

The Sean Devereux Children's Fund

Reg Charity No: 1057777



Newsletter December 2010 Issue

Welcome to the Christmas update to keep you informed of what, why and where we are working. It is also to say a huge thanks to all our donors, supporters and fundraisers, because without you none of the projects would be possible. We take a look at

two new projects which highlight the Fund's desire to promote sustainability and fund matching. We also think it is important to give you regular updates on events both far and near to home. Have a peaceful and joyous holiday.

Scholarships

The Sean Devereux Children's Fund continues to be involved with various scholarship programmes. A recent report by John Monibah, our man in Liberia stated that there were far more applicants to the VOS scheme than they were able to help. SDCF also has a scholarship programme in Monrovia and Brewerville. Sean was actively involved with sponsoring children when he left Liberia. As the programme grows and the demand increases, the SDCF would like to give more Liberian children the chance of an education. In the New Year we intend to set up a scholarship finance programme to encourage sponsorship and in doing so welcome the support of our partners in Liberia and within the UK.

NEW PROJECTS

Ghana

Dodi Island lies in Lake Volta in the Eastern region of Ghana. A project proposal was received from Wisdom Ekissi to raise public awareness and encourage the prevention of Guinea worm on the island, through education. A team of health workers from the Ministry, accompanied by members of the Africa United Youth team have been to the island to provide health education on preventing infections and diseases. They provided mosquito nets. An education programme for the children was organized alongside a sports event for the youth, which was very much Sean's way of working.

The team hopes to build a small school to provide basic education and will train local teachers. The school office will also function as a tourist office to help sustain the project.



Cameroon

We have received a project proposal from Louistas Nyuyse, an RE teacher in Guildford to build a new Primary school with a nursery in Sahnyar. The lack of a large enough school means many of the local children receive no primary education at all. The villagers have agreed to contribute one fifth of the project finance, with the rest being financed by a UK committee and match funding by the SDCF Fund.

Upcoming Events

- ◆ The South Downs Way challenge on 25th June. Please contact Brian on: tbrianm@hotmail.com

Donations: Please log onto www.bmycharity.com/sdcf and follow the instructions. If you are a UK tax payer we can claim back 28% of every £1 you donate.

www.seandevereux.org.uk

As reported in the summer newsletter, two of our Trustees have spent time in Tanzania, working voluntarily and evaluating new and existing projects. Here is a brief update on their progress.

The Don Bosco School now has new dormitories and toilets, as can be seen from the photos on the SDCF website.

St. Mary's, Ulete has a brand new kitchen and have been putting some of the items from the recently arrived container to good use, including sewing machines and tools.

The container held over £150,000 worth of goods which have been distributed to orphanages, schools and local towns in Mafinga and Didia.

Work has started on the water preservation and control systems at Didia School, whilst the septic tank and new toilet block have been completed.

Regarding the clinic at Didia, a point of care blood analyser is currently undergoing trials with the Tanzania Government, and if successful we are hoping to purchase one. The Government will cover the costs of the reagents.

BREWERVILLE, LIBERIA

The first harvest at the farm started in October with rice, pepper, cassava, greens, bitter balls and eggplant. Sales outlets include the United Nations, supermarkets, community markets and local women who make a living from vegetable sales. The main harvest will begin in January and the farm is currently planting watermelon, ginger and cabbage. A truck is soon to be purchased which will enable the surrounding farmers to get their produce to the cassava grinder, thus maximizing profits and helping to sustain the school and local community.

The school enrolment has sharply increased by up to 200 students, and the Fund has decided to

make a contribution to the Brewerville scholarship scheme. The internet café has finally been completed, as has the Auditorium, which again is hoped to generate funds for the school.

TAPPITA

The vocational centre is situated in Tappita, which is an isolated village 12 hours from Monrovia. The centre is the only place like it and it supports Nimba and the neighbouring villages. The farm is designed to support the local community and produces palm oil, rice and cassava. We are hopeful that the Ministry of Education will start to fund teachers in 2011. As a fund we drip feed money into this project and are presently looking to fund carpentry and masonry teachers.



FUNDRAISING UPDATE

We are delighted to announce that we have received a substantial donation from a financial organization. Congratulations are also due to some very intrepid explorers and sportsmen. Thank you all for devoting your time, energy and souls to raise funds....I hope the combined blisters are now healed!!

- Brian and Jamie climbed Kilimanjaro and raised over £10,000 for the fund.
- Jeremy Hopkins ran the London marathon in April and raised over £2000
- Stephen Burrows led a team of cyclists from 'Coast to Coast' raising over £3,000
- Sam Leach cycled over 4,000 miles from Boston to Vancouver, raising £3,500
- David Leslie ran the London half marathon, raising over £1000

Finally thanks to Steve Laming who stood on a street corner in Telford to raise funds. We hope these events will inspire the next generation of fundraisers. Thank you to everyone who donated to the SDCF.

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STOP PRESS.....Important announcement: The Trustees of the SDCF have great pleasure in inviting all their generous supporters to a 'Thank you Reception' at the East Berkshire Golf Club, Crowthorne, RG45 6BD on APRIL 8th 2011 from 7-9 pm. Please make a note now in your diary.