



Education is the key to unlock the golden door of freedom.

George Washington Carver

Welcome to Rustie Lee

We are delighted to welcome Rustie Lee as our Patron – she has already clearly demonstrated just what an impact she will have on the Charity in terms of raising our profile and bringing the pennies in to support our students. She is able to make the donation buckets rattle!! Thank you Rustie for being prepared to give of your time in this way.

Celebrate the start of Christmas with ACEF



Make the start of the Christmas month, extra special. Join us at Akamba in Solihull for a unique Christmas evening on the 3 December - all proceeds raised will go towards supporting our students during 2012. The entrance fee of £20 includes a live African band and fire eater. Food created by Rustie Lee will be available for purchase at very reasonable prices. We look forward to seeing you there. Call Akamba on 0121 733 3111 to secure your tickets – they are going fast, so pick up the phone.

Developments at Brainhouse

Making a real difference

We have managed to make a substantial difference to two of our students over the last 6 months. Maggie suffered substantial burns to her head, neck and shoulders a few years back, she has undergone extensive plastic surgery to straighten her neck, to free the muscles and to start allowing hair to grow. It was an absolute delight to see her playing football and volleyball with complete confidence and ease whilst out there in August. She wrote a beautiful thank you letter to us and with in it she said *'I can now play, read and write as others do without any aching in my head. I can now look back and turn my head without any problems and no pain. I feel great and I am just so happy about you people who have helped me'* Maggie



Our little Emma, many of you will know struggled to hear and had no speech, given the problems she had with an underdeveloped sinus. Thanks to the support from the NHS here we were able to provide her with hearing aids and last month she had surgery to correct her sinuses. Emma is now taking full part in classroom work and is speaking – it was such a privilege to see the positive impact we have had on her life when out there in August.

We have power

Thanks to the wonderful donation of solar panels from Mitubishi Electric, we are installing sun generated power into Brainhouse Academy.



Mitsubishi Electric has a mission to make a world of difference to peoples' lives by helping them heat, cool, ventilate and power their environments through the use of advanced technology. This donation of solar panels will provide the school with a safe and reliable source of electricity and provide for the pumping of water

- 'A dream of our school', as the staff told us.

It will also help provide lighting to enable the children to carry on with their studies on cloudy days and at night, so that they have the best chance to improve their own education and build a better life for themselves and their communities.

We would like to thank Deane Flint and the team at Mitsubishi Electric for making this possible.

Teacher Visit by Manchester Communications Academy

In August, 10 staff from Manchester Communications Academy demonstrated just what could be achieved in the limited space we have at Brainhouse Academy. Bringing sport, arts and craft and cheerleading to the school. The atmosphere was amazing throughout the time we were there, with staff and students taking every opportunity to learn from their visitors. The students could not get enough of the Arts and Craft and we learned that this is an activity that had not been experienced before. Amazing to watch 18 year old young men totally absorbed in making friendship bracelets, young talented artists exploring their drawing talents.



However, the impact was not one sided, our teachers returned with much to think about.



' I learnt a great deal about how to teach without resources and in being able to adapt to different situations that arise when working in such an environment'

' Kenya has given me a real insight into life – to see how happy those students are yet they have so little. They appreciate and respect what they have. I want to try and get that across to our students here in England'

'I was greatly impressed by the enthusiasm and positivity which the students at Brainhouse showed towards their education and also their dedication to succeed despite circumstances that many of us would find extremely difficult.'

The relationship with Manchester Communications Academy and Brainhouse Academy is one that we look forward to developing and enhancing over the coming years.

Strides being made by ACEF and our Supporters

Open Garden

Lucien and Laura took the very brave step of opening their garden to the general public, providing home made cakes and scones and a relaxing cuppa whilst they took in the delights of their lush garden. They also sold plants and encouraged a bring and buy sale of plants. All proceeds from the day were donated to Brainhouse, raising more than £500 – thank you Lucien and Laura.



Best Peddle Forward

Thanks to our wonderful Bike Ride Team – Andy and Ali – we raised over £3700 whilst riding through the beautiful Warwickshire countryside. This was a day for both the well-practiced rider who took on the challenge of 50 miles and families who took pleasure in riding together over 12 miles - whilst all contributing to our ability to feed and support our 946 students at Brainhouse. We would like to thank everyone who took part. If you are

interested in riding next year, please do let us know by emailing lizjane@formby07.fsnet.co.uk.

Campaign for Dignity

We have been overwhelmed by our call for sanitary towels – we have managed to collect over 3,000 ST's for our young women who either miss school or struggle with rags and newspapers to get to school during their menstrual cycle. This collection will provide three months cover for our girls and will prevent disruption to their education during this period. We are currently looking for a long term and sustainable solution. Thank you to everyone who made the effort to donate.

Akamba Bound Bike Ride

Three intrepid souls left Newcastle early one morning this summer heading for Akamba in Warwickshire, over 200 Miles! Their endeavour rose over a £1,000 for Brainhouse. With sore legs and numb bums, they celebrated with family at Akamba's East African event in the evening. This was an amazing contribution and we would all like to thank Wes and the boys for being brave enough to take this challenge on



Best Foot Forward

In looking through some of the many photographs of our August Study Trip, Alison noted in many of the photographs our students either wore shoes with huge holes in them, no soles or even several sizes too big. With quick thinking initiative she decided to ask the staff at Windsor High School and Sixth Form in Halesowen to bring in their summer shoes, now no longer required with the dark nights arriving. We are delighted to be taking out two suitcases full of shoes for our kids – over 80 pairs which will make the world of difference to those most in need.

Imagination Street encourages Business support

Matt Jinks, one of the Directors at Imagination Street in Bromsgrove hit on a great idea, take out two pages in the local newspaper and get local businesses to pay a small sum to advertise, supporting Brainhouse in the process. This fantastic bit of initiative raised £500 which we have put to very good use feeding our kids. Thanks Matt and we look forward to further collaborative events with you.

Current Development Programmes and volunteer visits

A volunteer group left on the 20 October for Brainhouse Academy, a mixture of new and established volunteers. Key aims being to install a solar power system, a new water tank and eventually a pump to bring water up from an underground source. The group is also painting of part of the school, moving the farm into more sustainable tyres than the sack farm created last year, and providing more arts and craft opportunities for the students to explore and enjoy. A lot to work on in a short time but we will do it in collaboration the staff at Brainhouse to ensure sustainability into the future.

The Midlands Guide's Leadership and Development Programme is well on the way now, with the members of the team selected, training dates established and the visit to Nairobi booked for Easter. We are looking forward to an exciting and challenging learning period over the next 10 months as these young woman, who will lead the Guiding movement of the future, raise funds and plan their projects to enhance the lives of our youngsters at Brainhouse. We will follow their progress for you!

Call for action

1. Attend the ACEF Christmas Party on the 3 December
2. Buy a raffle ticket for £5.00 – prize: two tickets to Kenya, 4 day safari and a unique visit to Brainhouse Academy
3. Donate Sanitary Towels and Shoes
4. Visit our Justgiving site and leave a small donation
5. Register your continued interest in ACEF

Contact: lizjane@formby07.fsnet.co.uk

Acknowledgments

The progress we are making would be impossible without the fantastic support we receive from the local community who attend Akamba events and dig so deep in their pockets, our volunteers and the following businesses who have given so much to help us make a difference.

- Game Trackers Safari who have donated the 4 Day Safari in Kenya.
- Mitibushi Electric who have donated the 2 solar panels for the school and paid for the delivery of the panels to Kenya.
- Imagination Street who have masterminded the contribution of Bromsgrove businesses to ACEF.

Thank you so much each and every one of you for helping us to make a real difference to our young people.



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Just Giving

<http://www.justgiving.com/Liz-Formby0>

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