

BFSS

Maximising Educational Opportunity for All

BRITISH & FOREIGN SCHOOL SOCIETY

Case Studies 2012



CONTENTS

ABOUT THE BRITISH & FOREIGN SCHOOL SOCIETY	01
FOREWORD FROM THE PRESIDENT	02
AFRICAN REVIVAL	03
A NEW BEGINNING RWANDA	04
THE BRITISH ASIAN TRUST	05
COMPUTER AID INTERNATIONAL	06
ESUUBI TRUST	07
FARA	08
INTERNATIONAL CHILDCARE TRUST	09
INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S TRUST	10
KIDASHA	11
LYRIC HAMMERSMITH	12
PONT - PARTNERSHIPS OVERSEAS NETWORKING TRUST	13
PROJECT PENCIL CASE	14
PROJECT PERU	15
RED BALLOON LEARNER CENTRE - MERSEYSIDE	16
RESOLVE INTERNATIONAL	17
SCHOOLCHILDREN FOR CHILDREN	18
SOUTH GROVE CHILDREN'S CENTRE	19

ABOUT THE BRITISH & FOREIGN SCHOOL SOCIETY

The British & Foreign School Society is an educational grant-giving charity formed in 1808 which supports educational activities in the UK and all over the world. It gives grants of around £500,000 per annum in total. In 2012 the size of grants varied from several thousand pounds to around £100,000 over the life of a project.

The Society's vision is to maximise educational opportunity for all. The Trustees give priority to applications from organisations and institutions operating in areas of deprivation or educational disadvantage and to activities which will increase the effectiveness of education or training and reduce the barriers to achievement. In 2012 49% of its grant giving went to projects in Eastern Africa. In future it would like to see an increase in the proportion going to other parts of the world, including South America.

All grants are made through UK registered charities and are project-based. The Trustees look for evidence that projects will give value for money and achieve positive and long lasting change. The Society's criteria for grant giving can be found on the Society's website at www.bfss.org.uk. The Society has recently introduced an electronic application system to make it easier for charities to apply for funding.

The Society is a Membership organisation and new members are welcome. Any donations in support of its grant giving would be gratefully received.

The Society has a President (Rt Hon David Lammy MP) and a Vice-President (Professor Richard Aldrich) and is governed by a Council. Council Members in 2012/13 were:

Mr Roger Howarth (Chair)
Rev David Tennant (Vice-Chair)
Mr David Swain (Treasurer)
Mr Chris Daynes
Professor Steve Hodgkinson
Mr Steven King
Mr Graham Kingsley
Rev Prof Stephen Orchard
Dr Ben Ramm
Ms Shubhi Rao
Mr Stephen Ross
Dr Jaz Saggiu
Mr David Stephens
Dr Emily Tomlinson
Miss Juliet Weale
Mr Brian York
Mr David Zahn

Director: Mrs Imogen Wilde
Tel: 01883 331177
Email: director@bfss.org.uk

FOREWORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

I am proud to be associated with the work of the BFSS which, as the case studies in this brochure show, is helping to transform the lives of children and young people living in deprived and often incredibly difficult circumstances.

In some cases BFSS funding has provided access to the most basic facilities and resources which can determine whether or not a child is able to go to school. In the Terai area of Nepal, for example, where families are among the poorest in the country and do not have the money to buy stationery, BFSS's funding for exercise books and pencils has made a huge difference to school attendance rates. In Arusha, northern Tanzania, BFSS grant has provided school uniforms and materials to over 100 children, enabling them to attend school, many for the first time.

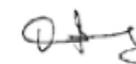
BFSS supports not only formal but also informal schooling. For example, in the Cape Flats, near Cape Town, South Africa, BFSS grant has funded informal educational support led by community female leaders for vulnerable children and young people who are out of school. Here, in a community with high levels of unemployment, gangsterism and violence, many children suffer parental neglect and/or abuse and resort to life on the streets. The informal schooling funded by BFSS has enabled the successful reintegration of children into mainstream schools. Elsewhere, BFSS grant is supporting two new Schools of Hope in the slums of Nairobi. Held in churches and/or community halls, these provide a safe and supportive study environment for young people to continue their studies at night and improve their job prospects.

I am pleased to see BFSS supporting engagement in cultural activity which, as is clear from the programme at the Lyric Hammersmith for disadvantaged children from schools in West London, is having a positive impact on the children's focus and concentration.

BFSS has continued to support investment in ICT, for example through its grant for the establishment of 20 schools in Kenya as centres of excellence for improving teaching and learning through the use of ICT. Over time some 30,000 students are expected to benefit and to gain the skills and confidence to enter further education or better paid employment. In Eastern Uganda, the agreement by BFSS to match the funding provided by the British Council and Microsoft enabled an IT hub of 20 networked computers to be established in Mbale, providing an important new educational resource for the town.

I especially welcome BFSS's support for the education of girls, in particular its funding for Educate Girls, a charity partner of The British Asian Trust, which is working with local communities and government schools in Rajasthan, India, to boost girls' enrolment and attendance, enhance the quality of education and change attitudes to education. Over three years, BFSS's grant will enable Educate Girls to reach about 30,000 children.

In all these ways BFSS is making a real difference to the lives of children and young people in some of the most disadvantaged areas of the world.



DAVID LAMMY MP





The children of Koch Lila studying under the trees whilst their new classroom is being constructed

AFRICAN REVIVAL

- Grant to provide books and desks for Koch Lila Primary School, Northern Uganda
- One-year grant of £10,000 in 2012

African Revival is a UK based charity which aims to help primary school children in Northern Uganda, Zambia and South Sudan to access quality education. The charity works with over 40 primary schools in these countries and delivers a range of projects from capital works such as new classrooms, boreholes and teacher housing through to teacher training and savings and loans schemes for parents.

BFSS provided a grant of £10,000 to equip Koch Lila Primary School with vital desks and books. The School, situated in the Nwoya district of Northern Uganda, is in a very rural location around 75km from the nearest tarmac road. During the long civil war the School moved to a displacement camp and African Revival has helped to rebuild it now that the community have finally returned to their homes.

The School faced many shortages when it returned to its original site. In 2012 there were only 50 desks for 500 children and in the upper years 20 children were required to share each text book. With the funding from BFSS, African Revival was able to source 140 new desks for the children from Lakica Wood Workshop, a local carpentry business. In addition, almost 1,000 new text books were sourced locally in Gulu from the Public Choice Bookshop.

These new resources mean that children will no longer be sitting on the floor for their lessons and will have the relevant books to help them learn. African Revival has gone on to provide the teachers with training on how to make the most of their new resources and the school term this year starts with a new emphasis on quality education.

www.africanrevival.org



Pupils waving with delight on the day their classroom was transformed

A NEW BEGINNING RWANDA

- Grant for the purchase of books, stationery and furniture for Musenyi Community School, Rwanda
- One-year grant of £5,300 in 2011-2012

The Rwandan Genocide of 1994 resulted in thousands of Rwandans fleeing to neighbouring countries in Central Africa and living for many years in refugee camps. With the restoration of peace from the late 1990s on, groups of Rwandans began to return and rebuild their lives in their native country.

A New Beginning Rwanda (ANBR) is a small charity which was the brainchild of a small group in East Sussex who set out to focus a portion of their giving on a single large village established in previously uncultivated savannah specifically for returning Rwandan refugees. The Government provided the land and the building materials for the returnees to build their first simple homes. ANBR set out both to raise the capital to build a school/ community centre and a simple health centre and to go out to Rwanda regularly to help supervise the building and the operation.

By 2011 ANBR had raised the funding to furnish and equip two classrooms in Musenyi Community School for children aged 3-7. However, there were two further classrooms where the pupils had to sit on the floor through lack of furniture and where there was nothing more than a teacher and a chalkboard. BFSS's grant provided the funding to furnish and equip these rooms as well as to provide pencils, paper, exercise books, text books and teaching aids for pupils at the School. In total 250 children have benefited.

Two years on, many of these pupils have made such progress that they need to move on in their learning to a higher level. ANBR is now fundraising to provide four more classrooms so that children who have had a head start in their education can continue to make good progress.

www.anewbeginningrwanda.com



Educate Girls: Children learning the English alphabet through Educate Girls' creative learning techniques

THE BRITISH ASIAN TRUST

- Grant to improve the quality of education in Rajasthan by supporting Educate Girls to tackle the root causes of gender inequality and empower rural communities. Educate Girls is a charity partner of The British Asian Trust, which was founded in 2007 by HRH the Prince of Wales.

- Three-year grant of £35,000 per annum for 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15, subject to satisfactory report at the end of each year

India has the largest illiterate population in the world and 46% of girls in India are child brides. Educate Girls works in Rajasthan, which has 9 of the 26 most backward districts in the country. In these districts the 'gender gap' between men's and women's education is particularly marked, with only half of women able to read or write, 40% of girls leaving school before they reach the fifth grade, and 68% of girls marrying before the legal age. Poverty is one cause, but just as important are the cultural and social barriers and the poor quality of public education, which prevent many parents from sending their daughters to school.

Educate Girls has developed a three-year programme that addresses these barriers by working with local communities and government schools to boost girls' enrolment and attendance, enhance the quality of education and school infrastructure, improve learning levels and change attitudes to education.

BFSS is funding Educate Girls to run this programme in the remote Bhinmal area of Jalore, the worst 'gender gap' district in Rajasthan. The grant will enable Educate Girls to support 275 schools, reaching about 30,000 children. Over the three years it aims to enrol over 3,000 out-of-school girls, train teams of girl leaders in each village in Bhinmal, set up Girls' Councils in government residential schools and train teachers and school management committees to ensure changes are sustainable over the long-term.

www.britishasiantrust.org
www.educategirls.in



Children in a Kenyan school using IT equipment provided by BFSS

COMPUTER AID INTERNATIONAL

- Grant to establish 20 schools in Kenya as "ICT in Education" centres of excellence
- One-year grant of £49,795 in 2012

BFSS has been supportive of the productive partnership between Computer Aid International and Computers for Schools Kenya and was keen to work with them to deliver the next stage of ICT integration in education in Kenya. Through this grant, 20 schools received significant investment in terms of training and equipment to establish themselves as centres of excellence for improving teaching and learning through the use of information and communication technology.

Each school received a new computer lab consisting of 20 high quality refurbished PCs, donated by companies and organisations in the UK and refurbished by a dedicated team of London-based volunteers. Over the expected lifetime of the equipment, an estimated 30,000 students will have access to the computers, thereby gaining essential skills and confidence to enter further education or better paid employment.

In-depth training provided teachers from each school with the skills and confidence to use the equipment effectively, learning how to prepare classroom material and presentations and how to find additional resources and information online.

In addition, each school was given three laptops to be used by the teachers themselves to search for information or prepare material and presentations. Each school was also given a projector so that teachers can plug in their laptops and present their pre-prepared material in front of a class quickly and easily.

Earlier in the year, Computer Aid International celebrated delivering its 200,000th high quality refurbished PC, commenting "Computers and connectivity are unique tools which release the potential, skills and passion of the youth of a community unlike anything else."

www.computeraid.org



Children in a nursery classroom at Ekiwumulo

ESUUBI TRUST

- Grant to complete the construction of a nursery school for 200 pupils in Ekiwumulo Village in the Mityana District in Central Uganda and provide resources for learning and teaching

- One-year grant of £15,399 in 2012

Esuubi is a UK-based charity which helps local communities in Uganda to support their most vulnerable children. The grant from BFSS enabled Esuubi to complete the construction of Ekiwumulo Nursery School in Ekiwumulo Village. Ekiwumulo (meaning a place of freedom and restoration) is a group of foster homes for orphans, centred around a primary school and a vocational training centre, providing a community of support.

Work on this project was completed in August 2012 and a team of volunteers from the UK were able to travel to Uganda to complete the final furnishings and paintings. This allowed the children to start in the building at the beginning of their new term. Over 200 children are benefiting from the construction of the new school and the resources which

have been provided. This stage of education is crucial for children in Uganda as it provides them with a foundation knowledge of English, which is a third language for many of these children but the primary language of education in Uganda.

In Uganda levels of basic literacy and numeracy are low but, through projects such as this, Esuubi Trust can help give children a stepping stone out of the poverty cycle as well as provide them with the chance to be children in a culture where growing up can come all too quickly. Esuubi have commented: "The very kind and generous donation made by BFSS has been appreciated over and over again by the staff and support workers at Ekiwumulo Village. Together we are giving these children hope of a future."

www.esuubi.org.uk



Children with complex needs attending FARA's specialist learning and development centre in Falticeni

FARA

- Grant to expand St Theresa's Specialist Learning and Development Centre in Northern Romania by providing funding for refurbishment and equipment (sensory, physiotherapy and educational) for a new centre in Falticeni

- One-year grant of £5,000 in 2012

FARA has been working with abandoned and vulnerable children in Romania since 1991. Over the past 20 years FARA has developed four programmes which all focus on education and inclusion of marginalised children and young people, many of them with disabilities.

One of FARA's programmes is its education and support for children with complex needs, which was first established (with a BFSS grant) in Bucharest in 2007. Following the success of this specialist learning and development centre in Bucharest and in the light of the high demand for specialist services in northern Romania, FARA opened a second centre, St Theresa's, in Baia (Suceava county). Here, in co-operation with the local government, it has been providing special needs education

and specialist therapy (physiotherapy, speech and sensory therapy). However, facilities in Baia were limited and overcrowded and FARA was faced with an ever-increasing waiting list. It therefore approached BFSS for help in expanding St Theresa's to a second location in Falticeni.

The grant from BFSS has helped FARA to refurbish and equip the centre in Falticeni, which opened its doors in December 2012 to 35 children aged 1-8, helping them to realise their maximum potential in all areas of development (cognitive, communication, physical, social and emotional) and to be integrated into some form of education. The aim is to expand this number to 50. FARA also supports the families by helping parents to cope with their disabled child in an environment where disabled children continue to be stigmatised and excluded from their local community.

www.faracharity.org



Weekend recreation for children supported in primary education

INTERNATIONAL CHILDCARE TRUST

- Grant for the benefit of children and young people in Arusha, northern Tanzania: a) to support 100 orphans and vulnerable children to access quality primary education each year; and b) to help 25 sexually exploited teenage girls each year to secure alternative livelihoods
- Three-year grant of £15,000 pa for 2012, 2013 and 2014, subject to satisfactory annual report at the end of each year

International Childcare Trust (ICT) is a UK registered charity that develops long-term partnerships with local NGOs in Africa and Asia that protect children's rights. ICT supports them to become strong, effective organisations which can make a sustained difference to the lives of vulnerable children. In 2011 ICT established a partnership with Shalom Centre, an NGO that supports street children in Arusha.

Thousands of families in Arusha live in extremely densely populated, squalid slums. Many children do not attend school for a variety of reasons, including neglect, disability,

inability to pay for school materials and the need to find work to support younger siblings following loss of one or more parents to Aids.

The BFSS grant supports two key elements of Shalom Centre's work: educational support for vulnerable children; and support for teenage girls vulnerable to sexual exploitation. In its first year, the project provided school uniforms and school materials to over 100 children enabling them to attend school, many for the first time. In addition, Shalom Centre organises weekly gatherings offering counselling, health checks and recreation to boost school attendance further.

The project also enrolled 25 teenage girls on training courses in hotel management, beauty and hairdressing to equip them with the marketable skills required to find viable work. Of these girls, 16 are now in apprenticeships; two have found work in local hairdressing salons; three have set up their own businesses; and two are still studying. Shalom will continue to follow up the girls' progress.

www.international-childcare-trust.org



Children of Uitsig Home Schools with their proud parents who can now support them more effectively

INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S TRUST

- Grant towards the provision of informal schooling and individualised care for vulnerable children and young people in the Uitsig community in the townships of the Cape Flats, near Cape Town, South Africa
- One-year grant of £15,000 in 2012

The International Children's Trust is a UK based international development NGO focused on children and young people who are vulnerable and at risk through poverty. It seeks to build the financial and organisational capacity of local partners, in this case New Life Community Projects, its long-standing partner in South Africa.

This project targets the Uitsig community in the townships of the Cape Flats, characterised by high levels of poverty, unemployment, gangsterism, violence and substance abuse. Many children experience severe parental neglect and/or other forms of abuse at home and on the street. The schools have high drop-out rates and children resort to life on the street. Families lack the confidence to access effective support from public service providers.

The grant from BFSS supported work with 26 children who are out of school and on the street (or at risk thereof), enabling them to receive individualised care and informal educational support led by female leaders from the community. This has significantly reduced their street involvement and has enabled the successful reintegration of 23 into mainstream schools. (The remaining three children moved away from the Uitsig community.) In addition, 10 older streetchildren received on-street support, of whom half found a job and reduced their street involvement. 73 children benefited from daily after-school support.

New Life also facilitated parenting skills and other life-skills workshops for the children's parents as well as community-based group activities. This enabled support for the children to be sustained by the parents and by the whole community.

www.theict.org
www.newlifeprojects.co.za



8-year-old Pancharam who is attending school for the first time, studying at home but still proudly wearing his new school uniform

KIDASHA (formerly Child Welfare Scheme)

- Grant to support 200 vulnerable children in Pokhara, Nepal to attend school and ensure they complete primary education
- Four-year grant of £15,000 pa for 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015, subject to satisfactory report at the end of each year

Kidasha is a UK registered international NGO which has supported street and working children in Nepal since 1997. These children are a pervasive reality in Nepal and suffer from marginalisation and vulnerability as well as exclusion from mainstream education, healthcare and protection services.

In Nepal:

- Children below 15 years make up 35% of the population
- 6% never enrol in school while, of those that do, over 22% do not complete primary education
- 53% of children aged 10-14 years are in child labour

Pokhara is Nepal's second largest city and is growing rapidly due to urban migration.

It currently has over 40 slum areas. In 2012, Kidasha launched the second phase of a multi-agency project to reach 3,500 street children, working children and others at risk in the city. The objective was to get 900 children back into full-time education.

Within this project, the BFSS grant enables 200 children to go to school by providing fees, uniforms and books, together with specialist support to work with families and children to ensure their continued attendance through counselling and home visits.

Pancharam, pictured, is 8 years old and this year was supported to attend school for the first time. He lives in a slum area cared for by his disabled mother and grandparents, who do labouring work to support the family. In Pancharam's neighbourhood it is usual for children from 13-14 years of age to drop out of school. The project supports many children in this area and is working hard with the community to increase the number of children completing secondary education.

www.kidasha.org



Pupils taking part in a drama workshop led by Lyric practitioners

LYRIC HAMMERSMITH

- Grant to help fund a 3-year programme of work for schools in West London to enable disadvantaged children to engage in regular cultural activity
- Three-year grant of £5,000 pa for 2012, 2013 and 2014, subject to satisfactory report at the end of each year

The Lyric Hammersmith is West London's largest producing theatre. Alongside its renowned programme of professional productions on stage, the Lyric has developed a programme of work for children and young people from a wide range of cultural, social and economic backgrounds.

The grant from BFSS is helping to fund a 3-year programme which enables 300 disadvantaged children per year from schools in deprived wards to take part in weekly curriculum-linked creative workshops and regular production visits to the Lyric Theatre with opportunities to perform on stage. Children learn about improvisation and story telling, which helps to foster teamwork and communication, while teachers are enabled

to develop their confidence in using arts to deliver the National Curriculum.

The following feedback bears witness to the impact which the activities are having on children taking part in the programme. It reports the reaction from a teacher at one of the schools. "The teacher was amazed they [the children] not only got into their groups from the last session with no conflict but then remembered what they had done. She also talked about students who were unable to sustain little focus and concentration who were transformed in the session. For example the boy who reads the book at the beginning of the prologue is usually unable to sustain any focus or concentration at all. During the session his mentor came into the session and could not believe his behaviour."

www.lyric.co.uk



Teachers using the IT Hub for the first time

PONT - PARTNERSHIPS OVERSEAS NETWORKING TRUST

- Grant to establish an IT Hub in Mbale, Eastern Uganda, for use by school teachers/pupils and the wider community to promote computer literacy
- One-year grant of £7,500 in 2012

The PONT-Mbale link is a community-to-community partnership between Pontypridd/Rhondda Cynon Taf in South Wales, and Mbale region in Eastern Uganda. The aim of the link is to share mutual friendships and learning and to support sustainable approaches to tackling poverty in Mbale.

For the past eight years PONT (a UK charity) has helped to form 60+ links between schools in Rhondda Cynon Taf and Mbale. There have been many exchange visits of teachers and pupils, supported by the British Council. Many schools in the rural and mountainous area of Mbale lack access to technology or even electricity, which means that it is very challenging for teachers and pupils to learn any IT skills, access information or communicate with their partner schools in Wales.

In 2012 the British Council offered PONT the opportunity to be part of an exciting pilot initiative, run by the British Council and Microsoft, to establish IT Hubs in Uganda to promote computer literacy. Match funding was needed in order to be part of the project, so PONT approached BFSS for grant support.

With a grant from BFSS to match the funding from the British Council and Microsoft, the Mbale IT Hub of 20 networked computers was established in the District Education Office, which means that schools can access it on visits into town. It was formally launched in November 2012 and the attendance of local politicians and headteachers demonstrated the importance of this new educational resource for the region. With the support of the British Council and the local PONT School Links Co-ordinator (a retired teacher), basic IT skills training has now been provided to 300 teachers through the Hub. Along with internet provision this is building very valuable knowledge and skills that will continue to be shared with the school and wider community.

www.pont-mbale.org.uk



Ezana primary school students gratefully accept BFSS pencil case donations

PROJECT PENCIL CASE

- Grant to provide educational and material supplies for a primary school in Northern Ethiopia
- One-year grant of £11,417 in 2012

Project Pencil Case is a small educational charity working in Addis Ababa and Northern Ethiopia to support underprivileged students and schools by equipping them with basic educational materials. It was set up by British born Arabella Stewart who was raised in Ethiopia as a child. It is now run jointly with Mikele Goitom, an Ethiopian born and raised teacher.

The charity works closely with Ethiopian education officials, local co-operatives and small businesses. Local education officials in the historic northern town of Axum pointed Project Pencil Case towards Ezana Elementary School (named after an early Axumite Emperor) as being particularly in need of assistance.

The grant from BFSS enabled Project Pencil Case to provide Ezana Elementary School with

classroom furnishings, including blackboards, desks and chairs, as well as pencil cases for the students.

Project Pencil Case is committed to supporting the local economy by sourcing all materials locally and using onsite suppliers for furnishings. The pencil cases were produced in Addis Ababa by a women's cooperative and each one had Project Pencil Case's embroidered logo on one side with a laminated label on the other with the words "Funded by the British & Foreign School Society". The pencil case contents - lead and coloured pencils, erasers, sharpeners, pens and rulers - were purchased in Addis Ababa and transported to Axum by Project Pencil Case, who then assembled each pencil case with the items ready for distribution to the students. 800 children benefited from the improved school facilities and the pencil cases.

www.projectpencilcase.org



Opening the pages of a new world in the shanty towns of Lima, Peru

PROJECT PERU

- Grant to create a library in a children's home in the desert shanty towns near Lima, Peru
- Two-year grant (£5,000 in 2011 and £2,051 in 2012)

Project Peru is a totally voluntary, hands-on, UK based charity offering food, clothes, education, shelter, fun and now, thanks to BFSS, a library for the children who live in the charity's refuge in Zapallal among the desert shanty towns of Lima, Peru.

Project Peru report that it was a magical experience to watch the transformation of the empty rooms into a lively, welcoming space with the library as the centre piece, lined with bookshelves and filled with new books. Suddenly children were discovering books and exploring new worlds, comfortably settled on soft seating or studying at one of the computer desks. In a country where there are no public lending libraries and where, even if most people are literate, there is no real culture of reading for pleasure (due in part to the cost and availability of books), Project Peru say that it is thrilling to see the

joy and very real practical advantage the library brings.

Project Peru have provided a wide range of new books for children of all ages, effectively and accessibly classified, along with audio-visual facilities. They have offered training and a salary to one of the teaching staff to help her develop the educational side of the library, which has been of critical importance in the implementation of this initiative. Now she is enjoying her role in organising story telling and project work and providing information, supervision and guidance for specific homework tasks and for general knowledge. Around 50 children, young adults and staff members use the library regularly.

Project Peru are delighted that not only the children but also those who look after them are discovering reading for pleasure. "Thank you to BfSS", they have written, "for opening the pages of a new world for all at Project Peru."

www.projectperu.org.uk



One of the students getting to grips with a new PC to download photographs from a field trip

RED BALLOON LEARNER CENTRE - MERSEYSIDE

- Grant for the purchase of new IT equipment for the Red Balloon Learner Centre in Merseyside
- One-year grant of £7,753 in 2012

Since April 2010 Red Balloon Learner Centre in Anfield has provided severely bullied children aged 11-17 who are too frightened to go to school with an 'intensive care' full-time education. The young people benefit from a safe environment with clear boundaries for behaviour. They receive an individualised full-time academic, pastoral and therapeutic programme. Once a student has regained confidence and is able to cope academically and socially, Red Balloon supports the young person to return to mainstream education or to employment.

The education provided is based on, but not restricted to, the National Curriculum. Sessions are also provided in anger management, conflict resolution and mediation. Participation is encouraged in debates, drama, and 'Circle Time'. The Centre can take up to 15 children at any one time.

The grant from BFSS enabled the Centre to update its network and buy new PCs and photographic equipment. Feedback is that "Having the new IT equipment has been fantastic." Teachers now have up-to-date equipment allowing them to teach more effectively. For students, all rooms have internet access and the speed is much faster, which enables students to progress faster academically.

The new equipment has helped in many ways. The new camera makes it possible to record activities, outings and events and one student is already planning on making a memory photo-book. The camcorder allows drama and music as well as role-play activities to be recorded and replayed, which can be invaluable in raising students' self-esteem and confidences. As one member of staff put it "The new equipment has improved our provision vastly."

www.redballoonlearner.co.uk/regional/merseyside



The 20% non-attendance rate was transformed into 99% attendance after the children received books and pencils

RESOLVE INTERNATIONAL

- Grant to increase access to primary education in the Terai area of Nepal
- One-year grant of £8,147 in 2012

Resolve International is a charity helping to combat child poverty in Nepal by setting up and running projects to improve health, education and welfare.

This project aimed to widen educational access in the Terai area of Nepal, where the lack of adequate stationery combined with the inability to pay for it acts as a disincentive to going to school. The schools, often located in remote villages, have scant resources and the families are too poor to buy stationery. The children, mainly from subsistence farming families in marginalised indigenous rural communities, are amongst the poorest in the country. Families in one community live on wild roots from the forest for 3-4 months each year. In Kailali many of the children at the school are former Kamaiya (bonded labour).

The grant from BFSS enabled Resolve International to provide 12 exercise books

as well as pencils to each of 3,228 children in 21 primary schools, in a school for the disabled and in two orphanages. The total included 430 street and working children in Kathmandu plus children living in makeshift tents in a squatter camp. The exercise book covers bore an inscription recording that the books had been funded by the British & Foreign School Society.

Resolve International worked with one main partner, RUN Nepal, and four other NGOs in the distribution of resources. The project had the additional benefit of focusing Resolve International's direction more fully on primary literacy teaching in Nepal and the need to help reduce the high drop-out rate by providing in-service teacher training and resources. Moreover, BFSS funding helped Resolve International to leverage additional funding and support including from Vodafone and the London Young Lawyers Group.

www.resolveinternational.org



The quiet learning environment of a *School of Hope*

SCHOOLCHILDREN FOR CHILDREN (now known as ChallengeAid)

- Grant to set up two more *Schools of Hope* in the slums of Nairobi
- Three-year grant (£10,000 in 2012, £5,000 in 2013 and £2,500 in 2014) subject to satisfactory report at the end of each year

The aim of Schoolchildren for Children is to take children out of poverty through education. It offers an alternative and complementary type of education in some of the slums of Nairobi, enabling many children who are unable to attend school during the day to continue their studies at night through its *Schools of Hope* programme.

Schoolchildren for Children currently funds 11 *Schools of Hope* in the slums of Nairobi. These are held in churches and/or community halls. Students aged between 11 and 18 come together to study from 6 - 8pm five days a week. The funding supports the provision of primary and secondary text books, desks and chairs, secure library space, toilets, running water and electric lighting. The grant from BFSS has enabled two new *Schools of Hope* to be set up, each benefiting some 50 children.

The *Schools of Hope* provide a safe and supportive study environment for young people whose homes, in most cases, are single-roomed structures with no electricity, running water or sanitation. The students also benefit from regular life skills lectures on topics such as substance abuse and HIV/AIDS awareness. The *Schools of Hope* are staffed by volunteers, many of whom are trained teachers. They maintain close contact with a parents' committee formed from within the community. After the study time there are music and drama sessions and at weekends there are often sports matches.

There are no government schools in any of the slum areas of Nairobi and the *Schools of Hope* provide opportunities for young people to continue their studies and improve their job prospects. Students on the programme have already shown significant academic and behavioural improvement. Schoolchildren for Children's immediate aim is to open another ten *Schools of Hope* in Nairobi's slum settlements.

www.challengeaid.org



Parents and children practising their newly acquired English through play

SOUTH GROVE CHILDREN'S CENTRE

- Grant for the delivery of pre-entry ESOL (English as a Second or Other Language) classes for parents and carers and their children under the age of six in South Tottenham, North London. Partnership delivery between South Grove Children's Centre, Haringey Adult Learning Service, St Ann's Library, Seven Sisters Primary School and Ilse Amlot Centre for Women and Children

- One-year grant of £15,300 in 2012-2013

Many families in this area of North London need pre-entry ESOL classes. Currently there is no central government funding at this level. This means that many adults find it difficult to reach the level required to access lessons to progress into further education and employment.

Moreover, many parents and carers in the area lack confidence in supporting their children's education as they have few, or no, formal qualifications. Many pupils in the local schools do not speak English at home because their parents only have a basic command of English.

BFSS agreed to provide grant on the basis that support would be targeted on families with children under six and that the sessions would be delivered in such a way that the adult students and their children could enjoy learning together.

Sessions were delivered over the year in the local library. Homework was set each week resulting in the learning continuing in the family home with the participation of school-aged children. The learners made strong support networks. Students grew in confidence, progressing on to further courses in various locations around Haringey at a range of levels and accessing sessions to help them with their career path.

Feedback was as follows: "The grant has directly benefited 45 families in our area, who are now able to look forward to a brighter future. We would all like to say a very big thank you."

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