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Gambia Education and Teaching Support NEWSLETTER

Issue 19 May 2013

www.getsuk.org.uk

Success Stories - Getting Students their first chance

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Caroline Jatta at Barbecue Chili's

One of the things that makes what we do at GETS worthwhile is to see the children and students move on successfully to a life made possible by a sound education, with the help of our generous sponsors. Here are a few stories to show how this can work.

Caroline Jatta graduated from the Skills Training course at Sunrise in June 2012 and now has full-time employment at Barbecue Chili's, one of the popular restaurants in the Senegambia area. We asked her to tell us a little about her work in the kitchen there.

"I spent three years at Sunrise and in January 2012 (my last year) I was brought to Chili's for my attachment. The boss was pleased with me and so I was then employed as a member of staff. When the tourist season closed, they reduced but then they called me back at the start of this season. I like working here - it's a lot better than sitting down doing nothing."

Ebou Jarjue is someone else who has been helped by sponsors through GETS for much of his education. Ebou left Gambia Institute Technical College with a promising career in IT ahead of him. After his first couple of years working with a local Network Support company, located behind Kairaba Avenue near Westfield, Ebou was offered the

chance to add to his range of skills by travelling on an American scholarship to Fox Valley Technical College in Wisconsin, near Chicago.

Ebou is studying an IT Programmer/ Analyst course. He stays with other international students (one from Kenya and another from The Congo). Ebou is very grateful to the person who helped him to leave Gambia and begin this course; Mr Baboucarr Gibba.

Ebou tells me that he has been really, really cold since he left, just before Christmas! Snow-time in northern USA.



Ebou Jarjue at Fox Valley Technical College

Mohammed Sanyang is known to almost everyone as Baba G. Bah. He graduated from the Skills Training course at Sunrise in June 2012, after his work placement in the kitchen of the prestigious Kololi Beach Club restaurant. Since then he has continued to work there as a trainee chef.

"When I finished my placement they told me, "Sorry the place is full". So I said to them "Instead of sitting down at home, let me come here and continue my training." They don't pay me but they give me transport and food allowance. I'm working full time in the kitchen, doing cooking and preparation. What they do here is totally different to what we did at Sunrise and I'm still learning.

GETS AGM 2013...

31st August, Cheshire

Details on page 3

New Sponsorships

"I'm delighted to report that we have new support for 11 extra children or young people (some pictured) during this year" More on this next time!



Cover story... My family are pleased that I'm training here, because I'm still young. When the season closes, next season I will try to find paid work"

Baba G is pictured below with his friend Ousman Jawo, who has the 2013 Sunrise work placement at Kololi Beach Club, training as a waiter and bar keeper.



GETS welcomes a new Trustee – Maxine Beech

"I came across GETS in Gambia in 2009 and have been editing the newsletter ever since. I live in Cheshire where I teach Sociology and Religious Education at Bishop Heber secondary school and sixth form. I also have some experience working in the charity sector, working as a shows and events officer for the Blue Cross animal charity, and in the fundraising team of the Wildlife Trust.

My new role at GETS allows me to combine my three interests - education, culture and world development - perfectly. My husband and I have recently returned from a trip to Gambia with 10 Sociology students and we cannot wait to return next year."



An Enjoyable Trip

(Exerpt from an article published by Maxine in a local Cheshire magazine and also a newspaper)



Alice Chariton and Lucy Hobson in Maths with Mr Bah

On Saturday 16th February, ten Bishop Heber sociology A Level students and three staff set off for a week visiting the Gambia in Africa. The trip was planned by Sociology teacher Maxine Beech, who wanted to give the students a chance to compare British and African culture, and apply the theor of the course to real life.

The Heber students trekked through national parks, were welcomed to a traditional village by the chief and taught how to dance by the women, visited Serrekunda – the largest market in Gambia, enjoyed a river trip and fishing for frog fish, learnt batik, tie and dye and Gambian cooking, and were invited to spend time in family compounds.

The main aim of the trip was to spend time in the Sunrise centre, a school for both 4-8 year olds and 15-25 year old skills students. The Heber students took part in, and sometimes led, lessons in the school, and were treated to a cultural show by the Gambian teachers and students.

They also spent a morning designing and making their own tie and dye fabric with the skills students, which they brought back to England with them. Friday was the annual 'Ebbeh day' at Sunrise; a community open day at the school with lots of local foods and music. Both Gambian and British students had a wonderful day, with the Heber students learning to dance 'Mankinda style' – a tribal dance – and the Gambian students learning to dance 'Gangnam style'!



Heber students enjoy the cultural show

A volunteer teacher needed!

Sunrise are looking for a qualified or trainee teacher to come and spend some time in our lower basic school, supporting staff and taking some lessons. Contact dawn@gets-sunrise.org

Training our Teachers at Sunrise

We have also been sponsoring our Sunrise Nursery Teachers, helping them to build on the natural skills of our local Sunrise Teachers with formal courses. "The two Fatous" have been attending Gambia Teacher Training College in Brikama during holiday times to do their course. Fatou Cham (pictured modelling this year's teacher uniform) has just reached the end of her Early Childhood Development course and we look forward to congratulating her, when her results are "out" in May.



Lower Basis Progress Update

Our progress on building the second phase of our LBS continues, giving us four extra classrooms. We have been able to start this ahead of schedule, mainly due to a large award from a Trust Fund (£15,000).

Our focus has also been to make sure that the children in our first class LBS Grade1 are being taught well. Dawn has been working with Kaddy Jawara, the main teacher, to help improve standards. One of our challenges here is that some of the intake came from Nursery's outside Sunrise, bringing a mix of skills and behaviours to be managed.



GETS AGM 2013

Saturday 31st August

Bickerton Village Hall,

Malpas, CHESHIRE,

SY14 8AU

Join us for lunch at 12pm



Confirm your attendance:
maxine@gets-sunrise.org

GETS has had help from many people again this year -

Thanks to everyone who raises funds for us or sponsors children or brings resources or gives us their time. We've pictured just a few here from our many, many pictures that we put into the Sunrise blog each week.

There are many others that should have a mention or a picture too. We are grateful to all of these people and groups for the help.

This year we have helped more than 200 children through food or educational subsidies of one form or another. These children and young adults have been given an opportunity that they and their families really appreciate.

Help us create a Hardship Fund!

Families of children attending the nursery and primary wing at the GETS Sunrise Centre pay only a small contribution towards the fees. Sometimes due to bereavement or loss of employment even this small amount becomes untenable thereby putting the child's early education at risk.

If you can assist GETS to establish a Hardship Fund for short term support whilst sponsorship is sought on the child's behalf or family circumstances improve then do please consider donating or perhaps arranging a fund raising event to assist its initiation. Contact Dawn@gets-sunrise.org

