



African Children's Choir visit Sunshine Coast - August 2013

Coolum's community choir Cool Harmonies is excited to host the **African Children's Choir** during its visit to the Sunshine Coast from 26 August - 1 September 2013.

The tour is a ground-breaking community cultural development initiative of **Kwaya Australia Inc**, providing workshop and performance opportunities for local communities to engage firsthand in a cultural exchange.

About the African Children's Choir

The first Choir was formed in 1984, selected from orphaned and vulnerable children in the Kampala and Luwero areas. The children travelled among the North American church communities where they impressed audiences with their vibrancy, outstanding musical talent, and dancing abilities.

They quickly became a mouthpiece for the plight of the many thousands of vulnerable children like them in Uganda. The funds they earned through donations provided for their own support and education. Proceeds from that first tour also funded the building of an orphanage in Kampala from which a second African Children's Choir was selected.

More than 1000 vulnerable children have since been through the Choir program; the funds generated have provided the opportunity for education and hope for more than 50,000 others like them in some of the most desperate and needy areas of Africa.

Today, more than 500 children are provided education daily at two primary schools around the capital city of Kampala. Another 550 sponsored students attend secondary schools in their communities. Many graduates are now serving their communities as teachers, doctors and business people.

Projects

In 2008 The African Children's Choir acquired a 15 acre plot of land on the shores of Lake Victoria. The land is under development to become the organisation's central headquarters in East Africa and house the African Children's Choir Primary School, Choir Training Facility and program development.

The consolidation of program operations into one facility will reduce costs and allow the organisation to initiate self-sustaining projects that will reduce reliance on charitable donations.

The African Children's Choir typically recruits two new choirs each year. The Choirs currently train in a facility set in the middle of a slum area in Kampala. The facility is not ideal for several reasons: the area is disruptively noisy, the facility has little space for the children to play, and power and water supplies are inconsistent.

In 2013 the organisation set its sights on building a new home for its Choir Training Facility, which will include comfortable living quarters, bathrooms, family rooms and rehearsal space. **The new facility will provide improved living and studying conditions for choirs in training, lower operating cost, safer and healthier environment for staff and students.**

Find out more

The ACC's Director of Development, Scott Lambie, will be travelling with the African Children's Choir from Uganda on its first visit to the Sunshine Coast in August. **Scott is available as a guest speaker to talk about the vital programs being delivered across East Africa.** For more information, please contact Yvonne Corstorphin (Cool Harmonies choir director) on 5471 7199 or 0403 013 555.