



USA Edition | August 2021

Thank you for donations for food!

We are extremely thankful to everyone who has donated to the FOOD EMERGENCY FUND. COVID continues to ravish areas where we have deaf schools and communities. Because of your generosity, we were able to send a total of \$10,000 in food support to Goma, D.R.Congo (\$2,500 from Deaf Action, \$7,500 from DMI), a total of \$20,000 to Burundi (\$10,000 each from Deaf Action and DMI) and \$13,000 to Uganda. These provisions were so gratefully received! You have given our deaf families health and joy in the provision of basic foods like rice, maize, cooking oil, dried beans and vegetables. No nibbles or snacks, but the parents of our deaf children are happy to be able to provide basic meals for their children most days.

Another wonderful area of support we have been able to give our fields is through our Self-Sustainability Fund. This Fund is a new initiative on an old purpose. A vital goal of Deaf Action is not just to help the deaf in developing countries, but to help the deaf in these countries to help themselves. By buying farmland and setting up employment projects, those graduating from our schools can have employment to move into, and the projects they work in can help sustain the local DA schools and communities. The deaf are then encouraged away from a welfare mentality and build self-esteem, the schools and communities are supported locally, and DA's funds are freed up to be sent into new fields. Our goal is to raise \$100,000 over the next five years to put this plan into effect.

Over the last 6 months, this Fund has seen fields purchased in Beni, D.R.Congo, and rented in Malawi. Already the fields are producing crops which are being used for school lunches, and in time will be used to sell and bring in revenue. The photos below are so wonderful to see! Thank you for your support in this marvellous series of projects!



Malawi



Beni
D.R.Congo



www.deafmin.org

Deaf Action General Fund Campaign

Over the last half year or so we have run numerous campaigns for some very great needs. Because of your generosity, we have been able to feed hundreds of starving families in Uganda, DR Congo and Burundi through our food emergency campaign. We have been able to build dormitories in Uganda, plant fields in Malawi, buy fields and grow crops in DR Congo, and more. These are all worthy and even exciting projects.

Our General Fund doesn't quite generate the same excitement but is at the core of our operations. Our monthly school budgets for rents, teacher salaries, facility maintenance and other Deaf community concerns all come from our General Fund. I'm sure you will also be pleased to know how faithfully we distribute these funds. A whopping 93.75% of our General Fund goes directly to our schools and communities overseas.

As July-September tend to be our 'driest' months, please remember to give generously to our General Fund so that we can continue to send out budgets to the field where they are so needed and are doing so much good amongst the deaf in our schools and communities. Thank you!

Sponsorship Workers



These two ladies are Sponsorship Workers with me. Rebecca on the right, and Kay on the left have eased the load of the Sponsorship Program that raises the funds needed to support our schools for deaf children. Sadly, Rebecca is leaving us after working in the first half of the year but she has set up a new data base of sponsors and supporters and might be able to help again if needed! Kay has now started working on Sponsorship and she has quickly picked up Rebecca's role. Thank you both very much for your excellent contribution to the sponsorship of our deaf children.

So you might receive a letter from Kay instead of myself in the near future, but both of us are ready to answer any questions you might have about your sponsored child. Some students are not actually attending their schools at the moment due to COVID, and others are

working online, so if you have any questions please contact us by email as shown on the back of this newsletter.

We are sorry we have not been able to send new sponsorship cards to many sponsors; but no one has been able to visit the schools to take new photos since COVID started last year.

MYANMAR - Muir School at Kalay



Saw Monday & Family

improves in Kalay. Some of the older students might have found work, and that would be good for them. We have not heard of any deaths from COVID among our students because most of them live in farming vil-

ages north of Kalay where there is no public transport and less chance of COVID spreading. Saw Monday, his family, and Saa Thluai the cook who live at the school were very sick with COVID through June, but thankfully they are all well again now. COVID was widespread in Kalay and there were no hospitals available. 92 people passed away in one day! Good news has just come through on the banking front. After months of withholding our funds, the bank in Yangon has begun to release to Pa-Lian the budgets we have been sending. He can withdraw these in small amounts to pay for the staff who faithfully maintain the school and reach out to students. So at last, our much needed funds are getting through. Thank you for your prayers in this matter!

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More COVID and another lockdown for UGANDA

All students returned to their schools in February as planned but another wave of COVID forced the government to announce a sudden lockdown on June 7th and all the students needed transportation home from their residential schools quickly. Some of the parents were sick themselves and even in hospital; so **Stephen, our Sponsorship Coordinator**, had a very difficult time finding responsible relations to care for the students during a curfew that restricted his movements around the country! Food was also distributed to their families because food costs immediately increased when the lockdown was announced.

It is very difficult for our deaf people when this happens. They are very grateful for your food gifts because many do not have permanent work. Our deaf people also help each other in our communities and the recent sudden lockdown is an example. **Solome's** mum had been in hospital for almost a month but thankfully a kind teacher from her school cared for her until Stephen was able to drive and collect her. She is now at home with her mum who is weak but getting better.

Many of our parents do not have money to go and collect their children suddenly, so Stephen to the rescue again! **Jordan, Allan and Rachael** who are all studying at the Vocational College supported by the Ugandan National Society of the Deaf were collected and taken home. That left the 140km trip to Kiboga to collect **Simon**



Simon & Rachel at home

who was recovering from malaria at his vocational school. His school had arranged medical help and he is on malaria tablets, but still weak. During the school holidays Simon is cared for by **Rachel's** mother who is a widow! Rachel's mum was sick herself when Stephen drove **Rachel** and **Simon** home and neighbours related the sad news that Rachel's mum was in hospital! However the word spread through the neighbourhood and Rachel's uncle came and welcomed Rachel and Simon home and agreed to care for them. Our deaf families and workers are wonderful caring people.

Yuba, Sam and Brian completed their Primary exam but COVID has delayed their future plans to go on to secondary education because the secondary schools have delayed opening. **Peter, Sylvia and Winnie** are waiting to graduate from Malaika College when the government lifts lockdown again and they can have their Graduation Ceremony.

RWANDA

Alphonsine returned to study at her university early this year; but all schools in Rwanda including universities were closed again on 29th of June because of a new wave of COVID. She has one semester left (at the end of this year) plus a few other subjects and is now working online from home again!



ZAMBIA

Hastings and Maliza also returned to their boarding school at Choma in February 2021 as planned but they have now gone home for their midyear holiday. There will be more news from them soon.

KENYA - I.C.S.D

Our school for the deaf in Kenya has become highly regarded, and each year our Grade 8 students achieve exceptional results in the Kenyan Certificate of Primary Education; even when compared to hearing students! This exam is conducted by government teachers and the only assistance given to deaf students is that the exam questions can be signed to the students instead of spoken. Congratulations to all these students who have studied so hard, and to their teachers and parents for encouraging them. The Kenyan government is making major policy changes in education this year. This school already caters for students up to Grade 8, so higher grades are expected to be available in the future.

This campus photo (right) is taken from the large dining room that is also used as the school hall, looking towards the 2 storey Administration and Classroom Building in the left background, with the 2 dormitories on either side. The new Covid Isolation Rooms are in the right background.

The high tank stand and the separate kitchen building are not shown. Bathroom cubicles and toilets

are very basic but most students are accustomed to that in Kenya; and the school installed running water for hand washing early this year to comply with COVID regulations. The school has been connected to electricity for a few years now but it is unreliable and sometimes fails at night time! It is dangerous for the children if they cannot see and walk to outside toilets at night time! The school is thankful for a donation to pay for Solar Panels and Battery Storage that has now been installed and will avoid any accidents in the dark.



PHILIPPINES - F.C.L.C at Ligao



Teachers and parents have worked exceptionally hard to smoothly continue the education of their students since COVID hit the Philippines. Junior and Senior grade teachers, wearing face masks, worked at school on alternate days of the week and all met together for meetings on Fridays. They used computers to teach and communicate with the students who had internet at home and Work Modules were available online. The parents of students who do not have internet collected Work Modules to be completed at home, and returned the completed ones each week! Fortunately most families did not need to travel very long distances.

Online learners also used computers to complete their assessment, and other parents were allowed to bring their children to school for assessment each quarter, following strict guidelines. During July a video of each

student was made to be used in the Virtual Graduation. For those who could not do either, the teachers took the risk of visiting them at home to complete assessments, but always followed the COVID health protocols when travelling. The much loved old school jeepney was used for these travels. It is fortunate that travel distances have allowed this school to successfully continue education with only the initial few months of forced lockdown. The teachers, students and parents at Ligao have all made this year a memorable one!

The Fishermen of Christ Learning Center had their first Virtual Graduation ever on Friday 30 July. It was their 36th Graduation after a difficult year. Videos of the students were recorded then presented online. Everyone at Ligao is to be congratulated on making this year so successful.



PHILIPPINES - Deaf Ministries Institute at Davao

It has been a very difficult year for our school at Davao in the Philippines where most of our students come from villages inland. They leave home early on Monday morning to travel to school for hours by bus; and do the same on Friday evening to go home. To add to the difficulties the Philippine Government has declared a 'State of Emergency on Account of Lawless Violence in Mindanao' because of terrorist attacks. Travel between areas on Mindanao Island has also been restricted due to COVID; so most people from outside Davao have not been permitted to travel into Davao City unless they have a special permit.

The Work Module system was used for students last year if parents could travel to the school to collect printed work, but COVID travel restrictions did not allow that for all parents. Mindanao Island does not have good internet outside of Davao City either, so there are not many students who have been able to learn online! Sadly all these factors have led to nearly all students who attended DMI Davao in previous years to miss

school this year! The school did prepare Work Modules for students this year but many parents have not been able to travel to collect them.

So nearly all of our students at D.M.I. Davao have not been able to attend school during this half year. The school is still receiving financial support for it to continue and for the staff who live there. Gabriel, the deaf blind young man lives there with his full time carer who is a graduate of the College, and only 3 other deaf students who need special care are in residence. I am sorry to give you such sad news.

If you would like to choose a student from a different school who is definitely attending school now, please contact the Sponsorship Coordinator at jenny.reid@deamin.org and we can send you new photos to choose a child in a different school.

PHILIPPINES - Bacolod Dormitory

This dormitory has remained open since schools were permitted to resume last year after the first wave of COVID, and some of the girls have been living there over weekends when restrictions prohibited travel to their homes. House parents Albert and Kim love and care for them all. The students have been allowed to attend school on some occasions wearing face masks and keeping COVID distance; but most of the time they use the computers donated to the school to do their learning online. These girls have become like sisters and enjoy learning together and having each other as a deaf friend.

Four older students completed Year 10 and graduated earlier this year. They have not been able to look for work during COVID but are helping family members back home. Justine completed Senior High School and has taken over the running of his grandmother's cake

shop. Ryan, Jose, Gerald and Nathaniel have internet access where they live, and are continuing their study online from home but hope to return to the dormitory when possible.



D.R.CONGO - Beni School

A special 'thank you' to the new sponsors who have chosen to sponsor a student at Beni School. There are more students available for sponsorship in this newsletter again. Please contact us if you would like to sponsor one of the students pictured on the back page.

We are very thankful that none of the students in this school, or their parents have been infected with COVID, because it is bad in some areas of the D.R.CONGO. The students have been attending school regularly, except for about two months in the middle of last year when COVID started. Their education has been enriched with the purchase of books, sporting equipment and soccer uniforms using donations given in the Christmas Catalogue last year. Thank you to



our Supporters who donated Christmas gifts.

All the students, young and old, are learning to grow



food in the kitchen garden next to the school. There are suitable jobs for all ages and the food they

grow is used in their school lunches. The larger farm about 10 km from the school is giving employment to deaf people whose wages come from the sale of excess fruit and vegetables. So Beni School and the deaf community there are progressing very well. Thank you for your support of this school and the farm land.



FOOD EMERGENCY APPEAL

COVID-19 has had an impact on all of us around the world. Some countries have been impacted more than others, but every country has felt the effects. Many people who DMI support in developing countries are still struggling harder than most. Lockdowns and restrictions for them means no work, no income, no food. We are continuing to run this appeal to raise much needed funds to give the Deaf access to staples to feed their families.

TO DONATE:

Paypal or Credit Card or Bank Transfer
donations go to:
www.deafmin.org/donate
(Click on Food Emergency button)

OR

Bank Transfer details are available on
the back cover
Use "food emergency" as ref.



Eliza Mulangala Ezekiel Akilimali Kahambu

We urgently need sponsors to support the students at this school.

See contact details to get in touch with Sponsorship Coordinator

How are you receiving your newsletter?

We spend approximately \$6,900AUD a year on hardcopy newsletters.

This is a good use of funds if readers don't have email addresses or find the hardcopy easier to read. We love being able to bring you the news from the fields as regularly as possible. But for those who do have email, we can save some of that money and send more of it to the Deaf in need.

Can you make the change from hard copy newsletters to email versions? If you can, send us an email to



info@deafaction.org.au with your preferred mail address, requesting to make the change to e-newsletters. Thank you for your ongoing support of Deaf Action.

Keep up to date with all the latest news from

Deaf Ministries International by receiving our other newsletter.

If you would like to receive this in addition to the Deaf Action newsletter, please contact us at

info@deafmin.org



www.deafmin.org

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Please make cheques payable to:
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Payment & Inquiries:

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THANK YOU very much for continuing to support our schools or sponsor a deaf student, and donate to the Special Appeals this year

Warm regards,

Jenny Reid

Sponsorship Coordinator



Neville & Lill Muir
DMI & DA Founders