

June 2007

Msaada News

www.msaada.org Charity Registration Number 1111819

Total funds raised at June 2007:

£83,800

Total allocated to Rwandan projects:

£83,800

Total commitments to 2010:

£74,500

ODETTE'S VISIT CREATES REAL HOPE FOR RWANDA

A widow of the Rwandan genocide, Odette Kayirere, has spoken of the love and warmth she experienced during a recent visit to England.

"This has given me great hope," she said. "I did not expect to find such good friends in the UK who cared so much about my country."

Odette was in the UK to attend a fundraising lunch in Milford Hall hotel, Salisbury, organised by Tisbury management consultant Jim Farrand in association with Pennyfarthings Estate Agents. The event exceeded all expectations and realised over £19,000. The money will be used to support the activities of Odette's widows' and orphans' association, AVEGA Est, which is the main beneficiary of funding from Msaada

Odette spent several weeks during the 1994 genocide hiding from the Hutu militias who were butchering Tutsis in a vicious ethnic cleansing campaign that left an estimated 1,000,000 people dead in 100 days.

She and her six

daughters, aged at the time between two months and eight years, were saved from a brutal death when the Rwandan Patriotic Front invaded Rwanda from Uganda and halted the horrific genocide.

Odette's husband, a head school teacher, was murdered by the Hutu militia a few days into the genocide while trying to protect his village.

Odette's older daughters are still suffering from trauma as a result of their experiences during the terror.

When Odette came out of hiding she found eight orphans, who had lost their families in the genocide, wandering in the forest and she adopted them. She is currently caring for all 14.

Odette commented: "My visit helped people in England to learn more about the 1994 genocide calamities in Rwanda and to find out exactly how we work in collaboration with Msaada to reconstruct my country. It was also a golden opportunity for AVEGA to tell its story. My sincere thanks go to Msaada, who gave me this opportunity."

During her visit, Odette visited schools in the area which have raised funds



Odette Kayirere, co-ordinator, AVEGA Est, during her visit to England with His Excellency Claver Gatete, Rwandan Ambassador to the UK

for Msaada including, Shaftesbury, Corfe Hills and Gillingham.

She met with Msaada supporters in the Two Brewer's Pub in Shaftesbury and spoke at a family service in St James Church in Shaftesbury at the invitation of Rev Anne Hayward.

Odette also visited North Dorset Rugby Football Club and saw her first rugby game.

NDRFC members are heavily involved in supporting Msaada and through the club over £20,000 has been raised for the development agency.

"Odette impressed everyone she met while in the UK," Msaada chairman Chris Brickell commented. "Her dignity and humility as she recalled her experiences during the genocide moved many to tears."

Hampshire to Cornwall walk by ex-chairmen

THREE ex-chairman of the North Dorset Rugby Football Club, who walked the border of Dorset to raise funds for Msaada last year, have just completed their second fundraising walk.

Martyn Jose, Nigel Pothecary and Bob Jones, did a 200-mile trek from Hampshire to Cornwall.

This year they have chosen to support the Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance and Msaada.

The trek, which covers the Jubilee Trail, the East Devon Way and the Dartmoor Trail, began on May 12 and ended on May 25.

Last year's 208-mile walk took the three men 16 days.

"At the end of last year's walk I told people that I was looking at getting a hip replacement," Martyn recalled, adding "and I advised them to watch this space! Well, I have my



Marathon walkers Martyn Jose, Nigel Pothecary and Bob Jones with Fergal Keane and his son Daniel at the start of the walk at Bockerley Ditch in Hampshire

new hip and we have just walked over 200 miles."

Last year's funds were used to establish Msaada's

Count D'Angerville honey project.

This followed a donation to Msaada made in the late

Count's name for £10,000.

The three ex-chairmen are already making plans for next year's walk.

Gillingham students back Rwandan pupils

STUDENTS from Gillingham School have raised some £400 to support educational projects in Rwanda.

Year 13 students Bobbi Nicholson, Bertie Neave and Rachael Coleman organised a carnation day on Valentine's Day which raised £300.

"We selected Msaada because it is a local charity," Bobbi explained. "We felt it was important to support a small charity that we have some connection with. We know where our contribution is going. We did not want to support a very big charity because we would not know where the money was going to."

Meanwhile, Libby Page and Alice Nicholson of tutor group 10 Baxter also selected Msaada for their charity day. They raised £101.

The day involved a cake sale, a guess the name of the teddy bear contest, guess the number of sweets in a jar and guess the serial number



Gillingham School students Rachael Coleman, Alice Nicholson, Bobbi Nicholson, Libby Page and Bertie Neave, who raised £400 for Msaada

on a £5 note, which was organised by Baxter tutor Mr Harris. Libby thanked Mr Harris for his efforts to make the day such a success.

Libby's tutor group selected Msaada because they will be

studying the Rwandan genocide in history. Also, Odette Kayirere of AVEGA, who works closely with Msaada, visited the tutor group and told them of her experiences during the terror.



It was laughter all around at the Safari Supper organised by Julie Burrow, Tisbury, (front, right) who raised £230 for Msaada. Julie also organised a 'guess the name of the teddy bear' contest and a car boot sale

Fergal urges caution in support for Africa

MSAADA's president, Fergal Keane has warned against the dangers of supporting kleptocratic political regimes when giving aid to Africa.

Fergal had just returned from a visit to the Democratic Republic of Congo where he was investigating corruption and lawlessness.

Fergal urged people to support smaller development agencies, such as Msaada, who were channeling funds directly to the people in local villages in Rwanda.

"We in the West often support criminal regimes

in the belief that we can somehow control them. But the people in these regimes are cleverer than we give them credit for and they invariably take the aid our governments give them and bury it in Swiss bank accounts," Fergal commented.

He said it was far more effective to support smaller development agencies like Msaada, who can guarantee that their support is going directly to community groups in the villages and towns in Africa.

Fergal noted that not everyone in the UK



Fergal Keane chatting with a guest at the fundraising lunch

was concerned about the problems of Africa, but he said this was shortsighted.

"The problems that are becoming evident

in London due to immigration are a direct result of people fleeing from countries run by corrupt governments.

"The problem might seem very far away, but if we continue to ignore what is happening in Africa then these problems will inevitably land on all of our doorsteps."

Fergal was speaking at a fundraising lunch at Manor Farm during a visit to Dorset and Wiltshire.

He also attended a party at North Dorset Rugby Football Club.

The events raised over £3,000 for Msaada.



Msaada was established under the patronage of journalist and broadcaster



Fergal Keane

OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES:

Chairman:

Chris Brickell,

Director:

Billy Kelly,

Secretary:

Mike Davies,

Treasurer:

Ian Small,

Trustees:

Gillie Strang, Tim Wood.

Msaada

is a

**Registered Charity
Number: 1111819**

www.msaada.org

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SOME GIFT IDEAS WITH A DIFFERENCE

*“What present do you give to someone who has everything?
“A gift to somebody who has nothing!” – Fergal Keane*

Basic equipment for a mason apprentice:	£ 27
A child to go to school for 1 year:	£ 30
A simple sewing machine for a trainee seamstress:	£ 45
A vocational teacher for one month:	£ 75
Basic equipment for a carpenter apprentice:	£ 80
Two hives of honeybees:	£ 90
Three hives of honeybees:	£135
A child to complete primary school:	£180
A teacher for one year:	£900

**If you are a UK taxpayer please complete the gift aid form below.
Msaada will then be able to reclaim tax on your donation.**

Gift Aid

Thank you for your donation to Msaada to help the victims of the Rwandan genocide rebuild their lives through self-sustainable development. If you would like to ask any questions regarding the form or Gift Aid, please call Ian Small on 01747 839960.

The Government of the UK operate a scheme called Gift Aid, which enables the charity to claim tax relief on your donation. The only criteria you need to meet is that you pay enough income or capital gains tax in the year of donation, at least equal to the tax deducted from the donation. If you meet this criteria, we would be extremely grateful if you could complete this form below and return it to us at your convenience.

I want the charity to treat the enclosed donation of

**£
as a Gift Aid donation**

Name: _____

Address: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

IAN J. SMALL (Treasurer)

