



USA EDITION | November 2024

# Grants Change Lives!

Since our last newsletter we have been blessed with three grants which will bring tremendous improvement to the lives of the Deaf across our fields.

## 1. Housing loan fund

The cost of living has skyrocketed all over the world and nowhere more so than in developing countries. These hardships have impacted the Deaf more than others, forcing them into poor and sometimes dangerous housing conditions. This applies to our field directors as well who have families and have taken on the enormous job of overseeing our operations in their respective countries. Their wages are low even by local standards. To help them escape the rent trap, we have received a grant which enables us to provide interest free housing loans to our directors. So instead of paying rent, they can now buy their own house and pay it off in under 10 years. And so a whole life trajectory changes for the better. As loans are repaid, others in our fields can benefit in the same way. Four housing loans have been approved so far.



## 2. School loan fund

The teachers and staff at our school in Kenya live from paycheck to paycheck which creates a serious problem when there is a

medical or personal emergency. In response to this, a generous donor has provided a grant to be used as a school loan fund. It is hoped that the success of this program will lead to loan funds being extended to other schools in DMI's network.



## 3. Water fountain grant

An Australian foundation has provided DMI/DA with a AUD48,000 grant to install water fountains in and around our school in Beni, DR Congo. 12,000 people (300 Deaf and 11,700 hearing) living in and around the city of Beni will benefit from this grant. Because of war, thousands of people have been displaced, worsening the crisis of a lack of clean water in the city. People living in and around our school currently have to travel up to 10 kms (by foot or by bicycle) to the nearest well. Construction of one well/fountain producing water to 10 hydrants throughout the local community each with 5 taps can provide clean water for 3,000 families daily. One of the hydrants would be within our school grounds, the other 9 would be spread throughout the community and operating under the authority of local chiefs. (See breaking news on page 5)

*Responsibly executed, grants change lives. If you are connected to a foundation or trust, please consider providing a grant for the work that DMI and DA are doing. Similarly, bequests left to DMI can bring lasting change. Many needs remain in our fields. The Deaf are amongst the most vulnerable people in the world, and DMI is amongst the most responsible in managing support.*

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

DEAF ACTION  
Christmas Campaign

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



## Remembering Steve



*It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Steve McAllister, Chairman of our International Board and Secretary of our Australian Board.*

*But Steve was so much more than these titles. He was a wise leader, a skilled mentor, a good friend, a loving family man, a great man of faith. He will be dearly missed.*

*Steve was diagnosed with a rare form of very aggressive cancer last November. Major surgery, chemotherapy and radiation had little effect, and the years remaining to him quickly became months which quickly became days which then became hours. He passed away on September 23.*



*A thanksgiving service was held for Steve at Drouin Baptist Church on October 2. It was a fitting tribute to a wonderful man. Steve is survived by his wife Diane, his daughter Amy (DMI's Communications Coordinator) and husband Rod, his son Joshua and wife Laura Jane, and seven grandchildren.*

## Uganda

### Ugandan National Association for the Deaf Vocational College

Mary and Solome returned to UNAD on 9th September for the third term. They will finish in the fourth week of November after their Directorate of Industrial Training examinations. From 23 to 28 September, they celebrated International Deaf Awareness Week in Koboko. They also had a Visitation Day on 20th October. Solome is hoping to receive a \$500 small business loan to open her own knitting business after graduating next month. Any donations Solome can receive from supporters would reduce the size of the loan and be gratefully received.



*From left: Solome & Mary*

## Rwanda

### Tresor Nsengimana

Tresor started his first year of Primary School at Umutara Deaf School and is doing very well in his studies. Term 1 started on 9 September. We are very proud of him!

Recently, Fulgence, a Deaf Action Ministry Rwanda (DAMR) pastor visited Tresor at his school to check on his well being and progress.



*Tresor (right)*

# PHILIPPINES

## Bacolod Boarding House

Four new students started at the Bacolod Boarding House. There is now a total of 9 students (8 girls and 1 boy) residing at the Boarding House. Miles, Franz and Ronalyn will be attending Grade 7 at the Bacolod City National High School and Althea will be attending Grade 1 at Bacolod City SPED Center in the new academic year. The three new Grade 7 students' parents took them to the school to enrol them. The students attended the opening of classes and attended school.



The students have been busy studying for their first quarter examinations which took place on September 26 and 27. They have been using their evening study time wisely. Anmarie Duenas is working with them as a tutor, teaching new signs and English spelling. The students love having her teach them.

On the third week of July, the students celebrated Disability Week which was spearheaded by the Department of Social Welfare & Development. They encouraged and invited all people with disabilities to celebrate with them in various games and programs. They also gave out information regarding the privileges and benefits of people with disabilities. The students participated in many of the games at the celebration.

## Bicol Deaf Action (formerly Fishermen of Christ Learning Center)

### Mission team from Australia visits BDA



Rohan and Juanita Kimpton led a short term mission team of 14 people from Australia to Bicol Deaf Action in the Philip-



The students celebrated Filipino Week in August. While studying Filipino as a language, they also celebrated the Filipino culture, wearing traditional clothing to school. The school reminded the students what it means to be Filipino, and the students sang the National Anthem and declared the Oath of Allegiance in front of their national flag every day before the start of classes.

The Bacolod Boarding House has welcomed guests from Australia - Chas, Susan, Charles and Neoliza Cameron - who visited them during their stay in Bacolod and spoiled them with gifts. Albert & Kim and the students held a surprise birthday celebration for Susan.



ines. The team consisted of two sets of parents, 10 teenagers and young adults. They painted the interior of the school kitchen, donated and helped set up 14 second-hand laptops in the computer lab, and each night they played cards and games with the boarding students. They also visited the school's farm to see their amazing crops of coconuts and cocoa trees, vegetables, and pigs and chickens.

The team participated in the school's three-day anniversary celebrations, which were enjoyed by all. On the last day of the celebrations, the team



treated the school to a 'pool day'. The team also fundraised several thousand dollars which will be passed to DMI/DA for the school to put toward their wish-list of future projects.

To summarise the short term mission trip, each of the team were fully engaged and enjoyed everything going on around them. Some of team members are already looking forward to the next one! They wholeheartedly recommend this experience to their family and friends.



**Please Note:**  
We are sorry to inform our Bicol Deaf Action sponsors that the annual updated sponsorship cards from the students will be delayed. We couldn't get the information and photos in time. We hope to send them out early next year. Thank you for your ongoing sponsorships for these students studying at Ligao in the Philippines.

**GIVE THE GIFT OF Sponsorship**

**We urgently need sponsors to support these students!**



Janet Banda  
(Girl) Grade 5  
Zambia



Machozi Paluku  
(Boy) Grade 2  
DR Congo



Emmanuel Odhiambo  
(Boy) Grade 1  
Kenya



Althea Parangan  
(Girl) Grade 1  
Philippines (Bacolod)

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)

## MYANMAR

### Muir School for the Deaf

Our school students and staff in Myanmar were overjoyed to receive food support in the midst of real hardship brought on by the war. The support alleviated any worries they had had about food - now they have enough rice and oil and other meals and supplies to last them 6 months. Director Pa-Lian expresses his sincere thanks to all Deaf Action supporters who gave generously for this cause.

Congratulations on the birth of newborns for Saw Monday

and his wife Ding Ding who welcomed a baby boy in July, and Biak Lian Mang who brought a baby girl into the world in August! Another teacher, Mang Hlei Sang is expecting a baby in January.

# KENYA

## Immanuel Integrated Christian School

IICS is only the private school in the region to have a modern equipped laboratory and the students love working in it. Junior Secondary School students have been enjoying hands-on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) activities through laboratory experiments.



Building an extensive reading culture is one of the greatest achievements at the school. IICS held their annual reading, arts and writing competitions through which many students received awards for outstanding submissions of creativity and critical thinking.

Recently 27 Grade 6 students sat for their National examinations to enter Junior Secondary School. We wish them success with their results!



Parents are continuously involved at the school in a hands-on capacity and their support has been invaluable to the school's success.

Parents attended the graduation ceremonies of Kinder and Grade 6 students and presented awards to teachers for their excellent performance with the students. Parent-Teacher conferences continue to strengthen the partnerships between teachers and parents through constructive discussions about the students' progress and areas for improvement.

## Kuja High School for the Deaf

Congratulations to Melvin An-yango who was recently awarded the Most Improved Student for the 2023-2024 school year.



# DR CONGO

## Beni School for the Deaf

What a rough start to the new 2024-2025 academic year for our students in Congo! All teachers across the country went on strike for two weeks! The teachers were protesting to the government for higher wages and were able to receive a small increase as a result. While the teachers were absent from the classrooms, the students got busy cleaning the school and making the grounds look wonderful. The principal, Alain, was able to purchase new school sup-

plies for the students. They were grateful to Deaf Child Hope and DMI for providing those necessary supplies including exercise books.

In June, Deaf Action sent \$1,000 to help with the food emergency unfolding in Bulengo, DR Congo. DAC Director Papy organised the distribution of much-needed food relief to 40 Deaf families. Supplies distributed included rice, corn flour, beans, sugar, oil, salt and washing detergent. Thank you to all our supporters who gave so generously to this campaign.



## BREAKING NEWS! Fountain drilling begins

October 30 was a special day for Beni School for the Deaf. They held a special launch ceremony for the drilling of the new water fountain. The launch ceremony started at 9.30 am and finished at 11 am. There were guests in attendance including Pastor Papy from Goma, political and administrative authorities from





the Beni municipality including some representatives from the Butembo and Oicha areas, Deaf churches, parent representatives, students and teachers and the working team. The launch ceremony opened in prayer and with the singing of a National hymn, followed by speeches, then

the launching ceremony at the drilling vehicle itself. The ceremony was fantastic and everyone was pleased to see this project start to meet the dire need for accessible clean water in Beni. Thank you to DMI supporters for making this happen! More updates to come.



## How are you receiving your newsletter?

We spend approximately \$6,650AUD a year on hard copy newsletters. This is a good use of funds if readers don't have email addresses or find the hard copy 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](mailto: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](mailto:info@deafmin.org)



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Amy Jack  
Communications Coordinator



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



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## DMI DONATIONS:

Christian Ministry + School, Employment and Aid Projects



Details for bank Transfer:  
SWIFT CODE: BENDAU3B  
BSB: 633-000  
Account: 145833539



Credit Card facility available through Australian office or PayPal (secure) on website.

Please note:

We cannot receive funds from US supporters for Syria, Myanmar or China as the US government has sanctioned these countries. Please donate to other fields, or to the general fund with an email to Susi indicating which field(s) funds are intended for.

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Neville Muir (OAM)  
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