



Forever Friends of Uganda

Charity No: 1167629

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Coordinator's Report

April 2023-March 2024

Sponsorship

This programme has been central to what we do ever since we initiated it in 2006, some 19 years ago. Quite naturally, as children have progressed through the years, the balance of the levels where the girls and boys have reached has developed. It doesn't seem long ago that the students who had reached secondary education and beyond we're in small minority. That is now far from the case and we now have 29 students at the secondary level.

It is very satisfying to know that a good number beyond this have qualified and are working in a range of posts including teaching, hairdressing, welding and building.

We have had our first few university graduates (including Maria Nanyonga who has now risen to the Ugandan Bar Association). More are on the point of qualification.

It is important to stress that none of the funds from this programme go to the children themselves or to their families. They help to ensure that the school remains viable and most especially that the staff can be paid. It also helps the Ssenyonga family to be able to help needy children who are as yet unsponsored but who can still be supported.

Closely linked to the sponsorship programme are the gifts that sponsors purchase for their children - most especially school uniform. That being said, I have done my best to persuade people to support equally poor unsponsored children who are often seen as less worthy of support than those who are formally helped.

Golden High School

As you will all be aware by now, the future of Golden was reaching the stage of becoming unviable. I was told that our sponsorship of the secondary school students had been crucial in ensuring that it did not fail completely.

The whole thing was rescued when James managed to bring on board a group of his former student friends - most notably the musician Ykee Benda who not only was prepared to put in some of his own wealth, but had the contacts to drive the project on in the national media. A new, high profile approach not only brought in support for the school infrastructure but also in terms of support for students in need.

Skills Centre and Well at Bulumbu

Anne will bring you up-to-date on these two items. Let me just say that the former has breathed new life into our support for the Abawaala ku Mwanjo (Girls First) project but both that and the well have enabled our colleagues to strengthen support for the village community.

Other Matters

1. Our link with Stockport County continued to bear fruit. With Fraser Horsfall as our Player Ambassador, we have maintained our profile at a level higher than would otherwise have been likely among the fans. Our bucket collection at a home match also brought in useful funds.
2. We have been back in the groove with our stall on Cale Green Park, bringing in funds, but also maintaining our profile in the community.
3. Our thanks went out to Andy Titley for representing us in the Hatters Half Marathon
4. The Kirabo Awards - Jeanette and I have fronted this new project for 2 years now. It allows children to be rewarded in a whole range of areas, including being kind and considerate, showing leadership qualities, appearance and hard work.
5. We funded classroom painting and repairs.
6. Reading for Pleasure - I have mentioned this small but important programme on a number of occasions. Long may it continue.
7. Last but not least . We continued to support the school staff with our enhanced salary payments and to help the girls and boys in the Little Angels Children's Home with payments towards feeding the youngsters who are staying there.

Thank you all for your continuing support.

Keith Mills

October 2024

FOREVER FRIENDS OF UGANDA FINANCIAL REPORT 2023 – 2024 SUMMARY

Our Bank balance at the end of the year was £20,830, an increase of over £2,000 on the previous year.

Our income was £34,500 and expenditure was £32,364, both of these were up on the previous year but this year we received more than we spent, leaving us in a very good financial position.

We received £16,476 in sponsorship and spent £17,633. Keith works hard to retain existing and recruit new sponsors and although we received slightly less this year, we were able to maintain and increase our expenditure on sponsorship.

Donations increased by more than £6,000 to £12,483, with Anne securing grants to finish building the Skills Centre from LYT, and from Wilmslow Wells for the Well at Bulumbu. As Keith has reported, both of these projects have contributed greatly to the well being of the local community.

Funding these ourselves would have put a great strain on our finances so very many thanks to Anne.

Gift Aid was up this year at £4,054, and money was also raised at a Bucket Collection, the Christmas Appeal and the Half Marathon, and from donations for Gill's birthday party. Thanks again to everyone who worked on those projects.

Our total expenditure on Capital projects came to £8,548 and included finishing the dormitory and necessary classroom repairs.

We also funded two Skills training days as part of the Girls First Project at a cost of £1,908.

Keith and Jeanette spent £290 on craft purchases during their visit to Uganda, and raised £528 at Craft Fairs throughout the year. Thanks again to both for the hours spent, not only in raising money, but increasing awareness of our charity.

Forever Friends of Uganda

Receipts and Payment Account for the Year to 31 March 2024

	31-Mar-24	31-Mar-23
Receipts		
Sponsorship	16,536	17,796
Donations	5,502	6,754
Membership	499	1,239
Sale of Crafts	528	402
Gift Aid	4,054	2,957
Grants	7,381	-
Total Receipts	34,500	29,148
Payments		
Sponsorship	17,633	17,307
Capital Projects	8,549	9,949
Enhanced Salaries	2,180	2,259
Membership & Girls Club	1,242	1,665
Gifts and Awards	517	327
Craft Purchases	290	-
Skills Training	1,908	-
Insurance	46	-
Total Payments	32,365	31,507
 Surplus (Loss) for the Year	 2,135	 (2,359)
Bank Balance	20,830	18,695

I have examined the Forever Friends of Uganda Accounts for the year to 31 March 2024 with the books and vouchers relating thereto and have obtained all the explanations that I required.

I certify that in my opinion the Receipts and Payments Account accurately reflect the transactions carried out on behalf of Forever Friends of Uganda by its Officers.

W. John Baker

W John Baker

22 November 2024