

Montessori Outreach

Victoria Montessori School

P. O. Box 528, Entebbe, Uganda, AFRICA

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Helping a Sister School. . .

Deerfield Montessori School Directors Tony and Carolyn Kambich traveled to Africa in 1998 to work on a Rotary Club humanitarian service project, and as a result, some of the Africans became interested in the Montessori approach to education. In 1999, with the help of the Montessori community - the American Montessori Society in New York, USA, Midwest Montessori Teacher Training Center in Evanston, Illinois, USA, Meca-Seton Teacher Education Center in Clarendon Hills, Illinois, USA, and the Deerfield Montessori Schools, Illinois - USA, three Africans came to do their Montessori internship at the Deerfield Montessori Schools. In 2001, the Victoria Montessori School was founded by former intern Christine and her husband Joseph Olanya.

With the help of the Montessori community, local churches, and Winnetka Rotary Club, Christine and Joseph were able to lease an abandoned government building in Entebbe, Uganda, to open a new Montessori school. The renovation included repairing broken windows, repairing plumbing, bringing new electricity to the building, fencing the play yard, planting flowers, and decorating to make a homey "children's house" for the three to six year olds. Local parents helped to build the furniture and some of the Montessori materials. Many of the Montessori materials came as "Montessori shower gifts" from Montessori parents and teachers in the Chicago area.

The initial leased building provided enough space for the first class of 30 children with a small room for further expansion. With the popularity of the Montessori approach, the school more than doubled in size. Thus, the school made preparations to buy land nearby and expand and build a 5 room school as families wanted to remain in the school and continue their education into the elementary level. The fathers were so amazed to see young children reading and doing mathematics and working independently. At the ribbon cutting ceremony of the original school, government officials spoke, children and adults sang and danced traditional dances, and parents gave thanks and testimonials about their children's progress. Now the new site has expanded to 7 classrooms, and the schools serve over 170 students, ages 2 – 12 years old, including 60 REFUGEE ORPHAN children from war torn NORTHERN UGANDA. School expansion and dormitory space is needed for the orphans.

I/We would like to help a sister school in Uganda and be a part of their wonderful new history. Enclosed is my/our contribution of _____. (Even a small amount goes a long way in Uganda, where the average wage is \$50 per week.)

Name: _____

Contribution for:

Address: _____

_____ Most urgent need
_____ Student Scholarships
_____ Montessori/school materials

City, State, Zip: _____

E-mail: _____

Please make checks payable to: "Deerfield Montessori Schools – UGANDA FUND"

Please mail your check and this form to: Deerfield Montessori Schools
(Telephone: 847-945-7582) Attn: UGANDA FUND
3140 Riverwoods Road
Riverwoods, IL 60015, USA