



October 2010

Dear Advantage Africa supporter,

As one of Advantage Africa's founding trustees, I was very excited to join its small staff earlier this year as a Programme Manager. Building on my experience of international development and disability, I now support our partner organisations in Kenya to establish and run units for disabled children within primary schools and to care for people affected by HIV & AIDS.

This year, with free flights kindly provided by British Airways, I have visited all these projects, as well as the nursery and primary school at Bajjo in Uganda profiled in the enclosed newsletter. I've spent time with our inspirational partners, including school teachers, church pastors and community members, to encourage and support them in their life-changing work. And I've been amazed by their achievements, in the face of extraordinary challenges, in improving many people's lives.

This newsletter highlights the importance of education in our work and what's needed to ensure the most disadvantaged children have the opportunity to learn, play and reach their potential. As well as describing the successes and challenges of the school at Bajjo, we highlight how Advantage Africa's mission fits in with global goals for education and our urgent need for funds to complete a special unit for disabled children in Thinu, Kenya.

We're so grateful for the regular support that many of you receiving this letter already provide to Advantage Africa. Please help us and our partners continue to provide opportunities for girls and boys, women and men living in poverty in places like Bajjo and Thinu using the response form overleaf.

With our thanks and best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert C. Aley". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Rob Aley, Programme Manager

# Response Form

**1** I'd like to make a donation of £            to Advantage Africa  
(please make cheques payable to 'Advantage Africa')

**OR:** a regular gift of £            each month by standing order starting on            (date)

Bank name and address:

Account name:

Account number:

Sort code:

Signature:

Date:

Standing order instructions to your bank or building society: Please pay the amount above, starting on the date indicated and on the same day of every month thereafter to: Advantage Africa, HSBC Bank, PO Box 1888 Coventry, CV3 2WN; sort code 40-33-33; account number 81549200.

**2** My name, address and postcode:

**3** If you are a UK taxpayer, please tick the box below to add 25p to every £1 you donate:

I'm a UK taxpayer and I'd like Advantage Africa to treat this donation and any future donations as Gift Aid donations. I understand that I must pay an amount of Income or Capital Gains Tax in the relevant tax year equal to any tax reclaimed by Advantage Africa.

**4** Please send this completed form to us at:

Advantage Africa  
26A Market Place  
Olney  
Buckinghamshire  
MK464BA

*Thank you* for your generous support.



**ADVANTAGE AFRICA**  
SUPPORTING INSPIRATIONAL PEOPLE

# Advantage Africa News

Issue 12, October 2010 (Focus on Education)



## Doing the Right Thing

World leaders gathered in New York last month to review progress and reinvigorate efforts towards the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), their eight commitments to alleviate extreme poverty by 2015.

The MDG of primary education for all boys and girls is the key to all the other goals because of education's proven impact on transforming health and prosperity. It's also the goal in which the most encouraging progress has been made, as countries like Kenya and Uganda, where Advantage Africa works, have introduced low-cost education and significantly increased school enrolment.

Unfortunately, latest figures show there are still sixty-nine million girls and boys out of school worldwide. United Nations' agencies say that the majority of these are disabled, and others include children orphaned by AIDS or forced to live on the street. The UN has recently pleaded for a 'focus on the most deprived and forgotten children' so that 'millions of them will survive, go to school and lead productive lives.'

Advantage Africa couldn't agree more. As these pictures from our projects show, helping the 'most deprived and forgotten children' has been the core of our mission since we began in 2002 to create new opportunities for boys and girls isolated and marginalised by poverty, disability and HIV. It's good to have this affirmation and be part of a wider global movement for change. We don't have the glamour, human or financial resources of the UN, but we're working alongside inspirational local people towards the same goal.

Nelson Mandela once said 'Education is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the world'. In this special issue we highlight how one of Advantage Africa's partnerships is changing the world for 140 vulnerable children in a poor community in Uganda and how you can help us do more to promote 'good education' in East Africa.

*Jane Betts*

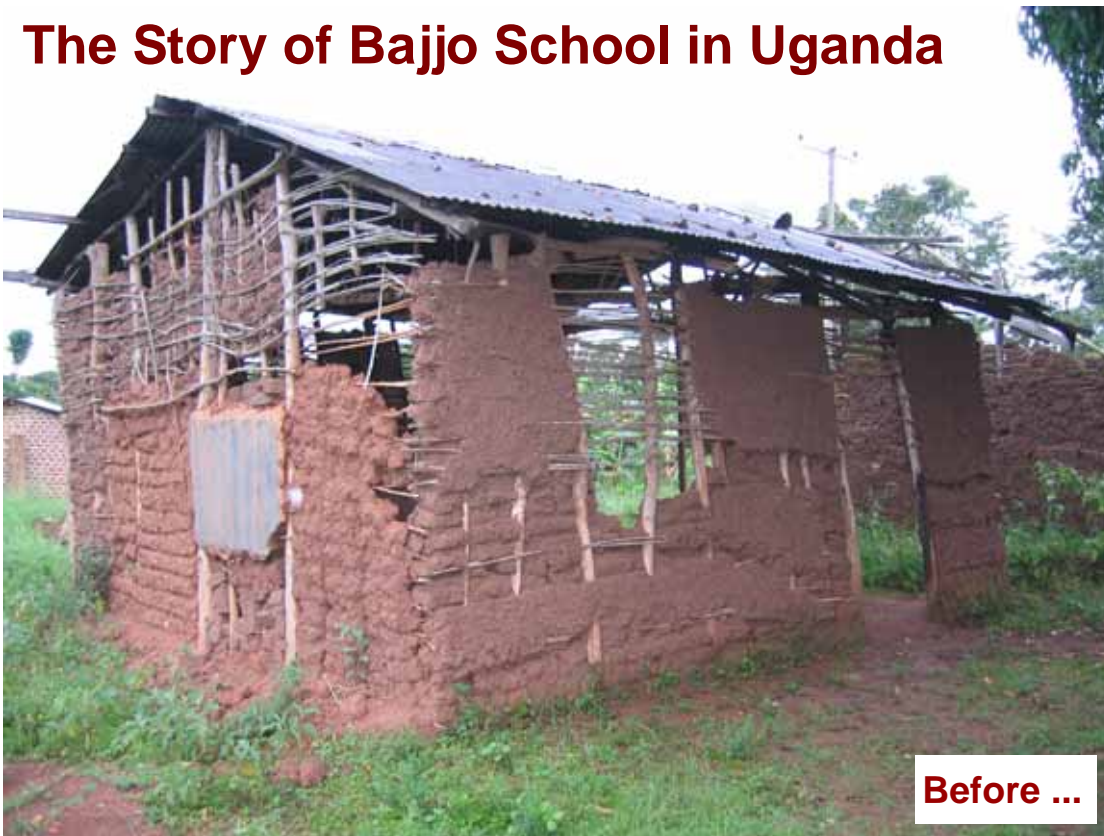
Jane Betts, Programme Manager

### In this issue ...

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Jane Betts writes about education and the MDGs
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How you can help



# The Story of Bajjo School in Uganda



Before ...



Bajjo is a poor village in the Lu... recently, Bajjo had only an uns... where children could learn. Boy... walking ten miles each day to t...

Working in partnership with Ad... Parents Association of Uganda... out to fulfil their dream of a villa... thriving school with six perman... 140 children, happily and enthu...

So what did it take, and is it 'jo...



**Bricks** and materials from local sources, with much careful negotiation to ensure the best prices and find reliable transport.



**Hard work** under the hot sun, with participation from community members to ensure the sense of ownership that's vital to successful development.



**Resources** like desks, books, blackboards and chalk, and these pens and brushes bought by Advantage Africa's supporters.

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**Leadership** from Head Teacher Godfrey Owere, Chairman Sam Galiwango and SPAU Director Paul Lwanga.

**Money** from the Guernsey Overseas Aid Commission and Advantage Africa's many supporters for constructing classrooms, toilets, an administration block, teaching materials and staff salaries. The whole project has cost about £30,000 so far and a further £15,000 is needed for two more classrooms so that all the primary school years can attend.

**Teamwork.** 'The project was only possible with so many different people pulling together to achieve our dream' says Paul Lwanga.



**A commitment to inclusion** to make the school accessible to all. This includes Bajjo's many orphans and children like Zipporah, Eunice and Kato with learning, hearing, and physical disabilities. Community training in disability awareness, ramps and an accessible latrine have all helped them to thrive.

**Involving the parents** from the digging of foundations to the formation of an active PTA.



werero District of Uganda. Until the school was built, the only school was a simple mud shelter school (left) where boys and girls as young as six were the nearest primary school.

Advantage Africa and the Single Purpose Agriculture Unit (SPAU), the local community set up the school. Today, Bajjo has a modern school with bright classrooms (right) attended by children who are enthusiastically learning.

What has been done? for Bajjo?



... After



**Inspirational people** like community activist Dorothy Ssoli and teacher Jackline Nakyeyune, whose training in early years education was provided by Advantage Africa.



**An opening ceremony** to celebrate the community's achievement, appreciate everyone's contribution and galvanise support for the future.



**Enthusiastic boys and girls** of all ages to learn, develop, laugh and play, adding a new dimension to life in Bajjo village.

## Good Education

Learning starts from birth, and early childhood care, stimulation, play and education is vital in determining children's future life chances. That's why the school at Bajjo has a well-attended nursery section and Advantage Africa supports other nursery schools in Kenya and Uganda.

Over the last two years, everyone has been working hard to meet the 19 requirements for Bajjo school to be registered by the Ugandan government. 18 have now been met including things like providing a land title, school rules, an Inspector's report, Head Teacher's CV and proof of financing; only a letter of clearance from the environment department remains to be provided. Once registration is complete, the school management committee, parents, SPAU and Advantage Africa will lobby hard for Bajjo to become a government supported school with funding for teaching materials and staff salaries. Only then will we have reached our goal of full local **sustainability**.



## Funding News



We're so grateful to all our sponsored athletes and their generous sponsors. This year, Stephen Coomber took on the gruelling Alpe d'Huez Triathlon; Jacinta Sweeney ran the Glasgow Half Marathon just months after taking up running; Tom Bartlett and Andrew Betts completed the Nottingham Marathon; Dave Betts and Steve Ray cycled, crashed and waded across Scotland; John Palin and friends pedalled over Lancashire's hills, Sally Easton and the Betts family (including determined 4-year old Joshua) did the Milton Keynes Fun Run and Louise Wainwright trekked up Kilimanjaro. Together they raised over £8,000!

We were delighted once more to receive the support of British Airways with a donation of four free flights to Africa.

Recent events include a choral concert, our patron Martyn Joseph's 'Pipefest' and a Harvest Festival. Our next big event is the Milton Keynes Christmas Gift Wrapping Service.

### ...and Needs

Our project to start a special unit for disabled children in Thinu, Kenya has stalled due to lack of funds; we urgently need £7,000 to complete the building and recruit staff so that the first 30 children can attend. Our next priority is to complete the school at Bajjo profiled inside so that it has two nursery and six primary classes, and a further 50 children can attend. £15,000 is required to do this.



## How You Can Help

Make a **monthly donation** to our work. Just £10 a month can make a real difference!

Request our **legacy leaflet**.

Give presents that will make a lasting difference this Christmas: we don't do goats but our attractive **Gift Certificates** help meet real needs in Africa. Available in £5, £10, £20 and £50 denominations.

If you use **Facebook**, please 'like' Advantage Africa to receive news from our projects and community. To build our following, you can also suggest our page to your own Facebook friends.



Open our **YouTube** channel and share the links to short films about our work with disabled people in Kenya and child-headed households in Uganda.



Advantage Africa is now a partner of Virgin Money Giving for online donations. Virgin is good value for charities as their initiative is non-profit making and sponsors can also Gift Aid their donations.



If you would like to do a sponsored walk, run, swim, bike ride, diet or perhaps want to do something for charity in memory of someone special, why not go to [www.virginmoneygiving.com](http://www.virginmoneygiving.com) and set up your own fundraising page?

Organise a coffee morning, or Christmas evening with mulled wine and mince pies, where friends and family can buy **Christmas cards**.

Ask a friend or family member whether they would like to receive our **news updates**.



... and please don't forget to order your cards!

Introduce Advantage Africa to your contacts, company or church.

Advantage Africa supports the ideas and work of inspirational people in Africa to overcome poverty and disadvantage. We work in close partnership with determined individuals and community groups, supporting their ideas and plans so that disadvantaged people can improve their lives. This particularly includes people who, alongside poverty, face prejudice and stigma as a result of disability or HIV & AIDS. Advantage Africa provides encouragement, resources, advice and training as well as links to other sources of knowledge, skills and funds.



**Charity Number:** 1092719 **Company Number:** 4388034

**Staff:** Andrew Betts, Rob Aley, Liz Lynch, Jane Betts. **Trustees:** Ann Tennant, Munirat Ogunlayi, Chris Harvey, David Saint, Paul Winnan, Stephen Blakemore, Laura Sullivan. **Patron:** Martyn Joseph.

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