



Rural Africa Children's Education Trust

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We are fortunate to have Mr. Ayo Gbadebo as RACET's first employee. Ayo has a B.Tech. in Mathematics and a postgraduate diploma in Education, and has started work on a Masters in Information Technology. His background is ideal for helping students from all three Ntrigom area schools effectively navigate the resources available on the computers.

Ayo keeps the centre open every weekday and for two hours after school to allow students the possibility of revision and some tutoring. He has also been instrumental in liaising with students and staff at the nearby Ipollo and Mfuma schools, pointing out bright students who need help with school fees.

He is keen to instill an ethic of achievement through hard work in the students and suggested that LUCI solar lanterns be given as a prize to the top five students in each year group across all three schools. Thus, a further 110 lanterns were distributed this past February. We appreciate Ayo's enthusiasm and concern for the students' academic growth, and we are sure he will contribute greatly, along with all the teaching staff, to their continued success.



Former RACET student Lucy rewards academic achievement with the gift of a LUCI solar lantern to enable students to study at night

Welcome to Ayo Gbadebo, RACET's Head of IT at the Sir Brandon Gough Centre



As part of running the centre, Ayo works closely with students to help them become more confident in using computers and the digital learning materials available.

New Borehole for Holy Ghost College in Kogi State, Nigeria

RACET was pleased to assist parishioners at St. Thomas's Catholic Church in Sevenoaks who donated funds for the installation of a borehole to provide clean water at Holy Ghost College in Okura Saw-Mill in centrally located Kogi State. The project was headed by Fr. Sixtus, who runs the school and is a frequent visitor to St. Thomas's, and funds were disbursed once written quotes had been approved. RACET also gave three android computers, monitors and keyboards to the school.





Elizabeth is now able to complete her final year of secondary school and will be taking her WAEC in May. She has textbooks she did not have before RACET's help and is encouraged to use the resources available in the Sir Brandon Gough Centre.

RACETfest a Huge Success

Many thanks to all those who helped make last July's outdoor screening of 'The Blues Brothers' (with chicken and jollof rice!) such a wonderful evening. RACET's first major fundraising initiative netted £8,320.88 and we are grateful to those who gave so generously. Special thanks must go to the shops and restaurants in and around Sevenoaks which gave such fabulous raffle prizes. Weald Place Gardens were stunning in the candlelight, and the Trapp Family hosted, decorated, organised, and baked on a grand scale that left everyone longing for a repeat performance. We'll keep you posted!

Visit the RACET website at www.racet.org and share your thoughts with us at secretary@racet.org

For sponsorship information and other queries by phone, contact Mary Ann Perasso on 01959 522337

Working to Keep Girls in School

Hardship is endemic in this part of the world, and when resources for luxuries such as school fees and uniforms are severely limited in a family, preference is usually given to the boys as they are seen as the future providers for the family. Girls are still often cast in the traditional role of wife and mother.

RACET was moved by the case of Elizabeth, among the top in her class and in her final (SS3) year. Students are required to sit an expensive external leaving exam, which, coupled with tuition and having to be paid in advance, is a big burden for a family living from subsistence farming. Elizabeth's father decided that she no longer needed to go to school as she was "all grown up" and refused to pay any of the textbooks, tuition or exam fees required for her final year. Her younger brother John had recently won a Cross River State competition in maths and gave his £20 prize towards part of Elizabeth's school fees, but it wasn't enough to register her for the leaving exam (WAEC) as well. In tears and desperate to stay in school, she approached her teacher Mr. Aziki who contacted RACET to see if we might be able to assist her. Her smile says it all! RACET was able to keep Elizabeth in school and register her for both the leaving exam and university entrance exam. And as one good turn deserves another, John has been taken on as a RACET student as well.

A New Milestone: RACET Helps 13 Students to Sit University Entrance Exams

Under Ayo Gbadebo's guidance, 13 students have been diligently studying and preparing for the national computerized University entrance exams (JAMB) in May. Using the Sir Brandon Gough Centre as their base, they come most days to work with the digital courses installed on the computers and to encourage each other. We wish them every success and will do our best to find sponsors to help them with the cost of University.



RACET graduates from Ntrigom gathered in February to award solar lanterns to younger students. They are among the 13 who will try to gain places in Nursing, Law, Medicine and other subjects in May.