



UK Registered Charity 1110998

Gambia Education and Teaching Support NEWSLETTER

Issue 11 October 2010

SUNRISE SPECIAL



"GETS will run the centre from 1st January 2010"

Sunrise Centre Up and Running

GETSuk now have a great opportunity to operate a School and Community centre in Bakoteh. The community have given us this exciting opportunity having observed our great work running the smaller nursery school nearby, started by our ex-chairman, Francis Glynn, and managed by our Headteacher, Nfamara Jarjue.

Our first challenge will be to move our children from the existing GETS nursery school at Bakoteh into the Sunrise centre and then develop the centre by building more classrooms, over the coming years, to start to form a Lower Basic level school.

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**enquiries@
gets-sunrise.org**

Get Involved!

Welcome to the latest edition of the GETS UK newsletter.

This issue is jam-packed with fundraising ideas and other ways to help our important work at the Sunrise Centre, Bakoteh.

We're also celebrating more successes from our sponsored students, and if you fancy getting involved in the charity 'hands-on', turn to the back page for a great accommodation offer!

We are looking for sponsors for individual children at Sunrise. These children come from very poor families, but just £7.50 a month could change their chances in life. This modest amount would pay for their school fees, and provide them with a uniform and a pair of shoes.

We will also be launching a Hardship Fund to provide bursaries to children whose families cannot afford to pay their school fees. We will be asking for donations of £5 a month to support this fund. Families will have to provide a uniform and shoes.

If you feel able to be a part of such an exciting new project and can pay monthly by standing order, or for further details, please contact us at

enquiries@gets-sunrise.org

Perhaps you feel able to make a broader contribution to education in the Gambia? Our teachers need training as they generally do not have any formal teaching qualifications. To improve overall teaching practice we need funds to send them to Gambia College to gain these valuable qualifications. We will also need funds to increase their salaries once they are better qualified, so we are looking for a minimum donation of £10 a month for our teachers fund!



Could you sponsor a child's education?

Why your support makes all the difference...

Sait Jah proudly displays his Attestation certificate after completing his Grade 12 at SOS Herman Geimner Senior Secondary school in July. Sait has been sponsored by Sally Margetts and family since 2008. Sait has not quite decided what to do now he has finished his education but we wish Sait the best of luck for the future.



Sait Jah with his certificate

Sendeng Susso has been a sponsored student with GETSuk since she was at upper basic school (junior school). She has now successfully completed her Graduate Diploma in Management Studies after 3 years attendance at the Management Development Institute. Her knowledge is now being put into practice because she is helping out on a voluntary basis in the GETSuk office in Senegambia. Sendeng says a big thank you to Alan Pickles, Veronica Delaney, Eileen Renwick and Tania Leyland, who have over the years helped sponsor her education.



Sendeng Susso and her Diploma

“The object of education is to prepare the young to educate themselves throughout their lives.”
~Robert Maynard

Hutchins

Sunrise project continued...

The existing building facilities consist of a large open hall, 5 classrooms, kitchen, stores and toilet facilities. These were built by SOS, to good standards, and were handed over to the community to run in 2005. This has not proved to be successful due to lack of funds and GETS were offered the opportunity to take over, or the centre might have to close.

80 skills students (aged 15-17) use the Centre with lessons in English, Maths, Cookery, Tie Dye and Sewing in 3 classrooms (Called Skills Training in The Gambia) plus 30 nursery (aged 4-7) places currently exist in 2 classrooms.

The facility is also well used by the Community for functions and meetings, including a regular local Christian church group.

We have formally agreed with the Bakoteh Development Committee by signing an MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) in June 2010, to allow GETS to operate the centre. Helen Touray, our Gambia based Trustee, has been appointed as Director of the centre and GETS will run the facility from 1st Jan 2011. It will begin with 3 Skills Training classes, for around 80 young adults and 2 Nursery classes, with around 60 children.



A Personal Request

My name is Alpha Bah and I have been sponsored through GETSuk by Fiona Spence. I am 19 years old and my favourite game is football and I like reading novels. I am attending International Business College at Fajara. What I enjoy studying most is Travel and Tourism Environment. My hope for the future is to become an international Tour Operator to bring in tourists into my country and also to sponsor other students like I have been sponsored.

My educational experience will help me to achieve my dreams but I also need some further help from you! When I complete my course I would like to further my studies by taking the CTH Advanced Diploma Tourism management. To do this I will need:

- a laptop
- sponsorship

It has always been my dream to work hard and study hard, and with sponsorship I will be able to study the following:

1. Travel geography
2. Business computing
3. The travel industry
4. Travel agency and tour guide operations
5. Air fares and ticketing
6. Marketing
7. Finance in the tourism industry
8. Management accounting
9. Tour operations.

If you can you help me please contact the GETSuk office in The Gambia.

Thank you so much,

Alpha Bah

Top That!

If you are visiting the Gambia, or if you know anyone who is, please consider saving up your used plastic bottle tops. They are very valuable for sorting, counting, colour identification etc. Gambian schools are very poor and staff and children have to utilise what they can. Any pebbles or shells you might collect whilst on holiday in the Gambia can serve the same purpose.

We would love you to deliver these items to the school that is benefitting from them, so you can see the work that is going on. If interested, please email

enquiries@gets-sunrise.org



Project CARE

We are now launching the CARE project (Clean And Reliable water Everyday). This is to provide the Sunrise centre with a clean fresh water supply, which is vital for keeping good hygiene with young children. We hope to raise around £5,000 to build a borehole for the site.



RAISE FUNDS FOR GETSuk FREE WHEN YOU SHOP OR BROWSE ONLINE!

All you need to do is log on to the easyfundraising site at

www.easyfundraising.org.uk/gambiaeducationteaching

Or set us as your homepage, and use it every time you search the web

www.gambiaeducationteaching.easysearch.org.uk



UK Contact info:

enquiries@gets-sunrise.org

Gambia Office:

helen@gets-sunrise.org



GTS Kololi Members Club

Visiting Gambia?

GTS Kololi is still very much linked to the spirit of GETSuk – and now that it is completed, provides a perfect place for those interested in staying in Gambia to use as their base.

The accommodation has its own tiny dip pool, library, TV and Art gallery as well as a pleasant Bar and Restaurant. It is situated about half way between the new Sunrise project in Bakoteh and the GETSuk office in Senegambia.

All rooms are cleaned and serviced during your stay, we have a good water supply and we have electrical back up to run fans and lights during power cuts.

Our prices are very reasonable. We aim exclusively at visitors with a charitable interest in Gambia, not just in the field of education, but in forestry conservation, medical centres and recently a new air ambulance service. We add new interests each season—this April we have a team of podiatrists visiting from Germany!

If you would like further information about short or long stay accommodation at GTS Kololi please contact Francis at GTSKololi@hotmail.com

amazon.com

Buy a Book for Sunrise...

If you are a regular Amazon shopper, why not consider taking a peek at our book wishlist? Supporters can now buy a book or books from our wishlist and take it with them when they visit the Gambia—delivering it personally to the classroom in which it will be used! Your donation could benefit the wider community as well as the school. So when you're stocking up on Christmas gifts, consider sending a gift to Sunrise too!

To view our wishlist, visit <http://www.amazon.co.uk/gp/registry/registry.html?ie=UTF8&type=wishlist&id=1A2CTB5I4XJ1X>

P.S.

Our brand new website **www.gets-sunrise.org** is due to be launched in the next few weeks—keep an eye out for it!



Books would help the whole community