**Further information on Abaana**

**How it all started**

The idea was inspired by a trip to Uganda, when founder of Abaana, Bangor man Scott Baxter met many of the street children on the streets of Kampala, Uganda. One night Scott was shocked to find around 100 people in “coal” bags lying under the Kampala shop verandas. The young boys slept at one side of the street and as you moved along, the age increased until he found elderly women, who were huddling together for warmth.

It was saddening to think that without intervention, the future for these boys was simply to move up the street. Scott decided to spend a night sleeping on the streets with them to experience what it was like:

“We went down to the centre of Kampala with coal sacks and cardboard boxes and joined some of the children who call the streets their home. We spent the night there, and in the morning collected plastic bottles and scrap metal with the kids, and sold it for cash to buy breakfast. It was heart wrenching to watch the children wading barefoot through piles of rubbish looking for plastic to sell.”

**Abaana’s work with street kids**

To date Abaana has built 13 schools in Uganda educating around 4,000 children of which 1,350 are sponsored. They have been working with street children in Uganda since 2007 and have built a children’s home with capacity to house up to 40 of these kids. The children are given the opportunity to go to school and learn to be kids again, without the dangers and pressures of life on the street.

Abaana’s long term goal is to get as many of these children as possible into good homes but this is impossible without funding! “Challenge 48 will provide essential funds for this work, allowing children with no hope the chance of a better future”, explains Scott.

**Story of Fahad**

It has been really encouraging to see some of the first boys we helped like Fahad, turn into young men, do well in secondary school and hear them talking about their dreams for the future. Each time we met Fahad on the streets he asked the same question, “I want to go back to School – can you help?” Abaana took Fahad as one of the first boys into the New Life Homes. After six months Abaana enrolled Fahad in secondary boarding school.

When he was about to sit his GCSE equivalent exams, Fahad told Abaana, “when I was on the streets I dreamt that one day I would be able to sit these exams, but I never thought it would come true! Please thank everyone who has supported Abaana.” Fahad has now completed his secondary school studies and is studying for a college qualification. What a remarkable turn round in a young man’s life.

Abaana can be contacted at 78 High Street, Bangor, BT20 5AZ or by telephone **Office T:** 02891 451918 **Shop T:** 02891 478910

**KEY FACTS**

Abaana has been working to help children living in poverty in Africa, principally in Uganda, for the last 16 years. We have built 13 Primary schools, currently provide sponsorship for some 1350 children and work with children living rough on the streets of Kampala in Uganda.

The UN estimates that across the world, some 150 million children live rough on the streets.

* More than **50%** of Ugandans are under the age of **15**. **2.7 million** children in Uganda are **orphans**, **1.2 million** losing their parents to **AIDS**.
* **30%** of children living on the streets have never been to **school**.