

Village News



Dehradun: Phuntsok (standing) oversees students' craftwork

In **DEHRADUN**, the new children who started with us in September have settled in quickly. With nearly 150 children at the Village it has been necessary to buy a new house! It is a 4-bedroom house onto which a 5th bedroom, bathroom and storeroom has been built so that the house can accommodate 25 children.

Children who have completed their foundation period have started skill and national language classes. Older girls completed their knitting courses and are onto sewing. With the help of the house mothers, a small business selling handicrafts is being considered. Meanwhile the older boys are using their carpentry skills to do some repair work about the houses.



Students sitting language exams.

Social work continues. On Sundays, boys from Georgia McEver House keep Rajendra, a disabled neighbour, company, while children from the Paul Miller House help a local NGO's polio eradication programme.

Summer months allowed time for repair work, and the Georgia McEver House was re-painted. House mothers and cooks get a well-deserved break. Since it is a live-in position, house mothers cannot be with their spouses and children during the school year, apart from their one weekly day off.

In **ZAMBIA**, Jeannette Laramee, the VSO Project Manager for the building of the Village, reports the happy news that construction is coming to completion under budget. Phase I was completed last December and Phase II is well under way. In August a bio-gas converter was hooked up and both houses are using the gas for cooking meals. Waste from the old septic tank was transferred to the digester and the gas was captured and available for cooking within three weeks.



Zambia: The brick compost bin in the works.

August is the winter holiday and the children were busy with academic lessons, sports, skills and reading. As part of a skills training programme in bricklaying, Jeannette along with two bricklayers led a group of eight children in building a 3-series brick compost bin (similar to the compost in Kasisi). The children were part of the entire building project and learned the step-by-step process of building a small simple brick structure. In early September an agriculture volunteer taught the children (and staff) how to properly compost and the different layers of kitchen waste, agricultural waste, manure and so forth to use for the best results.

Meanwhile, six of the Grade 8 girls spent two weeks doing work experience at the Lusaka Eye Hospital. The children also work in the productive Ibex Hill organic garden, which yielded eggplant, cabbages, rape, spinach, onions and carrots for the Village houses and, in small quantities, to outside contractors as well.



Jeannette with her trainee brick-laying team.

Fund-Raising

In the USA, PestalozziWorld and particularly First Boston ‘alumni’ continue to make an invaluable contribution to our fund-raising efforts. Over the last few years, the First Boston group has raised a magnificent total of close to \$1 million, in order to

- Sponsor the construction of the Paul Miller House at the Asian Village (\$100,000)
- Set up a fund of \$500,000 to provide income for scholars at the Paul Miller House to complete their education
- Sponsor a house at the new African Village – through a very generous individual contribution of \$100,000
- Start a fund for African scholars at the new First Boston House

One of our US-based alumni is also getting involved – Manisha Thapa (pictured on page 4) is now engaged on researching US grant-giving foundations on behalf of PestalozziWorld.



Virginia Kerr

In Ireland, Virginia Kerr charmed a packed Long Gallery at the sublime Castletown House for PestalozziWorld's first major Irish fund-raising concert. Behind the scenes Virginia became a firm friend, showing incredible support and enthusiasm from concept to grand finale.

The sponsorship we received from diverse businesses was uplifting. Many thanks to our guests, whose presence made the evening such a success, and to those who couldn't be there but gave so generously to the charity. A few good friends gave of their personal time and energy and their contribution is invaluable. Thank you.



Sir Richard Butler and Dr. Ken Whitaker at the Castletown House reception.

It was an honour and privilege to welcome Dr Ken Whitaker, who has graciously agreed to be our patron, and his family to the event.

Dr Whitaker, voted Irish Person of the 20th Century, has a special place in Ireland's economic, political and cultural landscape. He has always been a man of the people, working diligently at the highest levels of national management and education to improve life for all people. As Secretary of the Department of Finance, he proposed bold new ideas in what became known as the “Grey Book,” which brought the stimulus of foreign investment into the Irish economy and helped to resolve economic difficulties. Later in his illustrious career, Dr Whitaker served as the Chancellor of the National University of Ireland for two decades.

His long career of service to people marked by integrity, professionalism and care is a role model for all of us, especially the PestalozziWorld scholars. His commitment to education sets an example as to its importance in social development.

Virginia Kerr www.virginiakerr.com

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