

## New Hope Special Needs Programme Newsletter: April 2011.

Dear Friends,

We are very happy to be sending out our first Special Needs Programme newsletter and are so thankful for your willingness to pray for us and to support the work we are doing here at Kasana children`s centre.

Our Special Needs Class started officially on January 31<sup>st</sup> which was the day the new school year started here in Uganda. We are almost at the end of term now and time seems to have flown by as we have been enjoying ourselves and keeping very busy.



### **CLASS NEWS:**

Throughout the term, all but 2 of the children have been attending a mainstream class at least once per week which they have really benefitted from. Isima who is 15 has joined in the P5 gardening class on Tuesdays and impressed the teacher by doing the most digging out of the entire class on several occasions. Perhaps the favourite lesson each week has been baking with Uncle Stu and Auntie Sarah; every Thursday we have gone to their house to bake scones, cakes, gingerbread men etc. Everyone has enjoyed taking part and getting in a mess! Unfortunately Uncle Stu and Sarah (who run Hope Family) are going back to the UK for 5 months next week to have a baby. We will miss them but Auntie Kate has promised that we will continue baking at her house.

In April, a couple from Auntie Kate`s church in England came to visit and brought us some paint. We have since had several very fun art sessions doing hand prints and marble printing.

As a class, we have also had a daily praise and worship session and often we will get out the percussion instruments to accompany the singing. Everyone was very happy last week when Uncle Rukundo came in with his guitar. Kakulu was dancing so much he almost fell out of his buggy.

This term we have also had Auntie Kathryn, Joel and Anya coming to help us regularly on Mondays. We have been going on walks around Kasana children`s centre and learning where places are. We have also been practising buying things like eggs from the local shop, uncle Sam`s house and the canteen.

### **COMMUNITY OUTREACH NEWS:**

Our monthly community outreach sessions for people in the local community who have a family member with disabilities, have continued to be very popular. In March, a nurse from the hospital came to teach the parents about food and nutrition which went well. This month, Auntie Jesca from childcare came and led a discussion with the parents/guardians about some of the issues they face as they care for their children and in particular, what they have been told / what they believe is the cause of their child`s disabilities. What the parents/carers +shared was very interesting and Jesca was then able to respond by pointing them to the scriptures and what God has to say about their children and the difficulties they face.



Uncle Sam the physiotherapist has continued to treat the children at these sessions and to advise the parents on exercises they can do with their children at home. Ivan and John who both have contractures as a result of cerebral palsy have both had Plaster-of-Paris splints fitted and although they were not impressed at first, it does seem to be making a difference! The physiotherapist has also given us advice on the special equipment required by each child. Unfortunately, we are not able to supply every child with the equipment straight away but in March we did take 4 of them to Katalamwa (a centre for children with disabilities in Kampala), and they were able to be measured and have their seats and standing frames ordered. We hope to go and collect the equipment this coming week. Our plan for the future is to find a local carpenter who is able to 'copy' the design of the equipment we have already purchased. This will dramatically cut down on the cost of equipment as we will not have to drive to Kampala and back with each child.

## PRAISE AND PRAYER:

We will finish this letter with a list of things that we wish to praise God for and some things we would like you to pray about:

- We praise God that each of the children in our class now have at least one sponsor each and that because of this we have been able to employ 2 assistants and a driver to work alongside Auntie Kate.
- Please pray that God will provide all of us with a second sponsor and other general sponsors so that we are able to employ a Ugandan to help Auntie Kate with teaching and running the programme.
- We praise God that we have been able to provide 4 children with the specialist equipment they need and several children from our class with mattresses thanks to generous donations from people.
- Please pray that God would provide funding to purchase the equipment needed by other children and also that we would find and be able to employ a local carpenter who is interested and able to make the equipment for us in the future.
- Please pray for the health of all of our children and staff. Lots of us have been suffering with Malaria and other illnesses recently. We would also like you to pray for safety as all of us travel to and from school - there are some crazy drivers about and the roads around here are not wonderful! Pray especially for Kakulu and Allen who travel on bodas (motorbike taxis) as it is not possible to reach their homes in our van.
- We praise God that many people are coming to our community outreach sessions and for the speakers who have already contributed.
- Please pray that we would not be overwhelmed by all the need that there is and that we would point the parents/guardians to their Father God (rather than us!) as their main provider and that they would accept their responsibilities to care for their children with His help.

And finally, please do pray that in all that we do and say we would be glorifying God and revealing his love to the many different people who we are ministering to.

Blessings to you all,

from all the children and staff on the Special Needs Team.

