

ROTARY CLUB OF JINJA

UGANDA, DISTRICT 9200

P.O. Box 1323, JINJA, UGANDA

WELCOME TO JINJA

President 08/09

***Stephen Omaset P.H.F.
omasetebbu@yahoo.co.uk***

Secretary 08/09

Alex Ojiambo P.H.F.

Rotary Foundation

Projects Chair:

Martin Kakembo P.H.F kmartin@spacenet.co.ug

Additional contact:

John Kirkwood M.D. jkirkwood@source.co.ug

HISTORY OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF JINJA

The Rotary Club of Jinja was chartered on 16th November 1964, and was the third Rotary Club in Uganda. Jinja is the second town in Uganda, and is situated at the Source of the Nile, about 80kms east of Kampala, the capital of Uganda.

In the 1970s it became virtually dormant due to the political situation during Idi Amin's time. It was dangerous to have regular meetings in the same place, so a few Rotarians used to meet occasionally at different venues. In the 1980s the Club was restarted – mainly through the work of the Charter President, Sylvester Wanje.

Since then it has grown in strength until it now has over seventy members. The membership varies as many of the members work in organisations where they can be posted elsewhere in the country.

The Rotary Club of Jinja has taken the District Attendance Trophy ten times since 1991 – this is the trophy for the highest weekly attendance at the Club fellowship in District 9200.

In 2003, 2004 & 2005 it won the trophy for the best monthly bulletin.

In 2005 it won 6 District trophies, including the 2 mentioned above as well as the best Club in District 9200. In 2006 it won 4 District trophies, and in 2007 it won the best Vocational Service Award and the best Interact Club (Lords Meade Vocational College) for holding a RYLA for the 2nd year running.

In 2008 it won the best weekly attendance in D.9200 trophy, as well as the most new Rotary Community Corps in the year 07 /08. It also won the highest 100% attendance trophy.

It has recently started a nutritional garden project in the local children's hospital.

PROJECTS - The Rotary Club of Jinja is active in many areas of Rotary. It has an active **ROTARACT CLUB**, and it has chartered several Rotary Clubs in Eastern Uganda. It has seven Interact Clubs in the local schools. It has run three RYLA Camps with over 185 Interactors in RYLA Jinja 08.

Recently the Club has concentrated on two areas of need in the community.

The first one is **PROTECTED WATER SPRINGS**, which provide clean water for the locals. The Club has recently completed its 220th. The Club's Centennial Project was to construct its 100th Protected Water Spring, which it has now achieved, but it is continuing to supply clean water to other communities either through boreholes – 3 in the last 2 years – or protected water springs.

The second area is in **EDUCATION**. Many of the local primary schools do not have any form of seating for the children, so they must sit on the floor and either write using their neighbour's back or else on the floor. The Rotary Club of Jinja provides desks where three pupils can sit together comfortably. Due to the increased demand for places in primary schools due to the Uganda Government Universal Primary Education there is a big problem with the toilet facilities, which the Rotary Club of Jinja hopes to alleviate by providing 10 stanzas in each primary school.

Also in Education, the Rotary Club of Jinja provides laboratory equipment to local secondary schools. In July 2004 it presented US\$10,000 worth of laboratory equipment to the Lords Meade Vocational College at Njeru, near Jinja.

Until the recent ban on reconstruction, the Rotary Club of Jinja provided iron-roofing sheets to schools that either needed to re-roof the existing roofing sheets, or else had constructed a new classroom and required roofing sheets to complete the classroom.

The Club is active in supporting some of the many orphans in the area. A collection is made at every fellowship for the Club's Orphans Education Project. One of its' students – who is blind, has recently graduated from Makerere University. The Club has an agreement with the **Tofta Educational Trust** – a local N.G.O. - to educate up to 8 orphans in exchange for handling assistance from Rotary for equipping the **Lords Meade Vocational College**. (website: www.lordsmeade.org)

The Club has distributed several container loads of books to the local schools in an effort to stop the 'famine of books' in the area.

Every year the Rotary Club of Jinja organises a couple of **medical outreaches**. Up to 1000 patients can be seen and treated in one day.

The Rotary Club of Jinja is active in other areas of Rotary, including hosting G.S.E. teams, Youth Exchange, attending International Conventions and District Conferences. The members are actively encouraged to support the Rotary Foundation by becoming Paul Harris Fellows, and in 2003 the Centennial President became its first Major Donor.

Article in the Rotary Newsbasket of 2nd July 2003



Rotarians give hope to poor Ugandan children

Ugandan Rotarians are channeling their expertise and compassion into a project that provides educational assistance to disadvantaged children, who include some of the nation's near-two million AIDS orphans, as well as a few others from neighboring Kenya.

Lord Meade Vocational College, a school in Njeru, near the industrial city of Jinja, is the fruit of the initiative of members of the Rotary Club of Jinja. Their effort is based on the belief that in a society where the traditional social safety net of the extended family is severely strained or broken by war and disease and where secondary education is not free, intervention by nongovernmental organizations is the only ticket to a better life for many poor children.

"There is an enormous amount of human talent being wasted in Uganda," says Jinja Rotarian John Kirkwood, who also is the founder of the Tofta Educational Trust, the driving force behind the school project. "When a child drops out of school due to lack of fees or other reasons, a potential professor becomes a street kid or a semi-illiterate peasant farmer, tilling a small amount of land in order to scratch a living."

Kirkwood endowed the trust with money he raised from selling a farm he had inherited called Tofta in the north of UK. It is now partially assisted through donations from individuals and church groups. Like Kirkwood, several members of the Trust's board of trustees in Uganda are Rotarians and educators, who volunteer their expertise for humanitarian causes.

Built from scratch on a 20-acre site, Lords Meade Vocational College serves as a modern secondary school offering an unusual mix of academic and vocational curricula to impart skills that are useful in the home or the job market.

Since 2001, Tofta Educational Trust has contributed US\$250,000 toward building classrooms, administrative offices, dormitories, a library, laboratory, kitchen, and assembly hall. It has also provided furniture and basic educational equipment. The UK-based trust pays out to its Uganda office more than \$39,000 a year for the school fees of 160 disadvantaged students at the school, out of a total population of 400.

The case of a HIV-positive widow, who was literally worrying herself to death over the fate of her two children, illustrates the ripple effects of the assistance Jinja Rotarians provide. When Tofta assumed responsibility for educating her kids, the woman gained peace of mind.

"When the mother [visited] five months later, she looked so much better that she was not immediately recognizable. When asked what had happened, she stated, 'I sleep at night now, as I know that my children will be educated,'" explained Kirkwood. "As a Rotarian, I was glad that we were able to provide some peace of mind to a dying mother."

The Rotary Club of Jinja is now working to provide textbooks, computers, furniture, and laboratory and workshop equipment. For more information about Lords Meade Vocational College and the supporting role played by the Rotary Club of Jinja, contact John Kirkwood by telephone: 256-772 516299; Fax: 256- 434-123063; or email: jkirkwood@source.co.ug.

The Tofta Educational Trust and the Lords Meade Vocational College have a website at: www.lordsmeade.org

ROTARY CLUB OF JINJA, UGANDA, DISTRICT 9200

MEDICAL / EDUCATIONAL PROJECT

SUPPLY OF COMPUTER LABORATORY EQUIPMENT

PREAMBLE: The Medical Laboratory Technicians Training School in Jinja needs to provide Computer Training to the students who are learning the knowledge and skills in modern medical laboratory technology which calls for computer literacy. Currently the School only has two computers for administrative purposes.

Currently the students have to write up their course work and dissertation by hand and then take them for commercial typing. The Ugandan Government has brought, into its hospitals, automated computerized diagnostic equipment to combat the increased demand for laboratory tests, especially in the management of HIV / AIDS patients, and the early detection of asymptomatic disease conditions.

The Rotary Club of Jinja is looking for assistance in obtaining modern computers and supporting equipment to enable the 360 students to become both computer literate as well as competent in the use of modern medical laboratory diagnostic equipment.

This project will include the planting of 150 fruit trees in the neighbourhood.

COSTS: Purchase of 30 computers & supporting equipment: US\$. **46,000**

SUGGESTED FUNDING	US\$	T.R.F. US\$
Rotary Club of Jinja	500	250
District 9200 DDF	500	500
International Partner Club(s)	12,650	6,325
International D.D.F.	<u>12,650</u>	<u>12,650</u>
	26,300	19,725
Add T.R.F. Matching Grant for	<u>US\$19,700</u>	
	TOTAL	US\$46,000

The Rotary Club of Jinja will provide transportation of the equipment, supervision of the installation of the equipment, and regular reports on the progress of the project. This is valued at US\$1,200

Contact information:

P.A.G. Martin Kakembo P.H.F.

P.O. Box 1951, Jinja, Uganda

Tel & Fax: +256 43 123044

Mobile: +256 712 613411

Email: kmartin@spacenet.co.ug

Additional contact: John Kirkwood email: jkirkwood@source.co.ug

May 2008