

Possibilities Chairman's Report 2016

Period covered 22nd May 2015 – 19th May 2016

Introductory Statement

This past year has been a constructive and important one for the charity. Unfortunately at the distance we are from Uganda it remains impossible to act quickly and to push forward our interests at our pace. Decisions that have been made this year we believe will push forward the Malangata project considerably when they are implemented.

For the most part this year, we have debated and discussed many times what our next step should be for Ensigo Y'O mucungwa.

Website

The Possibilities website is largely unchanged. It still speaks of what we are and offers information about what we have achieved and emphasises our vision.

Visits

Due to my health concerns I have been unable to visit again this past year. This is the second year in a row that I haven't visited. We have delayed in visiting as a charity as there has not been much to check up on or progress. We have been waiting for training courses to be active before visiting.

Groups that sponsor Possibilities

Needham Market junior choir - The Skylarks - has supported us for a few years now. The Skylarks have continued to hold raffles when they sing. They once again donated some fundraising from their Christmas concert to Possibilities.

Christchurch, Needham Market

The congregation have fulfilled their commitment to support our work. We are very grateful for their support the past three years

Links and Partners

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

Fundraising

Major Specific Events

2015

BBQ

Intialism fun questionnaire.

October Charity Quiz

SkyLarks Children's Choir Christmas concert

2016

April Charity Quiz

Craft / Possibilities with Beads

We still have a large stock of crafts that we'd like to sell. This past year we have refrained from attending craft fairs and places where we could set up a stall and raise funds from craft sales. The sheer time commitment for not a great financial return has convinced us to rest from this kind of activity at the moment.

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 (Jackui, Angel, Pauline and Magret) 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. They now live on the other side of Kampala but some contact is maintained. We have paid for their education from the beginning. Lydia had never been to school until we began to pay for her.

We also pay for education of a further 5 (Kenneth, Florence, Victoria, Justine and Joann) 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.

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 our vision.

Malangata

TfSR

The building is to be used by SPAU. They will be running 2 courses funded by TfSR (Tools for Self-Reliance). They will be funding two training courses, one for building, and one for tailoring. We are still waiting for this to start. Things still take a long time in Africa.

We continue to pay a wage to Charles who has been employed as a caretaker at Malangata for the past three years. We are trying to assemble the correct paperwork to enable us to employ a manager for the centre at Malangata. This will happen in the next few weeks/months. We are hoping that it might give Ensigo' the push it needs to become a viable Vocational Training Centre for Youth as well as Community Centre serving the people of Malangata and the children from the surrounding area.

Footnote

Some of our funds were stolen this year. An email account was hacked into and fraudulent ID card raised to enable the gang to present a false ID and withdraw a considerable amount of money from a Ugandan bank. At date the police in Uganda are still working on bringing the thieves to justice.

Rob Pattison

19 May 2016