

DEAF ACTION NEWSLETTER - DECEMBER 2018

Head Office: PO Box 395, Beaconsfield, Vic 3807
Tel: 03 5940 5431 Office Email: info@deafaction.org.au

Webpage: www.deafaction.org.au

Sponsorship Coordinator: jenny.reid@deafmin.org



THANK YOU SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS

The parents, teachers and students would like me to pass on their gratitude for your kindness to deaf children; and we would all like to give our best wishes to you for Christmas and the New Year.

School attendance is giving our deaf students education, opportunities for employment and friends for life. We are very grateful to you for your donations towards our schools and vocational training programs.

VISIT TO KENYA

I visited our school in Kenya in September. It is several years since I was there and it was a real joy to see everyone again. There are 93 students now, making this the largest school Deaf Action supports.

The new 2 storey building has eight good sized classrooms, a staff room and offices, including a school clinic for ear and eye checks. It is important that deaf children can see well, so all students have had their eyes tested and glasses made if needed.

This school continues to have the **highest national examination results** out of all special schools in Kenya.



It even has higher results than the hearing schools in that area! Thanks are due to all the dedicated teachers. Some are deaf and some are hearing and everyone signs!

The **Teacher Training College** uses the new school buildings for their lectures over the school holidays. Then during the school year the Trainee Teachers practise teaching, with class teachers assisting them, in schools for the deaf in that part of Kenya. So the school is used all year round!

Immanuel Christian School for the Deaf at Ringa in KENYA

A second hand computer and camera were presented to the School Director, and each teacher and student received a small gift.

Less than half of the children have both parents and many grandparents care for their grand children who have become orphans.



This part of Kenya near lake Victoria has many farms, crops grow well and the population is increasing. The bananas at school were nearly ready for picking and cabbage and sweet potato grown on the farm was included in meals.

When students finish at our primary school they go to **Kuja High School** or **Sikri Vocational College**. Students can complete Senior Level 4 at Kuja, and Sikri Vocational College is an excellent vocational college for our secondary students. Girls and boys can learn a trade or correct farming and agricultural skills to work on farms and they still need sponsorship. Their families are behind in payment of fees and some students have had to leave because their parents could not pay their fees.

So I am asking for sponsors for secondary aged students so they can learn farming or a trade and get a job.



If you would like to sponsor one of these older students please contact me by email, jenny.reid@deafmin.org

Muir School for the Deaf at Kalay in Myanmar

The school year started in June and there are 41 students now enrolled; with 6 teachers, a cook and a general worker. The Myanmar government added a Kindergarten year to Primary School in 2017, but we do not have any kindergarten children enrolled this year. There are 9 students in both Grades 1 and 2 and a total of 41 students attending school.



Three teachers attended teacher training for one month of the holidays. This was conducted by the government in Kalay. A new teacher was appointed to fill the vacancy for the required number of teachers.

The deaf community at Pyin Daw Oo continues to meet at the weekends in their new building, but it is not finished. The pig project is going well and there are 8 pigs eating lots and growing quickly at the school.

BELOW: Relaxing before 'Lights Out'

'Hold on over the bumps!'



THANK YOU SUSI

I would like to introduce Susi to our sponsors and supporters. Susi is our new **Sponsorship Assistant** and we are very thankful to have her working with us in the office. She is very capable in the use of the computer programs we use. You might already have had a letter signed by Susi or a new sponsorship card that she made.

Susi is also studying Auslan so that she can communicate with deaf people and interpret at functions. She has a caring heart for the deaf and has also worked some extra days as a volunteer.

Fishermen of Christ Learning Center at Ligao, Philippines

This school is a very busy place. As well as every day lessons, there are special celebrations that the government encourages, and the school has many visitors. Over **Nutrition Week** the students learned about fresh food, especially locally grown foods. They also had dress up day.



On the National Teachers Day the students did jobs for their teachers and gave them small gifts. The deaf students presented a 'signing dance' at the **National Disability Prevention and Rehabilitation Week** celebrations in Legaspi City. The older

students in Senior 5 and 6 visited the **National Museum, Bicol Branch** as part of Earth Sciences studies.



In September a team from Australia visited for the 35th Anniversary. The new **Senior High School building** was opened by **Ps. Barry Cutchie**.

The visitors learned basic signs and entertained the dormitory students in the evening. They also gave the children and teachers a trip to a water park to enjoy swimming and party food. They finished there with a visit to Jollibee, (like McDonalds). Their next visit will be Sunday September 22 to Thursday October 3, 2019 and will cost approx. \$1800.00.

Barry opening the new building



Fishermen of Christ Learning Center (continued)

This new **Senior High School Study Center** gives the Year 5 and 6 high school students their own area. The two major vocational subjects they study are **Bread Baking** and **Dressmaking**. Some ladies from **Quota International** in Ligao donated ten manual sewing machines and sewing materials for making curtains, to the Dressmaking class.



Student Livelihood Program

After the students graduate they can join the Livelihood Program and learn how to start their own small home business. The program also gives them a small loan that they must repay.

The students learn **Bookkeeping** and **Small Business Management**. Some ex-students have started businesses like sewing

machine repair, knife sharpening, making windscreens for 3 wheeled bikes, wedding decoration, thong making, small food businesses, and pig or poultry farms.

Self Sustainability Program

The school has also started a shop on the road at the front of the school. Two ex students who have completed the Small Business Training run this shop. It sells rice, poultry, pork, eggs, coconuts, fruit and vegetables from the school farm. The aim of this store is not only to sell produce and have a sustainable income, but also give job opportunities to deaf ex-students.

The shop is also a canteen that sells cooked food to the employees at lunch and recess time, and this employs more deaf people.



Bacolod and Borongan Dormitories in the Philippines

There are 17 students now boarding at the dormitory in Bacolod so they can attend schools that cater for deaf students. Most students travel home each weekend. Two of the older boys who have gained confidence are now travelling by themselves to attend school. There are 6 students in grades 1 to 6 attending the **Special Education Center** in Bacolod City - *at right*



Bacolod City National High School - *at left* caters for deaf as well as hearing students. There are 11 deaf students studying there with the hearing students. Special teachers and signing help the deaf students who attend both these schools.

The deaf families in Bacolod area enjoyed their **14th Anniversary**. They played many different activities and games such as table tennis and chess. The students at the dormitory enjoyed these sports.

National Disability and Rehabilitation Week in Bacolod conducted special activities to show every-



one that people with disabilities are talented and have every right to access help from government and non government services.



Deaf Ministries Institute at Davao in the Philippines

This school caters for students from Kindergarten to College and is a popular school for students from remote areas to come to complete their secondary education. 40 students of the total of 67 are enrolled in Grades 7 to 10. The use of signing at this school and the caring attitude of the staff are big advantages for deaf students. There are 7 students enrolled in the College and they intend to complete a bachelor degree over 4 years. Thank you to sponsors who give financial support so these older deaf students so they can continue their education.

The **School Anniversary** was celebrated in October with sporting competitions and many different activities. The students enjoyed the street parade in the local area. They walked along with drums and banners telling the people about their anniversary. It was a time for students to make lots of noise and have fun!



In July the school joined the **National Disability Prevention and Rehabilitation Week** to remind students of their capabilities, strengths and rights. This is encouraged by the government and celebrated by activities with other schools.



Career guidance Week also in July helped students learn about job opportunities. Guest speakers told them about different kinds of jobs and the students dressed as workers.

STUDENTS in UGANDA, ZAMBIA and RWANDA

Thank you to the sponsors of students in Uganda. All of the sponsored students in these countries are very needy. Some are orphans, or have one deceased parent. Some are cared for by elderly grandmothers or grandfathers, and cannot pay school fees. All are disadvantaged. So please accept their sincere gratitude for your financial support.



The older ones attend Wakiso Secondary School for the Deaf (in green) and the young ones are at St. Mary's School (in red). The photos below are: the students who recently moved to Mulago School for the Deaf; and the parents and students at the last Parents Meeting at our headquarters in Kampala.



Hastings and Maliza are continuing at their schools in **Zambia** and Alphonsine is achieving very good results at university in **Rwanda**.

If you have any questions about your student or their school, please email me directly at the address below. I can also be contacted by voice or text on the mobile number.

THANK YOU FOR GIVING DEAF STUDENTS THE GIFT OF EDUCATION



Jenny Reid: Voluntary Sponsorship Coordinator
Email: jenny.reid@deafmin.org Tel. or text: 0411 118 507