

Rwanyana Community Trust

News Bulletin August 2025



Celebrating Bevan Community School

Bevan Community School has been in operation since 2012 and now educates and feeds almost 300 children. Most of these children are from very poor families and the school breakfast and lunch is often the only food the children get that day. The school is mainly funded by Rwanyana Community Trust. This includes 55 child sponsorships, donations and fundraising by supporters and trustees. Also, about a third of the children's families contribute a small amount towards their education.

The school is a happy, thriving place with much singing and dancing but has also achieved good academic outcomes. For the last three years it has achieved the best results in the national Primary Leaving Certificate in the sub county (eight schools). We are very proud of Bevan Community School!



Charity Objectives

RELIEF OF POVERTY

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EDUCATION

UK Charity Registration Number 1177712

Exciting developments!

Over the years Bevan Community School has been expanded to 10 classrooms. We have one brick built block of 2 classrooms but the other classrooms are a deteriorating mixture of wooden cabins and corrugated iron shacks with dirt floors. We were therefore thrilled when, in 2022, the community secured funding from Lion's Club International to build new school buildings on an adjacent site. This bid was independent of Rwanyana Community Trust and work commenced in 2023. The bid was for two good quality blocks of 4 classrooms each (as seen in the picture below), which were designed to a high specification. However the project ran out of money when the buildings were almost complete and toilets were not part of the original bid, so more work is needed. We are determined that these beautiful buildings should not go to waste and therefore have decided to fundraise so we can use them for the needy children of Rwanyana. The plan is to split the work into phases. Phase 1 is to complete one of the blocks and build a toilet block so that 4 classrooms can be opened, ideally for next school year. The children will be moved from the 4 worst classrooms so we have the added advantage of less maintenance.



We are currently looking for funders and grants to support this project. Please get in touch if you know any organisations who may help.

Phase 1 costs

Construction of a 6 stall toilet block - initially this will be split 3/3 to enable use by both male and female students. Later it is anticipated that another block will be provided to give separate toilet blocks. £3900

Provision of a rainwater collection tank and the associated rainwater goods. £2500

Concrete/cement screed to classroom floors. £1800

Glazing to metal windows and doors. £600

Additional works that would also be carried out in phase 1 if the funds are available.

Painting of the classroom block. £1000

Desks, benches, shelves. £1300

Partnership with Rivelin Primary School, Sheffield

An exciting development this year has been an exchange of letters and videos with Rivelin School. The children at Rivelin have had assemblies about the lives of our children in Uganda and they wrote them letters and drew pictures of their lives in Sheffield for them. Bevan children and teachers loved the connection and wrote back. We are intending this to be a long term partnership with our 'twin' schools.



Go Hayley and Charlie!

The headteacher of Rivelin School, Hayley, and her son, Charlie did a skydive in aid of Rwanyana Community Trust! They raised a whopping £1000 which will be spent on text books, exercise books and uniform for the children of Bevan Community School. Thank you Hayley, Charlie and all your sponsors!!



The Community Clinic

Run by Nurse Brenda and her assistant, Nurse Juliet, Daniel's Clinic has now been established for 7 years and continues to offer a wide range of medical help, testing for Aids and malaria and also family planning. There is a fund to help people pay for transport for emergency hospital admissions. The clinic team also run a monthly social/health group for 120 elderly people and a weekly special needs group for 15 families.



Kilinju members

Here are some of the kilinju (elders) at their group.

Special needs therapy fundraising

The special needs group meets weekly and supports around 15 families. The children have a range of disabilities including cerebral palsy, autism and limb deficiency. Rwanyana Community Trust want to provide a welcoming, encouraging and therapeutic group for the families and in March 2025 they organised a week's therapy camp with Ugandan Physiotherapist, Obed. This was really successful, with all the children making improvements and everyone benefiting from his experience and teaching. We want to continue to provide therapy support to the special needs group and have started a fundraiser to make this happen. Please support it if you can using this link:

<https://www.peoplesfundraising.com/fundraising/therapy-for-special-kids>



A Foundling

In February Nurse Brenda was busy working in Daniel's Clinic when an old lady came along carrying a newborn baby boy she had found abandoned in a banana plantation. Enquiries were made in the area but the mother was unable to be located.

With some money sent to her from the clinic fund Brenda bought tins of baby formula from the town and she started to feed the baby whom she named Danny, after the clinic. She provided clothes from donations and her own child and started to become very attached to baby Danny. After three weeks still no mother had been found so Brenda, and her husband Justus, decided they would formally adopt the baby as their own. They already have a daughter, Tricia, aged 2 and Brenda had just found she was pregnant so they will be a busy family!



Case Study - Uwayo Linnet

Linnet is a 19 year old sponsored young woman who has lived in the hostel for many years, after the breakdown of her family. She is currently finishing her A levels and aspires to go to university. She has suffered for a long time with poor vision and eye problems. Glasses are not common in Uganda but when trustees Mandy and Martyn did some eye assessments in Jan 2024 Linnet's vision was found to be shockingly poor. The Trust funded her to go to an optician in Kabale for glasses. However, since then she has still been suffering, so this year she has travelled to Mbarara, 140km away, for investigations. She was diagnosed with Keratoconus which is a condition where the shape of the cornea is distorted. Special glasses have now been made and Linnet will travel to Kampala next year for further treatment.



I am so grateful and happy for the eye treatment that I was given. I received spectacles to improve on my eye sight from the hospital. They have really improved my vision to the extent that now, I can read my books without any difficulty. I am so happy because of gaining this aid that have improved my vision and I am going to work harder to achieve the best points. I really want to achieve a government scholarship so as to join University level for more advancement in education.

Upcoming family planning outreach

The lack of family planning and sexual health education is a recognised problem in many parts of the world. In the village Nurse Brenda provides this service free to anyone who attends the clinic. She usually wears a tabard displaying the logos of two organisations which traditionally provided outreach programmes, Marie Stopes and USAID. However due to funding cuts unfortunately neither operate in our region. At Brenda's own request we are funding a three day outreach programme in September, providing free advice and contraception to the wider community. We will report back on this in a later newsletter.



David Bevan 1947 -2025

We are sad to announce the passing of David Bevan in May this year after a long struggle with Parkinson's Disease. David, husband of Grace and father of Grace and Sophie, was a founder member of Rwanyana Community Trust and its original chairman until his illness prevented him continuing in this role. His funeral and wake took place in the church of Bolsterstone village where David and Grace had lived for many years. It was attended by hundreds of David's friends- a fitting tribute to a well loved man.

What can you do ?

Sponsor a child - £25 a month will provide schooling, uniform and food for a needy child

Sponsor school needs - Any regular contribution to the school will enable us to provide education for needy children who haven't got a sponsor

£20 per month will provide food at school for 3 children

Eg. £6 will provide a school text book, £10 will provide uniform for one child

Contact or donate at www.rwanyanacommunitytrust.com

Or email mkemp1935@gmail.com for more information



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