

Greetings from the Bwindi,

For Carol and I it has been a grueling drive and steep hike to yet another Batwa pygmy settlement. The purpose of the visit is to encourage the Batwa to unite under the umbrella of the



Kenneth addressing Batwa

The Batwa Development Program (BDP), with the vision that they speak as one voice. The Batwa have a tradition of division into family groups or clans and because of this fragmentation rarely are their needs addressed by those in authority. The leaders of the BDP discuss the advantages of the Batwa organizing and as a group, elevating themselves from their cycle of poverty through education, health care, land acquisition and income generation. The most impassioned plea comes from a Batwa student named Kenneth. Kenneth's message is heard with rapt attention by all the Batwa as he is exceedingly well respected. Kenneth and another young Batwa woman named Silivia, are anticipating entering university in a few months. They are the first two Batwa from this part of Uganda to enter university. These two and the ones following in school are the future of the Batwa.



New Byumba school

One of the definitions of poverty is lack of options. Certainly without an education there are few opportunities for employment. Carol, with a background as a teacher, has nurtured the educational system from 40 students in 2001 to now over 750 students. One example of the educational improvements can be found at the Batwa settlement at Byumba. In 2001 the school was a collapsing mud hut with 30 students and now 425 students study in a fine facility where a warm meal is also provided daily.



Byumba school 2001

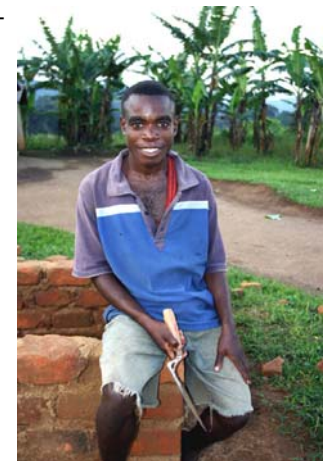
The Batwa are benefiting greatly from the current educational system, we appreciate all your support. The cost of educating a Batwa at the Byumba School is \$100/year and the cost for a boarding student at the Bishops primary school is \$500/year.

Not all Batwa are geared for the traditional educational system though and many have requested that they be provided with skills in a variety of trades. They have asked to be taught carpentry, masonry, knitting and weaving but there is no trade school in this area of Uganda. For many years we have run a small trade school at a distant Batwa settlement. The school after a few years was self-sustaining and the Batwa continue to produce products that they sell to support their families. At Byumba we would like to expand on this vocational tradition. There are structures presently being put in place but what is needed is monetary scholarships for the students. It will cost \$650 for a Batwa to learn a trade and to be provided with a tool kit or trundle sewing machine upon



Trade school at Byumba nearing completion

graduation. We thank you for all your support over these many years, much has been accomplished but much remains to be done. Your prayers and support are greatly appreciated.



Timothy, a masonry student at distant Batwa settlement

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Your prayers and support are greatly appreciated.

Mukama Asiimwe (God Bless),
Scott & Carol

www.kellermannfoundation.org
www.pygmies.net