just let your bank know how the the new amount you would like to donate each month.

Make a donation

You have been generous before. Maybe you could make a donation or support one of our sponsor challenges such as parachute jumps, marathon runners, sponsored 10K runners or run a coffee morning or fashion show. It all helps

See our web site for details of how to do this.

Send a Card

We have Gift Cards which you can use in place of Christmas or Birthday Cards. Send them to your friends and instead of a present you can purchase some weeks of education. The cards are free and we have 4 different designs. Tell us what you need from the picture below and we will post them to you



Mosquito Nets

Perhaps your place of work such as a school or office might like to run a small fund raiser to collect for mosquito nets. They cost about £3 each in Uganda when we bulk buy and are the best way of preventing malaria. Every year many lives are lost from this illness and it costs so little to prevent this. We have already provided many hundred.

This can be a really good and easy idea for schools to get involved in because the cost of each net is low and we find that children in UK really like the idea of helping to save lives so easily.

HUGS Golf 2010

We are having our second Golf Event at Romiley, near Stockport on May 19th with some great prizes and good company. Why not enter a team. Players of all standard are welcome. Teams of 4 and the fee is £200 per team.

This year we have some great prizes and the chance to take a helicopter ride, have weekend away, get a studio photograph taken and much more.

Contact phone Charlotte on 07823 885294 for details or see our web site

Hollyoaks play HQ Coaching

Come along and support Matthew and HQ Coaching in their annual match against the stars of TV's Hollyoaks. The game is on April 18th at Cheshire County Sports Club, Upton at 2.00 pm at the Recreation Centre, Plas Newton Lane, Chester, CH2 1PR