

## Winter 2008-2009 Newsletter



**Nkokonjeru** has been the main thrust of our activities in 2008. We continue to fund the resident Occupational Therapist (OT), Nelson. He is a Ugandan who is employed by Mukisa Foundation..

Mukisa is the charity run by our long time friend Sonya Hagedorn and Sonya is able to manage Nelson on UCT's behalf.

### **David Brown (UCT secretary) visited Nkok in 2008 and gave the following report:**

*"Nelson's work, as the resident OT, is having excellent results for his clients (although he fell off a motorbike taxi in September. broke his shoulder and had to stay off work for 5 weeks to let the break heal): 1. When Sonja & Nelson first arrived they found an autistic boy who was so anti social he was being locked up. Whenever he was released he would create quite a commotion & often disappear into the forest for long periods. Nelson has managed to calm him and rehabilitate him so much so that he is one of the 3 boys that Providence Home have now placed in a school for all children in Kenya! Great news. 2. There is another boy who we met who, even Sonja admitted, used to make one feel queasy as he could not control his saliva production and the front of his shirt, body & hands were always wet. Nelson has taught him how & when to swallow and he appears so happy all the time now. On a sadder note, we met a new little boy (about 7 years old) who had arrived a few weeks before, called Noah. He is orphaned and Nelson is still not sure of the cause but once he used to be able to see but is now blind, deaf and mute. He just sits with his head down in his room all day. Quite heart breaking. Nelson has noted, however, that he likes to wash his hands a lot so once Nelson returns to work he is going to work at getting him a job in the kitchen cleaning the food and cooking utensils. Little Frederico, (Ed: who is bed ridden) is still all smiles and Nelson says he is very intelligent. His mobile bed, however, was without a tyre for the wheel so he cannot be moved out of his room. Nelson reports that a replacement wheel has now been sourced."*

**Sanyu Babies Home** UCT hasn't done any work with Sanyu in 2008 but we have just released the remainder of the funds that were originally for the potty project to Hope for Children. This has been coordinated by British Airways, as the original donors, and it is now planned that Hope for Children will get the potty project completed. UCT is very grateful that this money can finally go to help the children at Sanyu, a project that is always close to our hearts.

### **Mukisa Foundation**



UCT continues to help Mukisa Foundation where possible and to that end have donated them one BA ticket in 2008 and a further ticket in 2009. David Brown was also able to take two sewing machines out to Mukisa which were provided by Workaid. In David's words:

*"WorkAid donated 2 refurbished sewing machines for Mukisa to help make a large order of school bags for the local secondary school."*

**Iganga Babies Home** In 2008 we made a significant contribution to pay for formula baby milk to a babies home which is run by catholic nuns. The Sister in charge wrote us a moving letter which demonstrated the value of the contribution that UCT had made.



**Our thanks** Without you our supporters none of the above could have happened. David, Verity and Adrian with the help of James Armson and Sonya Hagedorn will continue our work to try and help those that we can.