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# Masaka Vocational and Rehabilitation Centre

## Sep'2015

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### **The One That Creates Ability From Disability!**

The Masaka Vocational and Rehabilitation Centre aims to assist mentally and physically handicapped youths learn a vocational skill so that they may be able to support themselves economically. Its mission is to promote the economic and social integration of young people with disabilities.



MVRC opened in 2000 and has educated hundreds of youths to help them integrate into society and support themselves. Many of the graduates now own businesses across the region. Often, children who are handicapped are not provided the same opportunities as their peers, nor entered into school. MVRC management goes directly into rural areas to find youth who are either being withheld from living a full life or have not been given opportunities that the centre can provide them.

## Where your money was spent

In the last couple of weeks since being back in Masaka I have been focusing on re-energising the neglected metal works and blacksmith program in MVRC. This program has been left locked and empty for the last 10 years when a VSO volunteer left without a working sustainable plan.

Just look at how dirty it was before we went in and gave it a full clean up. Yes that is bat droppings all over the floor and walls.

### Before Clean:



### After Clean:



With these new and improved photos I, Boaz (director) and Otto (workshop manager) have been able to devise a sustainable program and present it to the districts Community Development Officer. The plan is to invite a local established metal works business to use the fully equipped workshop to increase their production in line with demand. In return they pay rent directly to MVRC and also allow students to have practical lessons in the workshop for 2 hours a day during school term. The rent money covers the buying of scrap metal for the young people to practice on and also provides an extra income for the benefit of the centre as a whole.

So far we have two business' ready to start bidding for the workshop one in Ssaza and one in Masaka town. Both have shown a real interest in the idea as did the district when we presented who said *"this new innovative makes a lot of sense and is a great idea, thank you"* Lillian community development officer.

Your money is going towards ensuring any extra tools required can be purchased for the workshop at the request of the business within their first month of operating. This creates a huge pull for the business as they can customize the workshop at no extra start up cost for them.

If the program proves to be a success then it can also be replicated in the other workshops leather, carpentry and knitting changing the face of vocational teaching in MVRC in line with sustainable practice for years to come.