

## THE ADELANTE AFRICA NEWSLETTER MAY 2014

Here is the latest news from Uganda.



### ST. JOSEPH'S SCHOOL

The school has begun the new school year well and has enrolled 489 children. Adelante Africa pays the school fees of those at the school who are orphans or from desperately poor families. The number of these children has risen to 171. This is part of our efforts to keep such children at home with their families or with guardians rather than in institutions.

The Vice-president and Secretary of Adelante Africa, Spain visited the school in April and showed the children in Year 7 photos and videos of the musical *A phantom at School* which was written and performed by students at the secondary school, El Burgo de las Rozas in Madrid. They also gave letters and messages from the Spanish children to their counterparts in Uganda.



A scene from the musical and the children in Uganda watching it.

The Spanish school is raising money to help to pay for the building of a girls dormitory at St Joseph's and this year, apart from the musical, they have put on two concerts and a bring and buy sale, raising over 1,500 euros so far! Most of the pupils at St Joseph's live in villages where there is no electricity and, as St Joseph's has solar powered lighting, the only way they can study in the evening is by staying at school. At present they study and sleep in the same classroom, rolling out mattresses kept at the back of the classroom after dark.

The water tanks, bought with money raised by I.E.S. El Burgo de las Rozas last year, have finally arrived and will be used from this coming term. They will provide treated, safe water for the children who currently drink water straight from the well, river or water deposits resulting in many cases of typhoid. Here are the water tanks, which were stored in the staff room during the holidays, with some of the teachers in front of them.



## SECONDARY SCHOOL PROJECT

One child from St Joseph's got a grade 1 and twenty children got a grade 2 in the Primary Leaving Exam this year, compared to the 23 children who received a grade 2 last year.



Of these Adelante Africa sponsors are paying the fees for seventeen at boarding school (the only option for a quality secondary education) and a further fifteen at local secondary schools. The total number of children sponsored has risen to one hundred and six, of whom one is in primary and eleven are in further education. Most of these children are from St Joseph's School but occasionally we sponsor children who are brought to us from other schools and who otherwise would have no hope of a secondary education.

Sara, one of the children we sponsor, home for her Easter holidays

## OMWAANA TUGENDE CHILDREN'S HOME



The new signpost with the gatekeeper and some of the careworkers from the home.

There are at present thirty-two children living at the home and we have been asked to expect another fifteen children in early June. Aheebwa (the builder) and his workers are doing everything they can to make sure the two new houses are ready to give a home to this new intake of children. Meanwhile those who are already there are doing well at school and enjoying life at home! Here are a few photos of them .....



We are at present busy trying to think up a project which will make the Home more sustainable and in the longer term provide employment for children coming out of St Joseph's or out of the secondary programme as well as the children when they leave Omwaana Tugende Children's Home. Hopefully there will be more on this in the next newsletter!

### **Adelante Africa Resettlement and outreach Programme**

This programme tries to find and help family members whose children are at present in the Home so that they can be resettled at home. It also offers support to families who otherwise would have their children institutionalised. Here is an example of each.

Kadoli and Kadidi are two children who were brought to the home after their father and baby brother had been killed in flooding. The mother had left some time earlier and was living in a different part of Uganda. She is now back in the village but with more children and no land or way of supporting herself. Adelante Africa rented some land for her to cultivate and is giving her an extended loan to buy another plot with the idea that once she is settled her two boys will go to join her other children and live as a family.



Kadidi with some chickens he had helped to pluck



The house where the mother of the boys is currently living.

These four children were brought by their father to the Home. Their mother had died and he was finding it impossible to care for them. We offered him help and

to pay the school fees of his children. He agreed and we are hoping that with our support he will find the way to keep all his children with him.



### **THE ADELANTE AFRICA NURSERY SCHOOL**



There are now just over 50 children at the nursery school. There are two teachers and the classes are primarily in English. The school is non-profit and Adelante Africa pays the school fees of orphans, the children from Omwaana Tugende Children's Home and those from very poor families. Lessons take place in the Omwaana Tugende Community Hall



## F.A.L (Functional Adult Literacy Group)

As we have said in previous newsletters, the Igayaza F.A.L. group is very dynamic and really the vehicle for change that Adelante Africa has worked through in the villages. They have recently taken the National F.A.L. exams and we are waiting for the results.



One of the home-made water tanks the F.A.L. are making co-operatively for its members.



The first of hopefully many ecological stoves.

This April we visited villages further afield to find out if we could start another group. Over 40 people have already signed up and the Bramagi F.A.L. group will be starting before the end of May. We hope it will be as energetic and innovative as the existing F.A.L.! This photo is of Andrew Kairu, an Adelante Africa volunteer finding out if there is interest in F.A.L. in one of the villages.



## COMMUNITY LOANS

The community loans are proving to be very popular and in almost all cases those with loans pay their quotas on time. There are people who have now paid off the whole of their loans. They are taking part in an Adelante Africa survey to

try to calculate the impact of this project. Meanwhile the list of those applying for a loan grows!



Teacher and photographer, Damiano Asaba with his portable printer and Josephine Ateenyi in her hardware shop.

## SEWING PROJECT

The sewing group is growing and more women from the outlying villages are joining it.



Teacher, Rosemary with some new recruits to the sewing group.

## PROSPER

And lastly Prosper is home! The operation was successful and he has rejoined his class after a couple of months in Spain he will never forget!

