

Rwanyana Community Trust

News Bulletin Autumn 2021

Like everywhere else in the world, life in Rwanyana, Uganda, has been dictated by COVID-19 this year. All schools in Uganda, including Bevan Community School, were closed in March 2020 and after a brief reopening for some year groups the school remains closed. The expectation is that the children will repeat the school years missed.

This year the charity has helped to provide:

- Funding for an elderly persons group (Kiliju group)
- 64 menstrual cups sent from the UK
- Solar power for 64 households
- New girls' latrines for the school
- Extension to the hostel building so the children have somewhere to eat
- A vocational education teacher to instruct in sewing and knitting machine use
- Food relief for children and vulnerable people
- Family planning education and supply of contraceptives
- The charity continues to support the free day to day clinic service and some hospital expenses



Hostel children eating in their new dining room

Struggling for Christmas Presents?

A kit consisting of a solar panel, a battery and some light bulbs and fittings costs £50 with installation. If you buy solar power for a Rwanyana household as a present from a loved one they will get a thank you letter outlining what their gift consists of and photos and a story about the recipient family once the solar had been installed.

Alternatively £25 would buy a mattress and blanket for one of the many children who would otherwise be sleeping on the bare floor.



Charity Objectives

RELIEF OF POVERTY

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EDUCATION

Food relief

The ongoing closure of Bevan Community School has meant that the children are not getting the crucial two meals per day the school provides. We have been ensuring the sponsored children and other Bevan School children have adequate food by supplying essentials such as

maize, beans and salt to their families. Other elderly and vulnerable people have also been benefitting where possible. Thank you to all our fantastic supporters!



Olivia collecting food



A sponsored child collecting food for his family

Solar power

One of our most exciting success stories of the past year has been the installation of solar power to 64 households. Having light can be life changing for the residents of Rwanyana because, being near the equator, it gets dark around 6pm all year round. With light, children are able to study in the evenings, meals can be cooked and crafts can be pursued, many of which are a vital source of income for people in the community.



A family with their solar kit

New website!

We are proud to announce our new website

www.rwanyanacommunitytrust.com

Thanks to Andy Kemp, one of our supporters and sponsors, for using his furlough time so well! Take a look, hope you like it as much as we do.

Charity trustees

Stuart Marriott (Chair) sbmarriott@gmail.com

Martyn Kemp (Treasurer) mkemp1935@gmail.com

Mandy Kemp (secretary) mkemp1935@gmail.com

Barbara Marriott sbmarriott@gmail.com

David Bevan

Doris Stubbs dgreenmoor@yahoo.co.uk

Project Manager

Grace Bevan gracebevan@yahoo.co.uk

Social Care for the Elderly (Kilinju Group)

Rwanyana village is spread over a number of remote hillsides. This means that the elderly can be lonely and isolated without the opportunity of meeting their counterparts. We are now funding a monthly elderly persons group, organised by Nurse Brenda, where they can meet and be provided with a simple meal and items such as soap, skin jelly and salt. She also carries out health checks and gives advice on nutrition and wellbeing. This has proved very popular with over 65 elderly people attending monthly meetings! They enjoy their day and a great need is being met.



Vocational Education

Whilst the school has been closed we have been able to continue with the vocational education for small groups of children. A teacher has been teaching the children how to use the knitting and sewing machines and some children have been learning carpentry. These valuable skills could help the young people to support their future families in an area where jobs are scarce.

Some young people have also been learning how to install solar with electrician, Esau. A very exciting skill to learn!



What can you do ?

Sponsor a child

£25 a month will provide schooling, uniform and food for a child in desperate need.

Solar

£50 buys a panel, battery and 2 light fittings for a household

Essential items

£15 buys a mattress and £10 buys a blanket for a vulnerable family currently sleeping on the floor

Put on a fundraising event

Donate any amount

Donate a regular monthly amount or make a one off donation. Please contact a trustee, Grace, or message via Facebook for our bank details or address for a cheque, or donate via our [website](#) www.rwanyanacommunitytrust.com

Charity profiles: Spencer and Peninah

Arineitwe Spencer and Agaba Peninah are the key couple who perform the work of the charity in Rwanyana. Project Director Spencer is Grace's younger brother and Peninah is his wife. They are passionate about helping people in their village and they began welcoming destitute children into their home in 2012 starting the work that led to the building of the hostel which now houses 15 children. They are both trained teachers and Spencer still teaches at a local government school. His other time is taken up running the project which includes overseeing any building work and controlling the budget. Peninah is the school administrator for Bevan Community School and ensures the smooth running of the school and also ensures the hostel children and the other sponsored children are fed, clothed and safe. Thankyou, Spencer and Peninah.

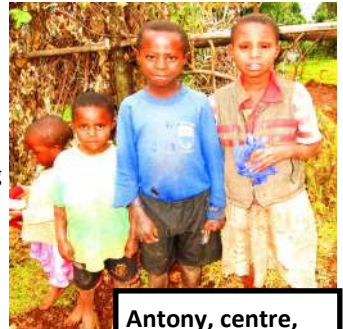


Case Study: Kato Antony

In 2014 the family of Kato Antony came to the attention of the project. His parents were struggling to feed the family and Antony, age 10, was continually running away and putting himself in danger. He ended up living in the hostel where he settled down and thrived. The project managed to find him UK sponsors, Jane and Tony. As he was older than the top class at Bevan Community School he attended the nearby state primary school. However, teachers from Bevan School support-



Antony in 2021



Antony, centre, with siblings 2014

ed his education and tutored him before he took his Primary Leaving Exam earlier this year. He passed the exam with flying colours and actually came top in his school. Well done Antony! With the support of his sponsors Antony will progress to secondary school and has ambitions to become an engineer. He likes beekeeping, poultry keeping, swimming and dancing. Antony's twin sister, Kakuru, also in this picture, is also sponsored, was going blind and has continuing hospital care, also paid for by her sponsor.

Urgent Issues for the project

- Ensure that the school is ready for opening in January. Purchase exercise, text books and uniform
- Build a dedicated family planning room for Nurse Brenda to support couples and young people
- Provide solar for more families including the families of older children so they can study at home



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