



Rural Africa Children's Education Trust

UK Charity Commission No. 1127759

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www.racet.org

Secondary School Graduates Double Thanks to RACET

Across the three schools RACET supports in Cross River State, Nigeria, the number of SS3 students, i.e. those due to take their secondary school leaving exams this academic year, doubled in just one year to 85. Of these students, half received assistance from RACET.

Although the full bursary is only granted to the best academic achievers, other students were assisted with the cost of textbooks, and/or exam fees which enabled them to complete their final year and compete for the few highly sought-after university scholarships provided by RACET.

Furthermore, the provision of teaching staff and the IT learning centres benefits all students across the three schools, as does distribution of solar lanterns and sanitary towels for female students.



Naomi, Martha and Prisca, the three top performing girls at Junior Secondary School level, were given the opportunity to benefit as RACET students and continue their studies in Senior Secondary School by a female sponsor in the UK who wishes to encourage young women to further their education. The full bursary costs £120 per student.



There are always more children needing assistance than we have been able to help.

This year a generous donor was shocked to discover that 40 students were in their final year and due to sit their leaving exams without textbooks for their core subjects.

At £30 per student, he provided textbooks for 20 students, with a particular emphasis on Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths courses (STEM).

The textbooks were distributed during the trustees visit in January 2020 by Olga Herrmann, assisted by Mercy Peter, RACET's Student Liaison Officer.

Visit the RACET website at www.racet.org and share your thoughts with us at secretary@racet.org
For information about donations and other queries by phone, contact Mary Ann Perasso on 01959 522337

Covid-19 Update: We're happy to report that although all schools and universities were closed and children sent back to their villages in March, it seems that the remote Ntrigom area has emerged unscathed from the virus. Secondary schools nationally reopened on August 4th for leavers, so things are slowly returning to normal. However, we do not yet have a return date for our university students.

New Computer Suite Thanks to Grant Funding from BFSS



Comprehensive Secondary School Mfuma now has 16 computers, 15 solar panels and 8 batteries to enable the centre to run entirely off-grid

The Sir Brandon Gough Centre now features 15 new computers, 15 solar panels and 12 batteries to keep the IT suite running

RACET is delighted to have been a successful recipient of grant funding amounting to £15,828 from the **British and Foreign School Society (BFSS)**, which enabled a second computer centre to be created at the Comprehensive Secondary School Mfuma and serves nearly 400 students.

Having seen the tremendous success of the first computer centre at Ntrigom on exam results and admissions to university, RACET decided to prioritise a second computer centre for students in Mfuma. As the university entrance exams in Nigeria (JAMB) are computer-based tests, most students who pass nationally tend to be from wealthier families in the cities. This leaves students from rural areas at a significant disadvantage, as over 90% of state schools do not have computers even though Computer Studies is a compulsory subject of the national curriculum.

With this new centre, RACET expects to see a substantial increase in numbers of children who sit the JAMB exam and pass, enabling them to gain entrance to university in subjects including Medical Technology, Accountancy, and Environmental Sciences.

Solar Lanterns from The One World Fund at St. Thomas of Canterbury



RACET wishes to thank the Parish of St. Thomas of Canterbury in Sevenoaks, and Fr. David Gibbons in particular, for the donation of £1500 which contributed towards the purchase and distribution of 384 solar lanterns to students in Junior Secondary 3 and above across all three schools in the Ntrigom area. These wonderful lights allow students to study at night in homes which are predominantly without electricity.



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September 2020

Dear Friends,

We hope this letter finds you and your family healthy and well in this most uncertain of years. Our work in Nigeria continues on and we are quite relieved to report that our region of Cross River State has not been impacted by Covid-19 thus far.

RACET works with three schools in the Ntrigom area, and this year we decided to make significant improvements to the Comprehensive Secondary School Mfuma. This included a new solar-powered computer suite, as noted in the newsletter, in addition to completing a borehole project which had been started by the government several years ago but then abandoned. Tied in with the eco-toilet block we provided last year, we feel this significantly improves the level of hygiene for students and staff, some of whom live on site. RACET also completed the electricity hook up for the school, which means that classrooms can have fans running on particularly hot days.

We also completed a new eco-toilet block near the Sir Brandon Gough Learning Centre at the school in Ntrigom which will be used by Centre staff and students alike.

In addition to infrastructure, RACET was also able to increase the total number of students receiving assistance this year to 93. This number includes the 43 students that receive a full bursary contingent upon their academic success, as well as a further 34 who receive our help paying for their textbooks and/or final year external (WAEC) exam fees, which can be prohibitively expensive for rural families. We are also very proud that the number of university scholarships offered by RACET grew by 10 new students to a total of 16.

One way RACET endeavours to keep girls in secondary school has been to provide sanitary towels for all girls in the last three years of school. This year we were able to provide the towels needed each month for 168 female students. At a cost of £2.50 per female student each year (a discounted price courtesy of In Kind Direct), this is the most inexpensive yet successful means we have found for improving girls' attendance every week of the month. As a result, we see more young women reaching top performance positions at each school.

RACET is also committed to improving performance in science, technology, engineering and maths courses (STEM). This year we have employed four recently qualified university graduates to teach at the Mfuma and Ipollo secondary schools, as well as after-school tutoring at the Sir Brandon Gough Learning Centre.

Trustees are planning to make the annual inspection visit in February 2021, however, this will be contingent upon Covid-19 developments. We hope you will agree that RACET continues to provide real value for money in its mission to end the cycle of rural poverty through education. We appreciate your continued support in helping us to achieve this goal.

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Trustees: Elizabeth Clifford (Founder), Deirdre Trapp (Chair), Mary Ann Perasso (Secretary), Adetunji Adeleye (Treasurer)

www.racet.org - 145 Pilgrim's Way, Kemsing, Sevenoaks, Kent TN15 6TR



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Where your money goes.....

- £10 - buys a Luci solar lantern for a child to study and do homework at night;
- £30 - buys all the textbooks a child needs for their entire three years in senior secondary school;
- £50 - buys sanitary towels for 20 girls for an academic year;
- £120 - sends a promising child to school for a year;
- £500 - sends a successful student to university for a year.

Please make your donations:

Online to: www.justgiving/racet.org

By standing order/bank transfer to:

Account Name: Rural Africa Children's Education Trust (RACET)

Account Number: 00018506

Sort Code: 40-52-40

By cheque to: RACET and posted to

RACET Secretary

145 Pilgrim's Way

Kemsing

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Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Deirdre Trapp

Chair RACET

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