

STAND UP FOR AFRICA

SUPPORTER NEWSLETTER

Issue three | June 2006



Dear friends 

Welcome to SUFA's supporter newsletter. This is a time of great excitement and achievement. With your help, the last nine months have seen SUFA accomplish more than we ever hoped for.

For example, recent programme achievements include setting up a children's centre in Benin and laying the foundations of a youth network in Uganda. You can find out more about these activities in my reports on pages 5 and 6 inside.

SUFA is not just a charity, it is a movement. SUFA is a perfect example of what can be achieved if Africans and friends of Africa at home and abroad unite to stand up for the extraordinary continent that we all love.

It's not just about urging governments to change their policies, it's about creating a platform – a stand – that enables you and me to make a real difference. And SUFA is growing into the STAND that those of us who care passionately about Africa and the developments of its people have been waiting for.

This issue is packed with fundraising news, opportunities for you to get further involved with SUFA's work, and reports from my recent internships with SUFA partners in Benin and Uganda.

For me, the internships were life-changers. For SUFA, they were a chance to create opportunities for Africans and their friends to share skills and experiences, benefiting everyone involved and, most importantly, some of the most vulnerable children in Africa.

SUFA's work would not be possible without your support, prayers, time, money, energy and enthusiasm. Thanks to you, SUFA is making a genuine difference to African children in Africa and here in the UK.

On behalf of all of us here at SUFA, thank you for all you do.

Neil Howard
Volunteer Programme Manager, London

SUFA FOUNDER WINS AWARD



◀ Award winner Elsie Nemlin and Paul Cardbury, UnLtd Regional Director.



▲ Elsie and the other Award winners at the UnLtd networking weekend for social entrepreneurs.

SUFA Founder and Director Elsie Nemlin has won an UnLtd Level 2 Millennium Award of £19,860 to help further the work of Stand Up For Africa.

UnLtd* UnLtd supports social entrepreneurs in the UK – people who have the ideas and the commitment to develop projects that will benefit their communities. Level 2 Awards are given to those people who have developed successful projects that have the potential to be replicated on a wider scale.

Elsie was just one of a handful of people who were selected for the Award from a list of 120 applicants. The Award includes a package of support to enable Elsie to develop SUFA's sustainability and impact. This includes a networking weekend with other social entrepreneurs, project plan guidelines and access to learning opportunities.

“I am so very grateful to UnLtd for recognising SUFA's potential, and for supporting this unique vision.”

Elsie Nemlin, SUFA Founder and Director

STAND UP IN STYLE!



Keep your eyes peeled for the first SUFA merchandise catalogue, which we will be launching this summer.

Our fabulous range of merchandise includes adult and kids clothing – so your whole family will be able to Stand Up for Africa in style! SUFA merchandise also makes great birthday gifts for friends – and don't forget to treat yourself.

Our new catalogue will be available on our website: www.standupforafrica.org.uk. We will send you news of publication through SUFA's emailing list. If you would like to join our emailing list, please complete the form on our website or simply send your name and email address to admin@standupforafrica.org.uk.

Please also get in touch if you would like copies of the catalogue to give to colleagues, associates or friends and family. Or perhaps you can think of some local venues that might distribute our catalogues? We'd love to hear from you.



OUR HEROES AT ARSENAL FC

Arsenal FC has long been one of SUFA's most generous supporters. Now the club has reaffirmed its commitment with a donation of hundreds of pounds worth of sporting equipment, which will be distributed through our partners in Africa.

Balls, training equipment and full first team kits will be sent to delighted youngsters in Benin and Uganda. Now teams who normally play in rags with flat balls will be just like their heroes at Highbury.



COFFEE MORNING A BIG SUCCESS

Tutor groups 8 and 9 of Birkett House School, Countesthorpe, have been very busy Standing Up For Africa. The students organised a special coffee morning to fundraise for SUFA and raised an impressive £153. Leader Rosemary Price sent us their gift saying "We sincerely hope we have helped a little".

Now the tutor groups are organising a display so that other students and teachers at the special educational needs school can learn more about SUFA and Africa. What a fantastic bunch of young people!

Many thanks to all of you at Birkett House School: your gift and kind words are a big help to SUFA. Your gift will go towards the cost of building the Kitamanyangamba Youth Drop-In Centre in Kampala, Uganda.

See page 5 for details of our new Uganda Youth project.



YOU REALLY CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

We need your help to support some of the most vulnerable children in Africa.

You can make a donation through our website: www.standupforafrica.org.uk. Please give whatever you can afford – your gift will be used wherever the need is greatest.

You might also take inspiration from these fundraising pages and organise your own event to spread awareness and raise money for SUFA.

UNIVERSITY'S BIG NIGHT

Students at York University have raised an amazing £1,104 for SUFA at a special 'Make Poverty History' night. Over 40 student volunteers pitched in to organise the event, helped out by the management and staff at Toffs nightclub. On the night, more than 700 people turned up and everyone had a fantastic time.

The students sent a lovely message of support with their gift: "We hope this donation will contribute to Making Poverty History, and we look forward to organising more fundraising events in the near future to support your fantastic work."

Congratulations and thank you to all of you on your massive fundraising effort. Your gift will go towards the cost of building the Kitamanyangamba Youth Drop-In Centre in Kampala, Uganda.

See page 5 for details of our new Uganda Youth project.



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And finally...

We would like to conclude this Fundraising News by thanking the following donors for your recent, very generous, support. Thank you to **The Fulmer Charitable Trust, The Bower Trust, The WF Southall Trust**, and to our esteemed friend **Nick Marple**.

A LASTING TRIBUTE

SUFA accepts with heartfelt thanks a donation in lieu of flowers from Ms L on behalf of Janosch Pascal Altmann, deceased. Thank you so much for your kind words and generous gift.

SUPPORT AND SOLIDARITY

Two of SUFA's most devoted supporters are South Africans Martin and Lizzy Schroeder, who currently live in the UK. Their steadfast friendship has been a source of great inspiration for all of us here at SUFA since our earliest days as a charity. Martin and Lizzy have made another generous donation, which they Gift Aided to enable us to reclaim the tax and make their £500 donation worth even more. Thank you, Lizzy and Martin – we are so grateful for your dedicated financial and moral support.

SUPPORT GROUP SCHEME

Everyone can Stand Up for Africa, from students raising awareness to religious groups organising fundraising events. And by organising a support group, your passion for Africa will be pooled with likeminded individuals, creating even greater impact.

SUFA Support Groups are a great opportunity to share ideas and concerns about Africa, increase awareness and raise funds. Visit www.standupforafrica.org.uk for information about our Support Group Scheme.

COLLECTION SUPPORTS VULNERABLE CHILDREN

We have received a generous gift of £107.20 from Ledbury Quakers. The donation represents the proceeds from the monthly collection of their Meeting for Aug/Sep 2005.

Thank you all, and we hope that you receive many times over the kindness you have shown to SUFA. Your gift will be used to help pay the costs of running SUFA's Mini Maison de l'Enfance (House of Childhood) in Benin, West Africa.

To find out how SUFA's Mini Maison de l'Enfance is supporting children who are at risk of trafficking and other abuse, visit our website: www.standupforafrica.org.uk.

CHILD SPONSORSHIP SCHEME: UPDATE

On 6 October 2005, our Child Sponsorship Scheme received a boost with the opening of our inaugural Maison de l'Enfance (House of Childhood) in Benin, West Africa. SUFA volunteer Neil Howard was there...

I came to Benin in July 2005 to start an internship with SUFA's partner, ESAM (www.esamsolidarity.org). I was nervous and unsure what to expect. It was my first time in Africa and all I knew was that I was here to learn, and to review the progress of SUFA's first Child Sponsorship Scheme.

Before leaving the UK, I read ESAM's reports and it was clear that SUFA's support was invaluable. But it was only in meeting the children face-to-face that I realised just how much SUFA is helping.

AT RISK

The ten sponsored children were selected specifically because of their acute vulnerability. Six girls, four boys, some orphans, some ill, all desperately poor and all at terrible risk of being trafficked – as is the case with so many of West Africa's children.

Trafficking is not just a case of abduction and exploitation. Often, parents are enthusiastic for their children to leave in search of work and a brighter future, unaware of the abuse that awaits them. SUFA's Child Sponsorship Scheme includes community awareness-raising activities to highlight the issues. This Scheme genuinely seems to be working.

POSITIVE RESULTS

Geneviève, one of the sponsored children, burst into happy tears when we asked how she felt about the Scheme and her mother swore that we had been "sent from God." The Chief of Sohoungo Village explained that, since SUFA's and ESAM's intervention, the entire community had begun to understand the dangers involved in letting children migrate in search of work.

Once the Child Sponsorship Scheme was up and running, SUFA and ESAM decided to extend the programme to offer the children more comprehensive care and attention, and to create a solid platform for community development. This is why SUFA and ESAM developed the idea of the Maison de l'Enfance (House of Childhood).



“The greatest threat to the welfare of Benin's children is the poverty that leads to their exploitation.”

Norbert Fanou-Ako,
Director, Enfants Solidaires d'Afrique et du Monde (ESAM)

THE LAUNCH

And so, on 6 October 2005, my penultimate day in Benin, I was honoured to open SUFA's first Maison de l'Enfance in the presence of local dignitaries and community representatives.

Now the ten sponsored children live together under the watchful eye of the Maison 'Mum', who takes care of their daily needs. They visit their villagers regularly and their families are always welcome at the Maison. The children now have the chance to develop fully and freely as all children should. Furthermore, the Maison will become a beacon of hope in the region, working with and for local communities.

I have seen firsthand that SUFA really is making a difference to the lives of African children. I truly believe that SUFA is a testament to what can be achieved when dreams are matched with commitment.

Want to know more?

You can sponsor a vulnerable child or support our Maison de l'Enfance programme by visiting our website: www.standupforafrica.org.uk

A NEW PARTNERSHIP

SUFA welcomes Safe Alternatives for Youth Association (SAFY) as our official partner in Uganda. In February, SUFA volunteer Neil Howard worked with SAFY as an intern. Here is his report.

A PERFECT MATCH

Right from the first, the parallels between SUFA and SAFY were plain to me. Both organisations were born of an ideal, with little more than heartfelt conviction to keep them going. They are each led by a woman of great passion and sincerity, and run by a small band of dedicated volunteers. And SUFA and SAFY are both making a massive difference to the young people they set out to help.

YOUNGSTERS AT RISK

SAFY was founded in 2002 by a group of young professionals committed to making a positive difference to young people living in one of the poorest slums in the capital Kampala. Bored, disenfranchised and idle, the youngsters were vulnerable to all sorts of negative behaviour and at great risk of contracting HIV/AIDS. Perhaps most tragic of all was that they were wasting their potential.

SAFY aims to give these young people a chance in life. In just a few years the organisation has had a positive impact on its community. As with many small charities, SAFY has always been limited by a lack of resources. Now, with SUFA's help, this is changing.

CREATING OPPORTUNITIES

Generous donations from our supporters have enabled SUFA to pay for a batch of reconditioned PCs, enabling SAFY to offer the young people training in computer skills. SUFA has also funded games and sports equipment, which has dramatically increased the range of recreational activities that SAFY can offer.

During my internship, we established a network of youth groups that has enabled SAFY to reach five times as many young people as before. The official launch of the Youth Club Network in April 2006 also marked the

“High levels of poverty in this community have led to a large number of young people dropping out of school.”

**Rita Namakiika,
Executive Director, Safe
Alternatives For Youth Association**

inauguration of the partnership between SUFA and SAFY. The event was witnessed by local dignitaries, including the MP for Kampala Central.

Using sports equipment donated by SUFA and under the watchful eye of SAFY-trained youth leaders, more than 500 young people converged on a local sports ground for a day of educational festivities. The kids had trained for weeks to be part of the sports competitions and the youth drama shows even had the local elite jumping up and down in appreciation! The day was unprecedented in the history of what is unquestionably one of the poorest areas of urban Africa.

A NEW CHALLENGE

But there is still work to be done. SAFY desperately needs a youth centre but has access to just one tiny building, which is barely big enough to store equipment. In order to maintain the impetus of the project, we need to create a bigger, more flexible youth centre. So SUFA is busily fundraising for the new Kitamanyangamba Youth Drop-In Centre.

Some of the donors mentioned in our Fundraising pages are supporting SAFY's Youth Drop-In Centre project. Will you help too?



▲ SAFY outreach work at a local school



▲ Neil with one of the youth groups



▲ Counselling training at the SAFY Centre



▲ SAFY outreach work at a local school

SKILLS EXCHANGE PROGRAMME

SUFA's new Skills Exchange Programme connects community groups in Africa with skilled volunteers and interns from the North. Some vacancies require specific skills, such as a working knowledge of the French language. Others are open to all applicants who are passionate about Standing Up For Africa and have plenty of enthusiasm and a willingness to work hard. It's a fantastic opportunity to Stand Up For Africa while gaining valuable international development work experience.

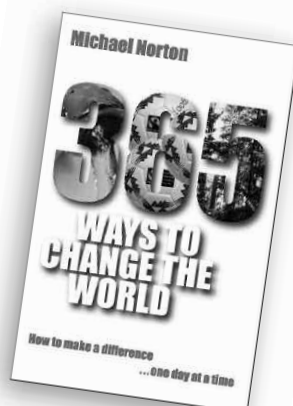
From time to time, SUFA also has vacancies for London-based volunteers. Visit our website (www.standupforafrica.org.uk) for details of all volunteer and internship opportunities.

A MUST READ!

365 Ways to Change the World by Michael Norton is a 'must read' for anyone who wants to make a difference. Packed with ideas and facts from leading campaigning organisations, Michael suggests one action for every day of the year. Some are intriguing, many are unusual, all are achievable. Actions include:

- Fight child slavery - eat Fair Trade chocolate.
- Stop child pornography - police the internet.
- Support trade justice - buy three footballs.

Visit www.365act.com to buy the book (RRP £7.99) or find out more.



MESSAGES OF SUPPORT

We require an exceptionally loud voice to enable us to address poverty and suffering in the continent. I do believe that progress is being made, and your stand is simply the beginning.

M Kouassigan, Africa

I want you to know how delighted I was to meet your representatives from Stand up for Africa and to learn from them how enthusiastic you are to raise awareness of development issues among young people in Africa. This is SO IMPORTANT!

Mary Sheldon, UK



MAKING A STAND

Summer is here and it's time to hit the UK's exhibitions and festivals, spreading the word about Africa and her children. Why not invite the SUFA team to spend the day with you at your local event or exhibition? We'll bring our materials and merchandise, and together we can Stand Up for Africa.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

September						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

On 30 September 2006, we will celebrate SUFA's first three years with a special evening event in London. We will present SUFA's work and achievements to date, and raise funds for current projects. Guests will enjoy a sumptuous dinner and performances by top African musicians. We will also showcase the best of African food and fashion. This is a great opportunity for SUFA's supporters, volunteers and friends to meet, network – and have a lot of fun! Contact us now to reserve your ticket. (Venue to be confirmed.)



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