



## Possibilities Chairman's Report 2015

Period covered 20th May 2014 – 21st May 2015

### Introductory Statement

Possibilities is in a state of change. The developments within Uganda in recent years, and our response to them, have forced us to re-appraise and re-evaluate what we are and whether our aims and goals are still valid today. This past year we have raised less money than before and have organised less fund-raising events. Costs in Uganda have rocketed. This has meant that we have been able to send less and accomplish less than previous years.

For the most part this year we have debated and sought wisdom on the next step for Ensigo Y'Omucungwa.

### Website

The Possibilities website is unchanged this year. It still speaks of what we are and offers information

### Visits

Due to my health concerns I have been unable to visit this past year and for the foreseeable future. This is the first year in 4 that I haven't visited. I am indebted to Peter Gunter (Charity Treasurer) who visited during April 2015. His eagerness to visit and willingness to manage the whole trip took a burden from me that was a real release. Peter visited with David Barry. David was looking at the prospect of a long term volunteering opportunity. Peter was there to try and push forward the Ensigo project and to hold various important meetings to develop Possibilities interests in Uganda.

### Groups that sponsor Possibilities

Needham Market junior choir (**The SkyLarks**) has supported us for a few years. During the Christmas celebrations 2014 Denise attended a carol concert and addressed the audience at the interval. The Skylarks have continued to hold raffles and to sing for us.

Cedar's Park Primary School – The children at the school elected to sponsor us for 1 event during the year.

**Christchurch, Needham Market** We once again entered a tree at the NM Christmas Tree Festival Decorating it with .....The congregation still support our work.

### Links and Partners

**SPAU** We continue to work closely with Paul Lwanga and Sarah at Spau

### Fundraising

Major Specific Events

#### 2014

Summer Garden Tea Party

Needham Market Crafts Street Fayre

SkyLarks Children's Choir Christmas concert

### Craft / Possibilities with Beads

We still have a huge stock of beads that we need to sell.

We have been selling palm leaves bags, small cloth animals as well as African sling bags and a small selection of other items. We want to shift all items quickly and keep a smaller stock of items.

Opportunities to sell these craft items would be welcomed.

Various local groups had us to speak and present the charity's work for a donation and an opportunity to sell craft items.

### **SPAU**

Spau are managing the farm build / Malangata project for us. Paul Lwanga has been project manager at Malangata.

### **Possibilities for Children**

We currently pay for 11 Children's education. Benedicta's heart for children always pushes the boundaries and what we can afford. There have been some hard conversations as she has had to disappoint children, as we cannot keep paying for all the children that she finds.

We are currently paying for the 4 children that live with Benedicta. We pay for their schooling as well as for breakfast and lunch at the school. We are also paying for Juliet and Lydia's education. We have paid for their education from the beginning. Lydia had never been to school until we began to pay for her. Juliet and Lydia are the first of many children that will be relocated. They are now living with their mother, a stepfather and many siblings. The stepfather treats them well and is making a good effort at rearing pigs alongside caring for the small plantation and his family. They left Benedicta's care in January 2013. We are able to keep check on their welfare and progress, so have continued to fund their education.

We also pay for education of a further 5 who live many hours from Kampala in the north of the country.

Our responsibility will cease for the children at age 18 or at the end of their mainstream education. As the children grow older their education increases in cost, university will stretch our resources too far. We currently have several individual sponsors (always more needed) the rest is made up from general funds.

### **Volunteering with Possibilities**

Volunteering has proved a difficult task for us as we go forward. There are several issues that have led us to shrink back from offering this as an option for supporters.

### **Possibilities with Goats**

The goat project continues but doesn't really produce what we were once hoping for. What is needed at Malangata is a manager who carries our ideals, and the skills to implement a vision.

### **Travel with Possibilities**

This too has been a casualty of the changing face of Ugandan society. With limited opportunities for volunteering and with the current political situation across Africa we decided to withdraw this option for the foreseeable future.

### **Malangata**

The building at Malangata is just a bare shell but it is ready to be used. In April 2014 the glass was put in the window frames in November 2014 Electricity was made live, and of course it has clean fresh water.

This was a very challenging year. With many lowlights and considerable adjustments, but also with real achievement particularly in terms of water supply to Malangata and a building made ready.

Rob Pattison

21 May 2015