



Po Box 1493, Jinja, Uganda

[www.softpowerededucation.com](http://www.softpowerededucation.com)

[info@softpowerededucation.com](mailto:info@softpowerededucation.com)

British Registered Charity 1098936

# Soft Power Education

## New Year Newsletter 2007



### A run down on 2006

Well can you believe that Christmas has been and gone and another year is about to end?! 2006 has been an amazing year for Soft Power Education and thanks to all of our volunteers, donors and overland passengers we have been able to achieve an incredible amount.

In 2006 our relationship with Leeds University blossomed with more volunteers than ever before and they brought with them an amazing £21,000. They worked like Trojans and made a huge impact on the progress of the Education Centre. Groups from Madventure, AV and Hands of Help also returned continuing the hard work of groups before them. A big thank you to all of you.

Our 12 hour cycle marathon in September was a huge success even if the course did turn into a mud bath and people ended up carrying their bikes on their heads rather than riding them! A huge \$3000 was raised - thank you to everyone involved. Check out the photos at [www.softpowerededucation.com/upcoming\\_events](http://www.softpowerededucation.com/upcoming_events)

On the school front, we have continued Bob the girls amazing work at Wakitaka, building them a mega 4 classroom block; Kivabuka has had a face lift with a some incredible teaching aids inside - a new school hall is well underway there too; Lokolo Muslim looks amazing thanks to its sparkly new green and cream paint job as well as further renovations to another 3 classroom block; Budondo was one of the first schools we worked at and this month it has finally been painted. We are just about to start work at Wansimba Primary School as well as painting the Special Needs Dorm at Kyoma, which was finished this summer thanks to Sheila's hard work. Kagoma Hill Primary and St Pauls were also completed this year thanks to a very generous donation from The Robein Group.

Without you, our supporters, none of this would have been possible so give yourselves a pat on the back! Check out the website for an update on all the schools [www.softpowerededucation.com/schools](http://www.softpowerededucation.com/schools)

The first week of December saw the annual Pre school Christmas parties spectacularly arranged by a group of our long term volunteers. Over 150 children at KCC and Buwenda had a morning of fun and games, juice and biscuits, face painting and party hats. Great fun was had by all and the volunteers did a great job of entertaining 150 children running around on a sugar high thanks to all the sweets! The parties were funded by a generous donation from Andy Robb and the girls in his office. We also had our very first underwear sale thanks to a huge box of underwear donated from the UK. It all sold like hot cakes and raised 500,000 Ugandan Shillings right here in Jinja. Thanks to Palm Tree for hosting the event and for everyone who came.





## The Amagezi Education Centre



Well, wouldn't you agree that it looks incredible! From the basic structure that was there at the start of the year it has been transformed into a fully fledged Education Centre. Just this month we recruited tutors for Science, IT and Drama. They all started their training before Christmas and we are all very excited to have them on board. Nic and Dave have been shopping for all kinds of objects from plastic models of various body parts to microscopes. Many thanks to everyone who has helped make this centre possible from the donors, sponsors, the Leeds crew who worked so hard over the summer and all the other volunteers who have passed through and contributed.

Take a look at the Education Centre blog to follow the progress right from the start at [www.softpowereducationcentre.blogspot.com](http://www.softpowereducationcentre.blogspot.com)

### How can I get involved?

Do you like what you have been reading? Do you fancy getting involved right here in Uganda? If the answer is yes then click below to send me an email and find out about volunteering opportunities in 2007 [sharon@softpowereducationcentre.com](mailto:sharon@softpowereducationcentre.com)

Don't have the time or kind bosses who will let you take a few months off? Don't worry you can still be a part of Soft Power. Using the form below you can set up a standing order for just £15 a month to help us run the Education Centre. That will cover 10 children to visit the centre for one day and experience things they never thought possible. Do you have ideas for the centre? Then send Nic an email at [speducationcentre@gmail.com](mailto:speducationcentre@gmail.com)

### And finally... A word from Hannah

As you can see, we are having a really productive time in Jinja with allsorts of stuff going on. I am particularly excited to see the Amagezi Centre come on line and be a wonderful jewel for the Primary Schools of Budondo. Next year will also see us begin to work around the National Parks of Uganda, supporting the Wildlife Authority with Conservation and Nature Education amongst local children and their communities. As this new endeavour grows, please keep in touch as we expect there to be many new and varied ways folk can help us achieve goals.

In October we sadly bid farewell to Georgie after three years of hard work and humour. Completely irreplaceable. Shaz and Kibii have taken up the challenge to coordinate all volunteer activities as well as manage the administration. Jackie leaves in January and 2007 will see us shape a dynamic international team capable of achieving minor miracles.

Once again, I must express my heart felt gratitude to all who have helped and continue to support us. We are really creating a wonderful change in the lives of Primary School children. Thank you.

**Happy New Year to you all!**



## Soft Power Education Standing Order Form

Registered UK Charity 1098936

### I would like to help Soft Power Education

(please complete in capital letters)

Name	
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Postcode	
Email Address	

### Standing order form (UK only)

(You can cancel a standing order at any time by notifying us & your bank)

Bank Name	
Bank Address	
Postcode	
Please pay Soft Power Education	
£	Each month
Starting on:	
From my account no:	
Sort Code	
Signature	

### Soft Power Education Bank Details:-

HSBC, 149 Whiteladies Road, Bristol, BS8 2RR, England

**Sort code:** 40 14 09

**Account No:** 91349511

**Account Name:** Soft Power Education

### Once completed please return this form to:-

Soft Power Education, 55 Guildhall Street, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, IP33 1QF

And email a copy to [info@softpowerededucation.com](mailto:info@softpowerededucation.com)

***Make your gift tax-efficient – it costs you nothing (please tick the box)***

I am a UK taxpayer and wish for Soft Power Education to reclaim the tax on this donation and any I make from now on.

PLEASE NOTE: YOU MUST HAVE PAID AT LEAST AN AMOUNT OF INCOME TAX OR CAPITAL GAINS TAX EQUAL TO THE TAX WE RECLAIM ON YOUR DONATION EACH YEAR. THIS WILL ENTITLE US TO GAIN AN ADDITIONAL **28%** ON YOUR MONEY.

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