



Newsletter
March 2010

SYLVIA'S CHILDREN



So much happening. First, very special thanks to Joe Corpina who, once again, did the taxes for Sylvia's Children. I am so grateful to him for this as it is impossible for me to understand! And, just for your information, from 2003 to 2009 we have raised \$321,000! All of it thanks to all of you who have made everything possible!

TRIPS

Seven of us are leaving Thursday, March 11, for our first medical trip to the school. Dr. Trish Gilbert is the leader with many of her family members ... father, mother-in-law, and aunt ... plus another nurse and a professional videographer. Our goal is to take the medical history of all 1,000 children so we can help our nurse, Lydia, begin to keep on-going records. This will help us identify recurring problems and issues and solve them before they become major. When we come back we will be doing a fund raiser to generate \$50,000 to build and outfit the clinic, continue having Lydia our nurse (who is wonderful) and hire a doctor. This will keep the clinic solvent for the first year until we have sufficient business from the village for it to be self-supporting.

Quick note on the summer trip ... need to have everything locked down by April 15 (dates for trip are June 17-29) as airfare has risen dramatically because of the World Cup in South Africa. Would love to have a doctor and nurse come with us to update the records we will be taking this time.

Lastly, the Christmas trip will be November 18-25, cost is \$2,500, and for many of us this is the highlight of our year ... to share OUR joy in being there with the joy of the children.

BAND AID FOR UGANDA

We get back from the trip in the afternoon of March 20. That night Holmdel High School, thanks to the efforts of Danielle Ruda and Ryan Dolan, will be holding a band competition to raise money for Sylvia's Children. Currently there are seven bands and it should be an exciting night of seeing new talent. Special thanks to Bill Loughran, principal of Holmdel High School, for all his efforts in making this possible. And, one of the most diligent volunteers I have ever met, Beth Ruda (yes, Danielle's mother) has raised sponsorship, had T-shirts designed, you name it ... she has done a great job!

And, there will be another concert competition at Red Bank Catholic on Friday, May 14 under the able guidance of Ryan Dolan.

EXHIBIT AT MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY

Monmouth University's School of Social Work and the Center of Distinction for the Arts presents "Sylvia's Children," a two-month-long exhibition of the Mbiriizi Advanced Primary and Day Care School in Mbiriizi, Uganda, Africa.

The educational public display officially kicked off with an opening reception on Friday, March 5 at the Pollak Theatre Gallery, Monmouth University, 400 Cedar Ave, West Long Branch and will have a closing reception on Friday, April 30, 2010.

Exhibition attendees will be able to view dozens photos of the school and its 1,001 students, as well as have the opportunity to view and touch genuine artifacts from the surrounding area, including African musical instruments, clothing, woven mats, toys, baskets, bark cloth and other items indigenous to Uganda. In addition, products made by the children at the school will be for sale including beautiful beaded jewelry, baskets, woven purses, nativities made from banana leaves, "garbage" balls, Ugandan slave bracelets, and beads of life necklaces.

Since launching the organization in 2003, Allen has succeeded in ensuring an annual sponsorship for 93 of the 235-orphaned children and has raised \$300,000, all of which has gone directly to the school. She has also constructed a well; built and fully stocked a library; purchased seven acres of land; donated an Internet-equipped computer; constructed a dormitory with triple-decker bunk beds; built a playground; provided sporting and musical equipment; and built three additional double classroom blocks as well as hiring a full time nurse and building new stoves for increased cooking efficiency.

“We are so excited about this opportunity to showcase our school and our children and their talents,” said Allen. “We are also grateful to Monmouth University for providing us with the space and exposure. The exhibit is exciting, interactive, educational and inspiring. We are particularly grateful to Alphagraphics in Red Bank who designed our display boards and provided us with such professional and ethnically accurate look.”

Through the gallery exhibition, Allen hopes to inspire and educate the public on how they can participate in helping to create a self-sustainable model for underserved third-world schools, like the one in Mbirizi, and thus supporting the children.

BLUE CLAWS

Sylvia's Children is one of 12 non-profits that will be featured at the Blue Claws this season! All we have to do is sell 250 tickets and staff the refreshment stand one night! We get to have a display table, get a profit on the tickets, get a bonus if the ticket holder to whom we have sold a ticket shows up, participate in the Volunteer Appreciation Day on April 19 (put that on your calendars now!) and tons of marketing exposure. We also get to apply for a BlueClaws grant. It is all good! Stay tuned ... I will need your help!

AVISTAR

For those of you “road warriors” you know what it is like to park at the airport. I have used AviStar (which also owns SKY/PARK and FASTTRACK) for at least 15 years and just love them. It is off premise parking where you drop your car, jump into a shuttle bus and they take you right to the terminal. Of course, when you have traveled as much as I have you get to know all the drivers and it is thanks to Greg, who saw the Star Ledger article in January, that this all happened. What AviStar et al are doing is offering you a 10% discount for parking ([click here for coupon](#)) PLUS 10% of your parking fee goes to Sylvia's Children. It is a great win/win program. And, if you can't download these or want a bunch, I can mail them to you. Just send me a note ... Sylvia@sylviaschildren.org ... and I will get them out to you.

MONMOUTH HEALTH AND LIFE

Thanks to Julian Rad, a professional videographer, we will have TONS of video footage for a documentary, Facebook, YouTube ... you name it we will have it. Monmouth Health and Life wants to do a fundraiser for us in the fall so we will have a screening of the video, wine and cheese and meet the medical professionals who starred in the video! Stay tuned ... will give you more details as we have them.

FUNDRAISER

Want to have a fundraiser? I have tons of ideas ... just need people to implement them. E-mail me if you want to do on ... Sylvia@sylviaschildren.org ... or call me 732 946 2711.

Don't forget you can also go to www.sylviaschildren.org and click on the donate button on the top right and make a general donation. All gladly and graciously received! Thanks for your support.



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