

# RWENZORI ASSOCIATION OF PARENTS OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

NEWSLETTER

Sept 2012 - Jan 2013

## RAPCD, for better lives for children with disabilities

RAPCD is a Community Based Organization operating in Rwenzori Region in western Uganda. We are fighting for the rights of children with disabilities and our main goal is to improve their lives.

You are reading the third edition of the newsletter through which we would like to share the activities our organization was involved in during the last months.



## Welcome!

The Integrated Child Education Center, also known as the 'school for blind and deaf children' was the center of many of the organization's activities during the past couple of months. By the end of November 2012 we closed the year with 39 pupils. All of them participated successfully in end of year exams and benefited from a well deserved break in December and January.

We can now start the new school year with a fresh dose of energy and enthusiasm. We're welcoming around 15 new pupils and 3 new staff members. We all wish them a happy stay, good teamwork and lots of luck at RAPCD.



## What after primary education?

RAPCD, with the help of well wishers, also supported two students who enjoyed secondary education at Wakiso School for the Deaf. This school, located near the capital Kampala, offers quality education for deaf students. Our students just completed their final senior four exams. When editing this newsletter, we didn't know their results yet, but we wish them all the best!

In case if a student shows more interest in hand work or technical skills than the classical academic work, we try to focus on vocational trainings. We encouraged two students to attend a one year training in Ruti School for the Deaf, located in Mbarara. They were trained in carpentry and joinery. One student was also trained in tailoring, which was a training set up in Kasese itself. These students are now skilled to set up their own business and make a living in a dignified way.

## Thanks!

RAPCD receives support from many national and international partners. We really appreciate this support and the trust they have in our organization. Without them, we wouldn't be operating at the same level as we can work now.

This time special thanks goes to **Watchmen International**, who advocates for safe drinking water. The water filter they donated supplies safe drinking water for our pupils every day! We should also thank **Bible Society of Uganda**, who distributed braille bibles to the school, which enables them to improve their knowledge about their religion. RAPCD also receives a lot of support from **well wishers** in different countries, who gave out scholastic materials. And last but not least, the **town council of Roosdaal, Belgium**, will support RAPCD in buying one acre of land. This land will enable us to grow crops and provide food for the school.



Children displaying scholastic materials they received from Guy Dhondt and the company Kwarto.

## Other activities

### Workshop Handicap International

Handicap International hosted a five days workshop about inclusive sports and leisure activities for organizations and other stakeholders working with people with disabilities. Three RAPCD staff members participated in the workshop, gaining a lot of knowledge on how to organize sports activities for children with disabilities. We thank Handicap International for the opportunity and of course for the supply of sports equipments and board games.

### Community sensitization

Sensitizing the community on the rights of children with disabilities is also one of our major targets. Community out reaches help to achieve this goal, but in order to reach as many people as possible, we also explore other options. On Sundays, we visit local churches so that children can be part of normal community life. They show other people that they can pray, read, run and smile, like any other kid. On top of this, the blind pupils occasionally host a radio talk show on Radio Messiah South Rwenzori Diocese.

### Fundraising

Our volunteer, Kristien, set up a fundraising activity in Belgium. With the help of friends and family, she hosted a quiz for RAPCD. 25 teams participated in the quiz and in the meantime people enjoyed a drink and some food. In total €838 was raised! Many thanks to all the participants and helpers who made this activity possible.



Participants of the Handicap International workshop



The winning team of the quiz night

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