



[www.friendsofsanyu.org.uk](http://www.friendsofsanyu.org.uk)

Dear Friend,

**NEWSLETTER** about *SANYU BABIES' HOME, KAMPALA* – Aug 03

### **Background**

Late last year a small group of people that had at various times visited Sanyu Babies' Home formed a group then known as Friends of Sanyu UK (since renamed as Ugandan Children's Trust). In January 03 we made an application to the **British Airways Volunteering Awards** for money to be used for building works at the home and were awarded a considerable sum. After discussions with Joyce, the Administrator at Sanyu Babies' Home, we agreed on three areas that needed building work:

1. To build a new traditional Ugandan outside kitchen (the current one is prone to flooding in the rainy season)
2. To build a more suitable area for the children to use the potties
3. To refurbish the area where the babies' milk is prepared, therefore targeting the main areas where good hygiene is essential.

### **Latest News**

One of our group, Joe Cumiskey, has just returned after spending 4 months working alongside Joyce to help plan long term self sustainability at the home. As many of you will know the Home currently relies solely on donations – which, as you can imagine, is haphazard.

For example - on Monday 12th May the water was cut off at Sanyu as a result of a 2 month bill not being paid (512,000Ush - approx £85 per month). The effects started mounting; washing machines stopping, washing building up, water for cooking had to be collected from rain water tanks etc. Luckily this time Mark, a BA crew member visiting the Home that day, paid the outstanding bill. Thanks goes to Mark and all donors like him.

Joe has developed a good working relationship with The International Hospital in Kampala and we have the support of Dr Ian Clarke, it's founder.

A new visitor security system has been implemented to help protect the children.

1,000 eucalyptus trees have been planted on farmland Sanyu owns outside Kampala.

Just before returning home Joe managed to co-ordinate the connection of Sanyu Babies' Home's sewage system to the mains. This means Sanyu no longer needs to rely on its antiquated cesspit which apart from maintenance, costs £40 each time it has to be emptied.

Joe will be returning for a minimum of 6 months this autumn in order to continue where he left off and organise the building work together with Joyce. Joe will be sponsored by an Irish NGO (non Gov. organisation).

We are hoping to send some volunteer nurses out to the Home starting in Oct 03 to help train the carers in good child care, achievable hygiene and good record keeping. More in our next newsletter.

We have signed an agreement with **Hope for Children** to work together. Hope is a well organised and respected charity which helps disadvantaged children around the world. To find out more about them visit [www.hope4c.org](http://www.hope4c.org)

Lastly, I would like to close this newsletter with a heart warming story about Naiga Melida, Age 4.

The police brought little Naiga into Sanyu for safe custody. It had been reported that she was with her mother when her mother was knocked down by a car and killed. Weeks went past and no one came to enquire about her.

She would often speak about her Mum, Dad, family, the district she came from and the play school she went to. The difficulty was that it was very difficult to know where to start looking for any relatives, especially with the little money that Sanyu has available for such things. A radio announcement was made to try and see if anyone would come forward with information.

Two days later a couple turned up at Sanyu, and said they were Naiga's Mum and Dad!. Naiga was over the moon when she saw them, but in a strange kind of way appeared reluctant to go because she had been having so much fun with all the other children at Sanyu. The parents explained that Naiga had been in Kampala with her Aunt (the parents live about 4 hours drive away). They had expected Naiga home but they never arrived so they presumed that they had decided to stay longer with the relatives in Kampala. Meanwhile the relatives thought they had arrived home (neither had phones!). After a week they started making enquiries via friends etc, until eventually they realised they were missing so they contacted the police. The police station they contacted didn't have any information.

Eventually they heard the radio announcement, and then contacted the relevant Police station. It was heart warming for everyone at Sanyu to see them reunited again. Unfortunately they have been unable to trace the whereabouts of the aunts body.

We are currently in the process of finalising a short 12 minute dvd cd of the Home as well as our fundraising leaflet. If you are interested in helping us fundraise we would be more than happy to send you through a copy of each?

If you would like to become a donor then please let us know. Reply to [kbdb@compuserve.com](mailto:kbdb@compuserve.com) or tel: 0795 759 5356

**We would like to thank British Airways for their support.**

Check out our website [www.friendsofsanyu.org.uk](http://www.friendsofsanyu.org.uk) which will give our latest news throughout the year. You can also raise questions through the **chat page**.



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