



Scottish Charity Number
SCO 33311

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March 2011

Date for School Opening

The date for the school opening was set for 28th February 2011. As usual, getting official approval and documentation takes forever and we have been delayed by the wait for the registration of the NGO. However we now have a letter of acceptance and so can go ahead and open the first phase of the school. The container arrived safely at the end of December and everything has been unpacked. Baraka is delighted with the contents, which will be such a boost for the school project. Since the last newsletter, the administration block has been rebuilt and the decision has been made to put a corrugated iron roof on until such time as the Magima factory can supply more tiles. The workers in the Tile factory are working in the fields for the next few months and will pick up production once the rainy season is over. It is our hope that eventually they will work all year in the tile factory and pay someone else to cultivate their fields but it is difficult to change the traditional pattern of working the fields at this time of year.

The bamboo fence is almost complete and the remaining work can be carried on while the school is open. The toilets are also complete and the wells have been sealed so that the water is protected. Mattresses and bed linen have been purchased for the bunk beds we sent across in the container and a year's rental has been paid for the nearby house which will act as a dormitory while we build others at the school. The windows of the house are being fitted with mosquito netting. Everyone there is working very hard to make sure everything is in place for the opening and a supply of food is also being bought for the children. Once everything is in place the sponsored children will be brought to the school. They will be measured during the first week and then uniforms will be made and trainers and shoes bought. The girls will have black and white check dresses and the boys will wear black shorts with black and white check shirts.

Baraka has sent us some very recent photos of the school. We can see both the wells are now sealed and a pump has been fitted to one. The administration block is also complete and has its temporary corrugated roof. We can also see that the area around the classrooms has been planted out and the bamboo fence is in place.



Meanwhile back in Dundee, Louise and her sister Anne took part in a Volunteers Fair at the University of Dundee in February to try and identify students who would like to help the project. Our stall was in competition with some very large charities so we tried to make our stall colourful. We used large photographs of the sponsored children and hung a beautiful piece of batik material that Alice brought back from Tanzania a few years ago as a banner. We also played African music in the background so that it acted subliminally on the students and drew them over to our stall.

A supply of RUDA badges and a tray of jelly babies were given as freebies to any student who signed up to help. We also took a big pile of postcards with the web site address made from a photograph Alice took at Magima a few years ago to hand out. A laptop displayed powerpoint images of the school, local people and the villages of Namanditi and Peramiho.



The day went well and we spoke about the project to many students. At the end of the day we have 38 names of individuals who want to help. Over the next week or so I will get in touch with each of them and ask if they are happy to be put on a register of people I can get in touch with when we need help with a fundraiser. Two of the students are engineers with ideas for sustainable low tech solutions and we are very excited at the thought of the expertise they could bring to the school project. Some time over the Easter break I hope to have a meeting with the students and together we can plan some fundraisers for later this year.

A Chinese postgraduate student from Duncan of Jordanstone has been given a placement with the charity and he will help to make improvements to the website and teach Louise how to make changes to its structure. During the first three-hour session Kevin (not his real name) added a plug in tool, which immediately eradicated the 285 spam comments that had been posted on the site in the last fortnight. This will be a great help in allowing only meaningful contacts to be recorded and save a lot of time filtering them out one at a time. We need to get the original home page file from Margaret who set the site up for us before we can make the alterations we plan and activate all the tabs, and we hope to do that at the next session. We also plan to make links to other relevant sites, with interesting articles on the Ujaama and President Nyerere. Thanks to Kevin's patience I have now been able to update the sponsorship page and will create a new 'About Us' page, which will give some of the history of the charity, and include some photographs of Ralph, Noreen and their family from their time in Ruvuma during the 1960's.

Kevin also has the task of designing a logo for the school and he is working on the idea of the Uhuru torch combined with the initials of the school. He wants to develop a visual idea in a style that reflects that this is a primary school for young children, so may use primary colours for the design.

On the 9th of March we met up with Ken Anderson of One Solution in Glasgow who was such a great help in raising money for the charity back in November 2009. At the meeting we agreed to work together to organize another Art event, this time in October, and Ken hopes to persuade 10 of his artist clients to donate a piece of work. Alice and I have the task of asking our artist friends to support us yet again in order to guarantee the continuing development of the Ntimbanjayo Memorial School of Excellence. We are delighted that Ken Anderson has also stated that he plans to support the school with a very generous donation next year, in 2012.

