



September 2023



# COMMUNITY PROJECTS



*Bringing education and business together*

## DIY Detergent Powder Project in Ligao

Students at the Fishermen of Christ Learning Center in the Philippines helped sell the school-made dishwashing liquid by delivering orders to customers. This was part of the excellent Livelihood Training program initiated by the school. The training aims to train students to become entrepreneurs and create their own livelihoods in the future. Students were taught – and experienced for themselves – how they can earn a living through self-employment, creating their own businesses from scratch and being their own boss. After school, the dormitory students have the option to help the store ladies pack school-made dishwashing liquid. This helps teach them how to manage their free time and be productive in helping others.



There was a separate livelihood training workshop for students with DIY Detergent Powder. They were taught how to create their own products to sell, how to do pricing and purchasing and were given tips on marketing the products.



## Piggery Project in Myanmar

The piggery project at the Neville Muir School in Kalay, Myanmar is running well. The school has four pigs. The money used from the piggery project has helped the Muir School for the Deaf to buy solar panels for the school. This is a huge help as the school had only been receiving four to five hours of power each day. This is a great example of our sustainability projects making a tangible difference in the lives of our workers and students – and without needing to ask for extra funding. We're so proud of our team in Myanmar for these developments in the midst of such hardship.

## Charcoal & Shoes Projects in Burundi

Three Deaf people from Bubanza, two women and a man, have each been given a AUS\$130 advance to start their own small income-generating activity. The women sell charcoal, while the man sells shoes in the market. If their activities are progressing well, they will be entitled to apply for a MREDF loan which will enable them to expand their businesses and hopefully achieve full economic independence.



## Several MREDF Group Loan Projects in Rwanda

Group members had lots of business proposals that have now been approved. Some of these projects include:

- Starting retail outlets to sell different kinds of food products
- Buying land to cultivate rice and other plants or for investment
- Making and selling popcorn
- Setting up a billiard parlour
- Buying a cow and milking the cow to sell milk

# UGANDA

## Ugandan National Association for the Deaf Vocational College



All five students returned to the Vocational College for the second term. Their performances have been encouraging and hopefully, they will be ready for their graduation by the end of this year. Brian, Samuel, Jordan and Kenneth are continuing their studies in carpentry. Solome continues to study in her Knitting and Weaving course.



Allan continues to study at The Ideas Workshop to polish his carpentry skills. He has already produced readily purchased products!

## Neville Muir Comprehensive School



The school is going well with growing numbers of students each term. It is expected to have higher numbers in the new academic year in

Term 1, 2024. The graduation in November 2023 will have the highest number of graduating students ever! Unfortunately, with the increase of students, there is a need for more equipment and training materials. There are few sewing machines, few practical materials, few building tools, few hairdryers, and the list goes on. We are working towards turning many of the courses into Income Generating Activities so the students can learn a trade as well as acquire skills for running a business, and bring in much needed income for the school for food and learning resources.



## BAMBANZE'S MILL

Bambanze is DeafBlind and has suffered abuse and ostracism all his life. He would love to be self-sufficient in business. To this end, he needs help to buy a flour mill and to build a small house where it can be stored and used. He and his wife will run the business to provide for their family and benefit many in the neighbourhood who have nowhere to mill their flour. At AUS\$6,250, the mill is not cheap, but it will provide a lifetime of employment and provision for Bambanze and his family. So far, we have raised \$3,730. We still need AUS\$2,700 to help Bambanze achieve his dream.

*To read more about Bambanze, please go to blog #48. Bambanze – Signs and Wonders – Testimonies of the Deaf ([deafministriesinternational.com](http://deafministriesinternational.com)).*

Go to <https://deafmin.org/donate/> to donate with reference to 'Bambanze mill'. Donations to the mill are tax deductible.

## Introducing Olivia Nankinga - New Project Officer for Deaf Action Uganda



We welcome Olivia, our new DAU Development Project Officer in Uganda. Olivia will oversee all the group loans currently running in Uganda as well as the self-sustainability community grant project which has been approved to start. She is a Deaf lady with a physical disability but that doesn't stop her from achieving great results. She initiated the idea of training students in art and craft handiworks using multimedia. There was an exhibition that showed the art and craft handiworks recently. Olivia recently attended DMI's International Conference in Kenya and quickly won all of our hearts with her can-do attitude and positive approach to life.

## D.R.CONGO

At Beni School for the Deaf, the school garden was able to harvest cabbages, aubergines, leeks, amaranths and spinaches. A portion of the vegetables produced in the garden were eaten at the school and other portions were distributed to the students to take home and eat with their families. Five Grade 6 students had their graduation and will enter the Beni Secondary School in the new academic year. Of those five students, Malikewa and Mbambu are Deaf and are to be congratulated for passing Primary School. (A small number of students at the school are hearing – siblings of Deaf students or neighbours who can learn sign language and become interpreters.)



### *Grade 6 Graduates*



Malikewa



Mbambu

## Minova

DMI donated two second-hand motorbikes to the school in Minova. They were in good condition and this allows Mika (Vice Director) and Temo (Head Teacher) to do field missions in Minova and in the surrounding area, visiting Deaf students and their families. They are also able to follow up on agriculture projects and other school activities using the motorbikes. 18 out of 26 students at Minova passed their exams for upper level classes, an average success rate of 69.2%. In the school's



agricultural project, the students and staff were able to harvest 60kg of beans and good quality corn. This is a really exciting part of the project. Students are not only learning how to grow crops but are also learning about the business of farming. Unfortunately, they also learnt something else this semester: theft. Thieves stole some of the corn that had been harvested. It's so disheartening for the students and staff. The taros and sweet potatoes will be harvested at the end of August. The farm is located at Bobandana, 6km from the school.

## 3-WHEEL MOTORBIKE CAMPAIGN



Alain has requested a 3-wheeled motorbike to help with farm production across three fields of harvest. The cost is AUS\$5,700. We have already raised \$2000 towards this. Please help us raise the remaining amount.

Go to <https://deafmin.org/donate/> to donate with a reference to 'Benibike'.

*Donations towards the bike are tax deductible.*

Thank you.

## KENYA

### Immanuel Integrated Christian School



Professor Kathi Kitao visited the Immanuel Integrated Christian School and stayed there for the whole 3-month term. She was on hand, especially while the new Competency Based Curriculum (CBC) was established. She was instrumental in equipping the library and ensuring the vocational classes were up to date and meeting the government requirements with the new curriculum standards. Kathi took Close Tests in classes to help students improve their spoken and written English skills. There has been tremendous positive progress so far with this. She also taught the students more about crocheting in Crochet classes. It's more than this though. Kathi not only teaches students how to crochet but when to crochet – which is basically all the time. Kathi crochets non-stop – before class, during class, after class; while preparing meals, eating

meals, washing up...! She has established a strong and wonderful culture of reading and crocheting at the school. The kitchen garden is going well. The school managed to plough and plant corn on their two acres of land. They look forward to harvesting the corn in late August. The school has already introduced sign language classes in the new curriculum for all students. Every day, parents are also encouraged to do one hour of Sign Language class. The aim of this course is for every parent, worker, and teaching and non-teaching staff member to be literate in Kenyan Sign Language; a marvelous initiative. The students went on a school trip to attend swimming classes as required by the Ministry of Education. They also attended a restaurant for lunch during the school trip.



## MYANMAR



### Muir School for the Deaf

28 students (18 boys and 10 girls) returned to school for the new academic year. During the break, the staff made nine new tables and nine benches for the students to use. There is also a new boys' toilet block. The school welcomed a new teacher, Bawi Hlawn Par. She is the wife of Mang Hlei Sang who is another teacher at the school. She has a Bachelor of Science with Chemistry as her major.



## BURUNDI

### Ephphatha School for the Deaf

All students except one passed their grade levels and will be moving up in September when the new academic year starts. They are very happy with their results this year. They are to be congratulated for achieving such excellent results! A special mention to Kim who will be moving to Grade 9 in the 2023-2024 school year. He is very excited and confident that he will pass the Government National Exams at the end of Grade 9. Keep up the good work, Kim!

We now have 9 sponsorships for the 11 DeafBlind students at the school! This is wonderful. We still have 2 students without sponsorship. Their names are Gad Ndayisenga and Prince Carmel Nduwimana.

*Please consider sponsoring one of them.  
Go to <https://deafmin.org/child-sponsorship/>*



**Gad Ndayisenga**



**Prince Carmel Nduwimana**

## PHILIPPINES

### Fishermen of Christ Learning Center Ligao



One of our sponsored students, John Bilolo, currently in Grade 10, won third place in Story Telling (Sign Language) conducted by the Regional Festival of Talents Department of Education (RFOT).



The Philippine Statistics Authority visited FCLC for a school-based registration activity for the Philippine Identification System (PhilSys). This is to register students into the country's national ID system.

### Bacolod Boarding House

Congratulations to Ryan who has completed Grade 12 and graduated on 14th July 2023! On Aug 4, he enrolled in the Education Dept of the Deaf Evangelistic Alliance Foundation, Inc and his classes began on August 7. (The 1st semester will be until December.) He intends to become a pastor and will later teach in DEAF, inc. In Bacolod after he graduates from

the course. We will be needing additional sign language teachers for the school and new pastors for the church in the future, so Ryan's study is of great value to our work in the Philippines. He is looking forward to becoming a pastor and teacher to other Deaf children.

### Bacolod City National High School

Bacolod City National High School held the Junior and Senior Prom for its high school students. The theme was "A Night of



Elegance". Both Realyn and Gerald enjoyed attending with their friends and had a ball.



Congratulations to Gerald who has completed Grade 11 SPED with Honours. He also got one certificate of recognition with Honours and a gold ribbon for the Second Quarter of the 2022-2023 school year

# MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA

## TRIVIA NIGHT & SILENT AUCTION

Which 2 AFL clubs did Gary Ablett Jr play for? If you were at the DMI trivia night in Melbourne on August 26 you would know the answer to that and possibly be the possessor of a \$100 voucher for Carl's Jr which each member of the winning table was awarded! The trivia night was held at Monash City Church of Christ who were generous in their support of the event. The night was a great success, raising \$2824! \$1,380 of that was raised through silent auction items. The proceeds from the evening will go to support a new self-sustainability project for the Deaf in Egypt.

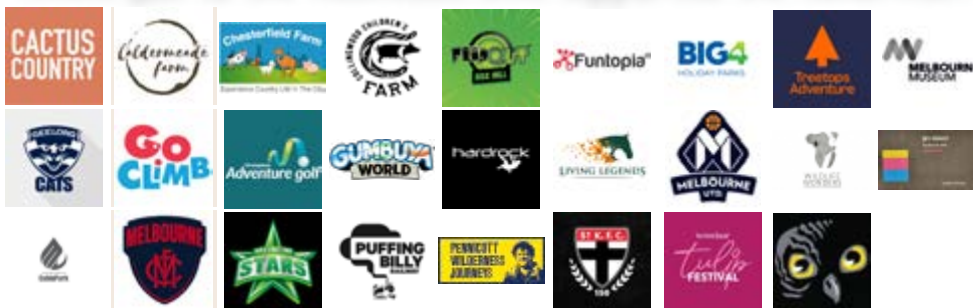


We took the opportunity to thank Rod Chapman for his service to Deaf Ministries International. He has been the Chairman of the DMI and DA Australian Boards, Regional Minister for Pastoral Care as well and a member of the DMI International Board. He has been instrumental in helping DMI achieve its vision, along with Neville Muir, to see Deaf lives saved and transformed.

Other than battling over fun trivia questions, guests enjoyed a bounty provided by Monash Church, and participated in a silent auction with goods and services kindly donated from local businesses. The most hotly contested item was the Sugar Candy Orchid painting (kindly donated by Jenny Reid) which went for \$200! The most popular items were Family Tickets from Puffing Billy Railway, a Gift Voucher from Treetops Adventure - Belgrave, and a St Kilda Football Club 2022 team guernsey. A special thank you to all who attended the event and gave so generously. The Sydney Trivia Night will be held at 7pm on September 2 at St Marks Anglican Church Northbridge. Tickets at the door. You have to be in it to win it!



Thank you to the businesses that supported the fundraiser:



Andrew Miller  
International Operations  
Coordinator



Matthijs Terpstra  
International  
Development Coordinator



Susi Tjhai  
Finance Coordinator



Amy Jack  
Communications  
Coordinator



Kay van Namen  
Sponsorship &  
Administration  
Coordinator

Thank you for continuing to support our school students,  
teachers and self-sustainability projects.  
Warm regards,  
Kay  
Sponsorship Coordinator



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

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Neville Muir (OAM)  
& Lill Muir  
DMI & DA Founders