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Karis Kids and the Downs Benefice

Karis Kids is a fairly new initiative, started in 2007, which brings hope to children orphaned by AIDS in Uganda. The charity integrates these children into, and supports them with, adoptive families. This continuous support provides relationship, opportunity, finance, encouragement and prayer. The aim is to place orphans with the families of relatives, but when this is not possible, then with other households in the local church.

It is a Christian organisation, founded by Tim and Pippa Peppiatt who until recently lived in Littleton, and the scheme is administered through the local church in Uganda. It is directly accountable to its member churches, both here and in Uganda. At present the scheme operates in Kampala, but may extend to other areas in time.

Karis Kids seeks to involve Christians in the UK in providing practical and financial support to the adoptive families in Uganda on a one-to-one basis. It also aims to link up individual churches or a group of smaller churches in the UK with a church in Uganda to partner together in caring for the orphaned children. Support from the UK of £62 (giftaided) per family per month provides school fees, medical expenses, clothes, food and other necessities. Karis Kids currently supports a full time project leader and three full time assistants attached to All Saints Cathedral in Kampala who administer the project and work closely with every family.

In the spring of 2012 the Downs Benefice became involved in a new outreach of the work, with the parish of St Paul's in Kampala. The majority of those in the parish live in the Okuvu slum, and this is one of the poorest areas of Kampala. Despite this the church is thriving, with 800 attending the main 11.00am service on a Sunday. The Downs Benefice agreed to support initially a minimum of 5 families (at a cost of £52/month), and help support a Karis community worker from St Pauls (£40/month). Since we started our link with Okuvu we have been able to increase the number of families supported, currently numbering nine. The need is so great and we would love to be able to take on more in due course.

For some time, the Karis Kids team have been concerned that the effectiveness of the services we deliver in Kampala for our families is being eroded by inflation, and thus the decision was made to increase the individual family support to £62/month. Many of our donors within the Downs Benefice have been most generous in increasing their contributions and we have enlisted the support of a few extra individuals to help cover this increase in cost. The method of giving is flexible, so that individuals or families can join to make a commitment to give the £62/month needed. **Thus you can give what you feel able**, and we will match you with others to reach the required amount for a family. Other ways you could help support this ministry is to make a regular or one-off donation to help with central administrative costs, to help finance the biennial Summer Camp, or to contribute to a central further education fund for children who have completed primary education and who wish to attend secondary schooling or vocational training. All that is required is a combination of people who have a heart for Karis Kids.

If you feel able to support this work, then please complete the attached forms and return them to me, advising me how you would like your donation to be used. The value of donations will remain confidential and this information will only be available to me and Edward Law, treasurer of Karis Kids.

Carol Ward, Downs Benefice Karis Kids Co-ordinator

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