



Our First Steps...

I am so pleased to be updating you on the CASA Computer Literacy Program in Ibanda, Uganda. Over the past two weeks, we have made steady progress in establishing and implementing the workshops!

Previous to my departure for Uganda, I purchased three refurbished laptops from a local Vancouver Store, along with mice, mouse pads, and 2 GB USB memory sticks. This material is being donated to two schools and a micro-financing group (one laptop, mouse, mouse-pad, and USB stick each) near the end of our time in Ibanda. In addition to the donation, we will be teaching CASA's Computer Literacy Program on all three computers to ensure the maximum number of people are able to have practical experience using a laptop during the workshops.

The Computer Literacy Program workshops were prepared from a variety of sources, including workshops that have previously been taught in Ghana, internet sources, BBC Web Wise, and personal experience. They include a basic introduction to computers, Microsoft Word, and Mi-

crosoft Excel. The workshop participants are also interested in learning Microsoft Powerpoint and how to navigate the Internet, so we have included additional workshops to cover this material.

Jessica, a fellow volunteer from Capilano University, and I have been volunteering in Ibanda for the past two weeks. When we first arrived, we were introduced to the boards, principals, and teachers of the two schools we are volunteering with, as well as the micro-financing group. The Ugandan students are on break until May 23rd, so we have had the pleasure of doing the Computer Literacy Program with the Teachers at Kimunyu Memorial Primary School, and Ankole Secondary School. We have also started working with a couple women from the Kafunjo United Micro-Financing Cooperative. The teachers that have participated in the workshops have learned the material very quickly – in about half the time we assumed they would! This has turned out to be a blessing, as we now have time to create soft-copy, school related documents that the teachers want to have on file. Jessica



Kimunyu Memorial Primary School

and I are also aiding the Kafunjo Cooperative in creating a business plan that will assist the group in applying for loans and grants. Starting next week, we will be teaching the Computer Literacy Program workshops to the secondary school students at Ankole - we are very excited to meet the students and start to interact with a different demographic within the Ibandan community!

We have also been diligently looking into potential partners that CASA can set up a sustainable development project with and Canadian University students from can participate in next year. We have selected four potential partners and are doing further research to determine what initiatives meet CASA's criteria - mainly if they correspond with CASA's approach to development, if CASA has the capacity to support them, if there is strong local participation, and if the potential partner has the capac-

Computer Literacy Program, to date (May 12 - 22)

- Total Workshops: 11
- Total Participants: 17
- Total Hours: 22

ity to support future Canadian volunteers. Establishing transparent and realistic relationships with community organizations takes time to develop, but we are on our way!

If you are interested in more detail on our experience in Ibanda, please visit our blog at

casa-uganda.blogspot.com.

Until next time,

Tess Gregory
Executive Director
Capilano Alliance of Students Abroad (CASA)
capabroad@gmail.com