

HIGH FIVE CLUB

changing lives, £5 at a time

Pre-School Education - Uganda

We are thrilled this month to be together supporting a children's charity in **Uganda**, the **ABATO Children's Trust**. This inspiring community-based organisation's main objective is to empower children through a meaningful education, development of their talents and abilities, along with giving them spiritual nourishment as a prerequisite to a brighter future.

Background



Currently ABATO support 30 children with an education in 4 primary schools in Uganda and more than 200 children through their school materials support program. All 30 children are on full education support.

ABATO also run a successful soccer club for children, organising children's soccer tournaments and the annual ABATO Cup. In

partnership with 'Coaches Across Continents' they also organise coaching courses for youth development sports coaches and school teachers on various sports, all with development themes. All the trained personnel pass on the skills they have acquired to children in their various schools and organisations.

To nurture talent and empower marginalised children in Uganda ABATO also runs a successful children's choir which develops the children's musical talents. Their Mdogo Wa Yetu choir uses music to rehabilitate children and give hope to children from poor backgrounds. An art project is currently in motion to promote artistic abilities and this is run by volunteer artists. This Totos Art Project has already received recognition by Uganda's leading Newspaper.

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This year ABATO opened a pre-school to cater for the needs of younger children, especially orphans and those from low income families. The pre-school has 90 children and is hosted at ABATO's children's center in Mpigi. The children's center is also a rescue and rehabilitation center for abandoned children and those running away from abuse. This centre is accessible to over 500 children in the area on a daily basis for activities ranging from music trainings, soccer, bible studies and games.

High Five Club Support:

Currently the pre-school has 90 children in three classes but the numbers of those who need this education is increasing daily as word spreads of the good work that ABATO is doing in the community. ABATO approached the High Five Club for a grant to facilitate the expansion of the pre-school to accommodate more children. The main aim is to provide a meaningful and qualitative pre-primary education to children from poor backgrounds. The quality of education at primary school level



heavily depends on opportunities in Early Childhood development, which ABATO is committed to creating.

We have together this month joined hands to provide the funds for ABATO to construct a simple wood and iron sheets structure to accommodate two new classes of 50 pupils each, providing an early childhood education to 100 more children. The school is a community school with much involvement of all stakeholders in the community. A small room is to be included in the structure to act as a school library as well as a community library for all children attending the centre.

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The High Five Club has contributed £909 to expand the pre-school from monthly membership fees along with funds from our long-term 'Educational Projects' supporter Roffey Homes, again demonstrating how a little goes such a long way in Africa.

For further information on this initiative contact Dr Cheryl Mvula on Cheryl@highfiveclub.co.uk

For a video of the children at the pre-school: <http://animoto.com/play/Cg41ioXpm0FoMg03KBZnGQ>

