Time + Tide London Event

In late June, the Time + Tide Foundation Council Members invited their London-based colleagues and friends to learn more about Time + Tide and its philanthropic investments.

We hosted an evening cocktail event to showcase the four Time + Tide destinations and explain the Foundation’s strategic focus on supporting vulnerable children in the communities that neighbour the lodges. Additionally, we held a silent safari auction and successfully raised close to $30,000 USD for our student sponsorships, female empowerment initiatives and home-based education for children with special needs.
This year we have partnered with l’Association pour le Mieux-être et l’Insertion Sociale (AMIS), a local non-profit in northern Madagascar that provides training and upliftment to people with disabilities. In May, the director of AMIS, Dany Arson, went door to door in the mainland villages opposite Nosy Ankao, encouraging parents to enrol their children in the home-based education programme and sharing his personal experiences. The lengths of Dany’s legs are uneven, which he believes was caused by the hundreds of injections he received as a child for what turned out to be a misdiagnosis of polio. Despite his medical complications, he persevered with school and as an adult formed his own non-profit devoted to helping disabled people enter the workforce. Through his household outreach, Dany identified twelve children with disabilities, the most common of which were intellectual in nature and hearing/sight impairments. In August, the recruited caregivers will undergo training with AMIS on how to further the development of these children at home to enable them to attend school.

“It is very important to teach parents and communities about the causes of disabilities. This programme is necessary to help them be aware of actions they can take, to challenge harmful thoughts (like disabled infants are doomed to fail in life) and importantly to make a call for medical, material and expert support from the government and local NGOs.”

- Dany Arson, Founder and President of AMIS
South Luangwa:
FEMALE EMPOWERMENT

Over the past two terms, the focus of the girls clubs at Yosefe School has been on healthy lifestyle choices and informed decision-making about academic and personal futures.

Using the Adolescent Girl Empowerment Programme’s Health and Life Skills Curriculum, 40 girls at Yosefe School attended 35 hours of lessons on gender-based violence, gender equality and potential career paths for young women. The girls celebrated Menstrual Hygiene Day on the 28th of May, which is a day devoted to promoting awareness about the challenges of menstruation amongst teachers, parents and students and implementing school protocols to help girls avoid missing classes each month. A local theatre group called SEKA performed a play about the stigmas surrounding menstruation in remote communities and how these stigmas can negatively affect girls’ academic performance and self-esteem.
“Having the library refurbished has really helped a lot: pupils come in every day to read books. Some pupils come to research things they didn’t understand in class. Because we have a lot of story books, a number of the younger students spend all their time before and after class in here reading. There are other kids who love to come in here and sit because they love the room and how colourful it is, but in the end they too get a book and start reading. We have pupils who are very committed to coming here, and their reading has started improving.”

- Smart Kasanda, Librarian at Yosefe School

Thanks to funding from Time + Tide guests, over the first quarter of 2019 we extended the library at Yosefe School and renovated the existing structure. A library is an important place in any primary school - a safe haven for students to quietly study, seek academic support and enjoy recreational reading. After engaging with Yosefe teachers and students, we learned that the library was under-utilised due to outdated books, an inconsistent librarian and poor infrastructure. We began by hiring and training a librarian in 2018 and successfully raising funds to re-design the library, with informal reading areas, new tables, chairs and bookshelves and walls illustrated with inspirational quotes and wildlife images from a local artist. The library was officially completed at the start of the second academic term and is once again a popular retreat for students both during and after school.
The students’ first performance was held at the Conservation Lower Zambezi annual Rubatano Day, with a focus on clean environment and the importance of proper waste disposal. For the remainder of the year, the theatre group will assist with educating the communities in Chiawa about disabilities. They are currently directing a play called Amanda, which chronicles the story of a girl with a physical disability who is accepted and cared for by a compassionate neighbour. Through their friendship, the two young women dispel a number of the negative stigmas and fears surrounding disabled people and remind the audience that all people deserve respect and kindness.

This year we employed a community educator and one of the founding actors from Barefeet Theatre, Patrick Kadazi, to work full-time at Chitende Secondary School and enhance the impact of the theatre programme.
Liuwa Plain: HOME-BASED EDUCATION

In April, special needs educator Mikala Mbewe travelled to the remote Liuwa Plain in order to recruit and train volunteer caregivers for the home-based education programme.

Through exploratory research at the end of 2018, we discovered that the majority of disabled children currently living in Sibembi and Munde villages have intellectual disabilities, epilepsy and hearing impairments. During the training, Mikala and Time + Tide Foundation Programme Officer Charity Mushokabanji enrolled 54 children from the two villages and recruited 42 volunteer caregivers. Through our data collection, we learned that 62% of volunteer caregivers and 39% of parents attribute disabilities to witchcraft, and 60% of parents feel that their children’s conditions will never improve. One hundred percent of volunteer caregivers said they had no prior knowledge about disabilities. Through this programme, we capacitate local volunteers to lead physical and cognitive exercises with disabled children from their communities and provide sustainable support to their families.

For more information, please e-mail: info@timeandtidefoundation.org