



Masaka School for Special Needs Education Sep' 2015

The One That Talks Through the Silence!

The Masaka School for Special Needs Education used to be called the Masaka Deaf School, they accept all kinds of disabled students and begin by teaching them how to communicate so that they can learn. They have a dedicated team of specially trained teachers who support the children so that they are not cast aside because of their disabilities.



Unsurprisingly, the kids are so keen to learn and the ones who are deaf are as close to fluent in sign as you can be within just 4 weeks. Whilst we visited the school, they came up with a new sign for Liverpool Football Club.

As in many countries, the disabled community within Uganda has been marginalised and open to stigma for many generations. But, within this centre you get a real sense for how this attitude is changing for the better - I was fortunate to witness this wave of change at the schools world record attempt for the most amount of people signing across the world in the Sign2Sing event on the 19th Feb 2015.



Where your money is being spent

On my last visit back in June to Masaka SNE your money brought vocational tools and equipment to increase the teaching capacity in the hair dressing, tailoring and bakery departments. The plan now is to really start developing these departments into sustainable income generating programs.

And I am happy to report this has started, if only on a small scale. Christopher (vocational manager) and I have approached neighbouring institutions such as the large Primary Teachers College (PTC) and agreed that the children from SNE can go periodically to sell the bakery goods they make to their students.

We have also been into town promoting the goods made at SNE through tailoring lessons and one shop has agreed to sell them on behalf of the school. In fact her daughter is a deaf teacher and she is so keen to help she is not even taking a profit for herself from the sales!

These small steps are a start to making SNE more sustainable allowing them to continue teaching practical skills to the most vulnerable members of the community. Thank you for your support.



Young people showing off the place mats and chair covers they made that are now being sold in town



Equipment for making mats that your money helped to buy