



## **SPEND YOUR SPRING/SUMMER VACATION IN AFRICA!**

Warm weather, friendly people, our favorite---children

**Be a “volunteer, guest teacher”  
at Victoria Montessori School**

Victoria Montessori School, Entebbe, **Uganda**, is currently the only A.M.S. school in Uganda, East Africa. Founded in 2001 by Christine Kijange and her husband Joseph, the school serves children from 2 to 12 years of age, including refuge/orphans from the Gulu District of Northern Uganda. Christine was chosen in 2006 to receive the AMS Ursula Thrush Peace Seed Grant to start “Peace Clubs” in area schools in Uganda.

Volunteer, guest teacher opportunities are available at the **toddler level**, the **3-6 level** and the **6-9 level**. (The upper grades are traditionally taught at the current time.) English is spoken as Uganda is part of the British Commonwealth. The school year in Uganda begins around February 1. For **school calendar** and further details about the Victoria Montessori School check the school website: [www.vmontessori.com](http://www.vmontessori.com)  
**Administrative and other help is also welcome.**

**Create your own African adventure** and make a difference during your spring or summer vacation by working with the classroom teachers and the children of Uganda! The Entebbe area is not in a war zone. Cultural day trips and weekend photo safari trips are also available.

### **Contacts:**

Director Christine Kijange in Uganda: email: [vmontessori@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:vmontessori@yahoo.co.uk)

Mobile Telephone: +256-772-619865

Directors Carolyn & Tony Kambich, Deerfield Montessori Schools, Illinois, U.S.A.

School website: [www.montessori-schools.com](http://www.montessori-schools.com)

Email: [c.kambich@montessori-schools.com](mailto:c.kambich@montessori-schools.com) Telephone: (847) 446-7583 or (847) 945-7582

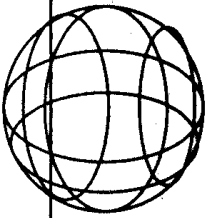
Our thanks to 2010 Volunteer Guest Teachers/Trainers

**Rosann and Peter Larrow**

[www.montessori-opportunities.com](http://www.montessori-opportunities.com)

**Director Lisa Kambich and daughter Celeste**

Deerfield Montessori Schools, Illinois, USA



# International Notes

## Uganda

### Victoria School

#### Update

By Carolyn Kambich

The Victoria Montessori School, founded in 2001 in Entebbe, is thriving.

Serving approximately 200 children ages 2 to 12, the school has one toddler class, two 3-6 classes, one 6-9 class; the upper grades through seventh grade are traditionally taught.

This year Christine Kijange set up her 6-9 classroom in which she is doing a self-directed internship with Midwest Montessori Teacher Training Center of Evanston, IL. During the past year, the school built two new classrooms, a teacher training office, a future resource room (that will house a small library and two computers), a new kitchen and a cistern to collect rainwater for cleaning.

My husband, Tony, and I enjoyed a two-week work-visit with Christine and her husband, Joseph, in February 2008.

Aheartfelt thanks goes to Deborah (Oma) Harris, director of the Montessori Centre, Nashville, TN; their toddler teacher, Sheri Minter, who accompanied us; and to all the parents of the PTA at the school for "going the extra mile" to help the children of Uganda. They raised funds for the teacher's airfare, room and board, and for toddler materials.

Sheri offered the teachers a role model and training. She helped with the set-up of the environment and helped in the classroom with the children.

Three boxes and two suitcases of high-quality, educational, wooden materials not readily available in Uganda were sent by Nashville parents. The beauty and quality of the materials provided great joy to teachers and children alike.

The local carpenter had made small wooden tables, chairs, shelving units, wash stands, a sweater rack and balance beam for the children.

Last year the materials on the shelves were few. It was wonderful to see so many more options available for the children!

The introduction of a quiet area, in addition to the book corner, was well received and in immediate use. Opportunity to get a glass of water from a large Thermos jug with a small faucet gave new independence to the children, as well as developing in them a healthy habit of drinking water. Being able to serve themselves snack when hungry supported each child's ability to "tune in" to his or her own body. Adding the balance beam and the rubber jumping mat (a bath mat with suction cups), provided much needed large muscle activity. Hanging nature photos, which were framed by the parent photographer, at child height added to the beauty. So many details were added to enhance the lives of the children and inspire the staff.

The carpenter is now working to provide a small fenced-in area outside the classroom door on the patio for added space for the toddlers.

Dormitory space for the orphans is still needed.

Through everyone's efforts the toddlers at the Victoria Montessori School will have

an enriched Montessori experience. As of February, they are in the second year of the toddler program. (The Uganda school year begins approximately Feb. 1.)

We have just received word from Sheri and Deborah that they will be hosting a writers night to benefit the children, specifically the refugee children, of the Victoria Montessori School. The event will be held May 28th at Mafaoza's Restaurant. The restaurant will be closed to the public during the event; they will charge a cover and ask for donations from those in attendance. They also expect to receive some corporate sponsors. Several well-known songwriters are committed to perform. Pictures of the African children will be shown; there will be African music and children dancing as well. Everyone is looking forward to a lively evening!

Mid-May 2008 will bring two more volunteer, guest teachers. Heather Braaten, 3-6 director at The Learning Tree in Seattle, WA and Susan Ennaro, retired Seattle area school director with 25 years Montessori teaching experience with children 3-12 years, as well as background in creating a Montessori early learning center at a private nonprofit school for gifted children, will spend two weeks at the Victoria Montessori School.

The children, parents and teachers of Heather's school prepared a benefit breakfast and earned over \$2,100 to send to Victoria Montessori School. They learned about Uganda from people in their community, videos and the school's website.

Heather and Susan have also been working with the Pacific Northwest Montessori

## To Submit Your International News

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Montessori@jlapub.com  
or

Toll Free: 866-565-2782

Association Sharing Fair to bring awareness of the Ugandan children to area schools, and to help raise funds for Montessori materials and library books.

Christine is delighted to have directresses share their experience with her staff, children and parents, as Montessori education in Uganda is in the beginning stages. Each volunteer guest teacher is helping create a new history for the children of Uganda.

Tony and I, Christine and Joseph all are thankful for the generosity and compassion of the Montessori community.

INFO: Victoria Montessori School,  
vmontessori.com

Volunteering at the school:

Carolyn Kambich:

c.kambich@montessori-schools.com

or Christine Kijange:

vmontessori@yahoo.co.uk

*Carolyn Kambich operates Deerfield Montessori Schools in Illinois.*