



November 2022



The classrooms in Lira have been completed! Six months ago, the students at the Neville Muir Comprehensive School were studying under trees and in open fields! Now the students can study in the new classrooms. Thanks to the generosity of DMI supporters, all funding has come in and the classrooms have recently been completed.

Studies at the vocational school include Tailoring, Hairdressing, Block Laying and Concrete Practice, and Carpentry and Joinery. The school will soon be introducing Knitting, Computer studies, Motor Vehicle Technology, Agriculture and Electrical Installation and others. These courses are making a tangible difference in the lives of the Deaf and disadvantaged in Uganda. The employment rate for graduates is over 90%! We are thankful to Dennis, the Director of the school for his faithful oversight, and for the compassion and generosity shown by all our supporters. Thank you!





## UGANDA

### Ugandan National Association for the Deaf Vocational College

Five students returned from their holiday break and returned to school on time. The students closed the term with some pieces of furniture they had made for their end of term exams. It was very encouraging to see their work pieces. Sponsors should be pleased to see the students' learning producing such good results. Matthijs visited UNAD earlier this quarter and was able to see the students and some of their work. He took the time to tour the centre, guided by the centre manager Mr. Wycliffe Bukenya. He also held a meeting with the UNAD Executive Director and DMI supporter Kathi Kitao.

The UNAD students participated in Deaf Awareness Week at Iganga in Eastern Uganda. The theme was "Building Inclusive communities, Sign Language unites us". There was a petition advocating for an increase in the provision of sign language services to enable the Deaf to enjoy equal opportunities in accessing services. It was a National event that attracted both Deaf and hearing participants. A number of schools also participated. The commemoration was packed with several activities including community sensitisation, public lectures, public debates, cultural shows and a social evening was celebrated by roasting a bull!



## Mulago School for the Deaf

Solome has progressed to Primary 6. She is happily studying with her classmates. Yet because she is making such good progress, she will be moving to a vocational school in order to shorten her time in school studies.



*Solome front left*

## MYANMAR

### Muir School for the Deaf



In Kalay, every night the firing between the army and people's defence force in the town is still continuing. The Muir School remains open throughout. 30 students have enrolled since June. Every morning Saw Monday and his wife lead the students and staff in their morning devotions. The teachers

continue to teach the students under such hardships. In Sep-

tember, there was a firebomb near the corner of the school but luckily there was no damage! Due to the war, materials and goods are more expensive, which has made it hard for the school. There have been fewer food donations as well. It is always a challenge in Kalay.

In 2023, the school plans to build a boys' toilet block.





# KENYA

## Immanuel Integrated Christian School

Since Professor Kathi Kitao's visit, the crocheting classes have continued to run and a teacher in charge guides the students through their lessons. They have been able to sew head gear/marvins for each student. Kathi was able to obtain a well-working second hand bus for the school, seating 33 people.



The next Graduation and Parent's Day will be on 21st November, 2022. The Grade 6 and Grade 8 students are also looking forward to the National Exams. More

students will enrol in the new year, doubling the size of the current enrolment! Parents are encouraged and enthusiastic about supporting the school with its infrastructure. A new laboratory classroom is in the works.

A new Parents and Teachers Association has also been established. The school is also asking for support from other organisations including the National Council of People with Disabilities and the Kenyan Government to support the students.



*New laboratory*



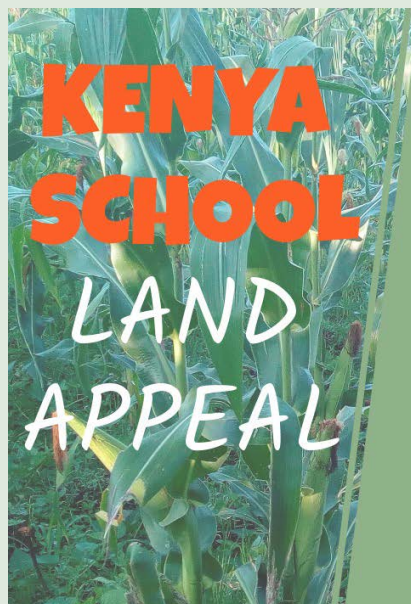
*Parents and Teachers Association*



One of the students sadly passed away at the age of 6. Her name was Stacy Atieno. We are not sure at this stage of the cause of death. She left a big gap in the school community, and was loved by all who knew her.

*Students attending Stacy's funeral.*

## Land Appeal



We've run out of room! What a great problem to have. With the expansion of the secondary school, there are more students attending, but we've run out of space to grow crops to help feed the students.

We need **AUS 22,000** to buy the plot of land adjoining the school, to provide room for crops and further future expansions.

*If you are able to donate towards the purchase of this land, please follow the instructions below:*

### **AUSTRALIAN SUPPORTERS:**

Please donate through Deaf Action via our website or using the bank details on the back of the newsletter <https://deafmin.org/donate/>

### **ALL OTHER COUNTRIES:**

Please donate through DMI via our website or using the bank details on the back of the newsletter <https://deafmin.org/donate/>

We have had a good start to our Kenya School Land Appeal. Donations collected for the purchase of this land so far total \$1,100. With the expansion of the Secondary School and more students attending the Deaf school, there is a need for extra land to grow crops to help feed the students. The land will provide enough room to plant the kitchen garden and for further future expansions. Thank you for your continuing support in helping the school obtain its own kitchen garden.



## DMI SHOP

Support DMI & Deaf Action by purchasing merchandise from our online shop

[www.deafmin.org](http://www.deafmin.org)



## DR CONGO

### Beni School for the Deaf

With gratitude from the Principal and DMI, Beni School for the Deaf now has a Secondary School. 25 students have graduated from Primary School from 2013 to now. Those students were studying at home because there was no Secondary School at Beni until now. In DR Congo, to get a good job, you need to have at least a Secondary School Diploma. Most students who have finished Primary School are still jobless. Beni School started building the Secondary School on 22nd February, 2022. It took six months to build. The building was completed in August, 2022. 34 workers were involved in the project, 14 Deaf included. The school is now a great asset for the Deaf community of Beni, the students and their parents and the government.



**Inauguration Ceremony**

On 5th September 2022, an inauguration was held for the Deaf Secondary School. This is also when the new school year started. There are 2 classes: 1st class and 2nd class. There are 18 students and 5 staff members (1 headmaster and 4 teachers). Many special guests were present at the ceremony, including political and administrative authorities. Members

of the local education board, DAC board members, parents of the Deaf, and of course the Deaf community themselves were present. It was a special day for all who participated in the inauguration. The ceremony went for two hours and included many speeches, ribbon-cutting, singing and dancing! The mayor of Beni was there to cut the ribbon. Special thanks must be given to William Edward Blackeby, who donated funds from his will to build the school. It's because of his great generosity alone and his love for the Deaf that the secondary school was able to be built. Our thanks to his



**Students and Staff in front of new building.**

son Graham and daughter-in-law Joy who have been so very supportive throughout.

The school provides lunch once a week either on a Monday or a Friday to minimise expenses. The students eat rice, beans and cabbage or sweet potatoes for lunch. With the students' sponsorships, the school was able to buy materials for both primary and secondary school students. There are also challenges. The school is still in need of a school bus, has insufficient teaching materials and books for both Primary and Secondary school. The Secondary school also had to borrow desks, cupboards, shelves and chairs from the Primary School.

## PHILIPPINES

### Fishermen of Christ Learning Center, LIGAO

The school has had a great harvest season. There were 65 bags of fresh rice gathered from the small rice field. They were sun dried immediately after harvesting to avoid spoiling when storing. Deaf boys were paid to dry the rice. The avocados were also a bountiful harvest as well as other fruits and vegetables!



The school staff have been working so hard throughout the pandemic. Thanks to the generosity of a local businessman and woman, the staff were able to enjoy an overnight stay at a beach resort! Treats were also distributed amongst the

students. The staff was so grateful to be appreciated in this way.





## Bacolod Boarding House

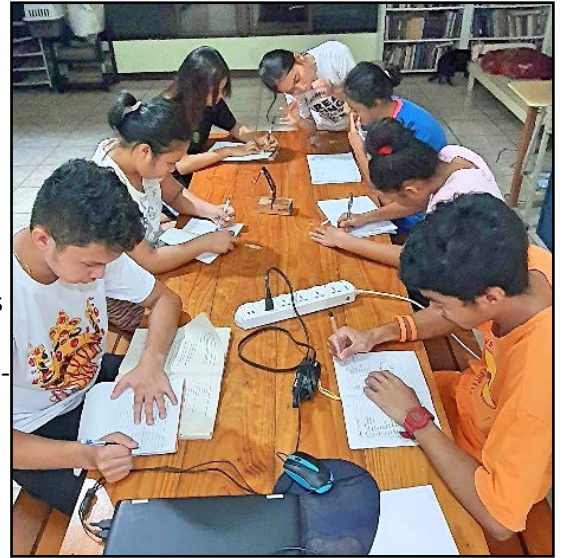
Six students continue to live at the Bacolod Boarding House and are now eagerly waiting for full time face-to-face classes to resume on 2nd November this year. The city government will distribute free school supplies to the students. These include composition notebooks, crayons, a pack of pop-sicle sticks, glue, a long transparent plastic envelope, writing notebooks, writing pads, a ruler, a sharpener, intermediate pads and a ballpoint pen. The students have been attending classes part time. Learning is in the form of individualised instruction that allows learners to use school materials in print or digital formats, along with other learning resources – Learner’s Materials, textbooks, activity sheets, study guides, etc.

Realyn Villarín studied hard in her classes with assignments every day. She continues to learn in Grade 10 SPED classes.



*Students returning to face-to-face learning.*

Gerald Febreo also studied hard in his classes with assignments. He continues to learn in Grade 11 SPED classes. He was really excited when the opening of classes resumed in August, 2022. In the same month, Mary



Mary Montero started face-to-face classes in Grade 6. A new student, Mona Fulgar was enrolled in school and started in face-to-face classes in Grade 5, too. Ryan Menoza is now in Grade 12 and studying at school in face-to-face classes and is living back at the Boarding House. Patricia Flores is back living at the Boarding House and is now in Grade 5.



*Mona Fulgar*

## AUSTRALIA

### Melbourne Office is Moving!

For many years the Pakenham office has been the nerve centre of DMI and DA’s activities, and supporters would have fond memories of Neville, Lill, Brenda, Jenny, Matt and slightly younger versions of Amy and Susi working hard. With an increase in (still young!) mainly work-from-home mums on staff, a dramatic increase in rental costs and an itinerant International Operations Coordinator who spends most of his time in Sydney, we needed to find a new home. St James Anglican Church in Pakenham offered their nice facility to us at a fraction of the previous cost. Staff will continue to work from home a lot of the time, but for two or three days a week, from mid-November, we will meet in various combinations at St James to keep operations going. We are thankful for our time in the old Melbourne office, and grateful to Ps Matt Scheffer at St James who has received us so warmly. We look forward to a long and fruitful relationship with St James in our new premise.



**Christmas Gift Catalogue Out Now!**

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TRANSFORMING LIVES

<https://deafmin.org/donate/>

A woman is holding a large green cabbage, and a young child is sitting next to her. The background shows a garden with various plants and a star-shaped graphic.



# Melbourne Gala Fundraising Dinner and Silent Auction



On 15th October we held our gala fundraising dinner at Sage Hotel in Ringwood, Melbourne. It was a great success raising almost \$4500 and bringing many in the Deaf and hearing communities together for an evening of games and scrumptious dining. Andrew remembered Neville in his speech and shared with us the amazing things that DMI has been doing over the last twelve months and our vision for the coming years. This includes our ongoing commitment to child sponsorship and our efforts to drastically raise self-sustainability in our fields. Rod Chapman (Chair of DMI Australian Board) gave a speech of thanks to Jenny Reid who retired from her Sponsorship Coordinator role earlier this year. Rachael McAulay won the guessing how many lollies in the jar for the closest number to 398.

Special thanks to the Melbourne staff for going to so much trouble to make the evening glow. Amy did a brilliant job with decorations and made the whole place look fabulous.



Kay arranged for dozens of silent auction items which were snapped up with glee. The most fought-over items were two boxes of Cookies and Macarons made by Cookies & Key and Sweet Lou Macarons with the winning bids by Rachael McAulay and our very own Amy! A 2.5-hour Wilsons Promontory Wilderness Cruise was also popular as well as a painting by Jan Wilson. Susi accosted people with her EFTPOS machine in the friendliest way. We're already excited for our next dinner!

## Thank you to the businesses that supported our fundraiser



## WE URGENTLY NEED SPONSORS TO SUPPORT THESE STUDENTS!



Tsongo Kavira  
Grade 2  
Beni, DR Congo



John Basilan  
Grade 8  
Ligao, Philippines



Russel Monpon  
Grade 8  
Ligao, Philippines



Prince Joe Retona  
Grade 2  
Ligao, Philippines



Tsongo Muhindo  
Grade 1  
Beni, DR Congo

To sponsor any of these students, please go to our website: <https://deafmin.org/child-sponsorship/> or email: [info@deafaction.org.au](mailto:info@deafaction.org.au)

Thank you for continuing to support our schools students, teachers and self-sustainability projects.

Warm regards,  
Kay  
Sponsorship Coordinator



[www.deafmin.org/deaf-action/](http://www.deafmin.org/deaf-action/)

### Tax-deductible

#### Donations:

Please make cheques payable to:

Deaf Action

#### Details for EFT:

BSB: 633-000

Account: 145834263

Credit Card facility available at office

Paypal facility (secure) on website

[www.deafmin.org/donate](http://www.deafmin.org/donate)

Deaf Action

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### Sponsorship Coordinator:

**Kay van Namen**

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Neville & Lill Muir  
DMI & DA  
Founders