

Uganda February 2017 Update

Nile Vocational Institute

This February we have taken 62 new students into NVI to study a whole range of courses. We met them all and heard their stories.



During the trip we spent time with many of the continuing students too. One of the highlights of the trip was taking all UgandAid students for an afternoon out to the Source of the Nile gardens – a whole new take on picnic by the river – we played traditional competitive games and races, such as egg and spoon and passing balloons ‘over and under’ down a line – good grief, the shouting and pushing!!

At the end we supplied drinks, cakes and ice creams for all – no mean feat at 30 degrees.

During the 2 weeks we also managed to take responsibility for NVI’s Sunday morning service, including singing and drama. On another day we held a mini sports day, once again beating NVI at netball and football.

The students loved it. Their lives have been so devoid of fun, and it was great to see them relax with us. We don’t want to be distant benefactors, but get to know and understand them.

Kathy’s centre

In the first week we were delighted to decorate Kathy’s centre, in Mayuge, a rural area east of Jinja. This is being built in memory of our dear friend Kathy Smedley, co founder of Act4 Africa – see link on UgandAid website.

“Act4Africa are building Kathy's Centre in memory of their co-founder, Kathy Smedley, who died in August 2014. Kathy’s Centre will provide a kindergarten/early years education facility and access to advice, counselling and health support for women. Kathy’s Centre will effectively draw together all the issues that mattered most to Kathy Smedley under one roof. We can’t think of a better way to celebrate her life.”



Latrines for this family

For 9 years UgandAid has supported the village of Nsenge, which is part of the community programme of NVI

This year we raised funds for several projects in the village, which included local houses (wood and mud to you and me) brick houses and latrines. The choice of projects was decided on by the village itself.



... and a new home for this lady

During the visit we got down to some serious antenatal health training using the age old tool of snakes and ladders, in a modified version, to teach the good and bad aspects of ante natal care. It went down extremely well. The whole team was treated to an evening party, food , speeches and lots and lots of dancing to the mesmerising beat of African drums.

We supported **Gospel Cross International** which was established by Jan Webb, a retired GP. It delivers a holistic approach to health and welfare in the villages. Jan and our team supported the leaders as they held training workshops for representatives from all their villages.

This small group of five volunteers has been working in a number of villages for several years, and seen steady improvement in living and health conditions, with education in preventative health and plenty of encouragement.

The team spent time with **Macedonian Vision Africa**, which is improving the lives of people in a slum area of Jinja. Children are supported to go to school, and there is also basic skills training in such things as tailoring and hairdressing. Pastor Alfred and his team work tirelessly to improve the lives of the people in that community. We served Saturday breakfast to a mass of eager children, and some played games with the children in the project.

Peter Booth has been working with village communities on crop storage. Three villages have received WHO training and await delivery of airtight crop storage containers. Up to 30% of stored seed is lost, which has a massive impact for subsistence farmers who have so few resources. This project should help address that problem. The drought has hit the community hard. We were able to supply one village with seeds to plant when the rains came, and are delighted the rain has now started to fall.

Eunice – we caught up with Eunice, a young man who is severely disabled after suffering polio as a child. Thanks to team members, not only does he have a wheelchair now but new shoes and callipers. To top it all, we've been able to arrange for him to attend a 12-month training course in Kampala to learn shoe making and shoe repair for people with disabilities. This will in due course enable this remarkable young man to make a living for himself.

This is a very brief overview of what happened in Uganda in February 2017 – see ugandaaid.com for more info – take a look at our blog from the trip for more detail and pictures of these projects.

