



1. Greetings from ADAA Team

Happy New Year 2018 from Aurora Deaf Aid Africa!

Welcome to our third edition of 'ADAA says "Thanks!"'

This is ADAA's newsletter to recognise the contribution of supporters and volunteers.

"Thanks!" is such a simple word, but one that is often neglected. ADAA understands the importance of the word, and this newsletter is just one of the ways we express our gratitude to our volunteers and supporters.

In this newsletter, you will read about inspiring volunteers and supporters showcasing the people and organisations that have made a significant impact on ADAA through volunteering and commitment. You will also find out about some new faces in the team as well as some updates about our work

This newsletter also pays tribute to the many volunteers, supporters and friends of ADAA and past trustees, who give their time, energy, expertise and dedication, as well as the ADAA management team.



2. Announcement

ADAA underwent some major changes due to several challenges, in order to maintain its capacity and continue with its aims and objectives.

With the start of the new chapter at ADAA, we are honoured to announce and welcome new board members to our Board of Directors. Sanchu - Chairperson, Irina - Secretary, Sharon - Treasurer and John – Trustee. Each member of this new team brings different skills, expertise and experiences.

Each individual brings valuable experience and expertise, as well as a passion for our good cause and charity work. For more information, visit our website: www.auroradeaf.org

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank both present and past Trustees who have guided ADAA by contributing their time.

3. Note from Chairperson

I have been nominated as the new chairperson of ADAA since October and took over the role from 1st November 2017. I have served as an ADAA Trustee for 3 years and I am excited about this new opportunity.

Before I go on, I would like to thank the outgoing chairman, CK, for his stewardship as founder and leader of ADAA. His input and dedication at all levels of ADAA are an inspiration and I am full of admiration for his hard work and often challenging, difficult work. He will continue to play an important role in supporting the team efforts.

It is my intention to use my skills and experience to strengthen ADAA`S vision in transforming the lives of Deaf children and their families in Burundi, Rwanda and beyond, step by step.

I am confident that, with your support and cooperation, we will continue this work. Together, I hope we can make ADAA the focal point for both our community in the UK and Deaf communities in Africa. We can provide an opportunity for education, support, communication and community development and engage in advocating for human rights and sustainability.

For the year ahead, we expect a lot more challenges than last year, and we hope that you will continue to be part of what we are doing.

We are committed to take ADAA to another level in supporting Deaf children in Burundi and Rwanda. We are also committed to work closely with our supporters and donors and we hope to hold a meeting with everyone where we will have an



opportunity to bring forward ideas about strengthening and promoting our charity work.

Wishing you all the blessings of this Christmas Season and a prosperous 2018.

I hope you enjoy reading our second edition of 'ADAA says "Thanks!"'

Sanchu Iyer - Chairperson and Trustee for Aurora Deaf Aid Africa

4. Fundraising event April 2017

In April 2017, we held a fundraising event at London South University and we managed to raise (£400 check). We also presented certificates in recognition of our dedicated volunteers and supporters.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who supports us.



5. Sponsored three siblings - in partnership with Ephatha Deaf School

With steadfast support from the friends of ADAA in the UK, USA and Canada, we have been able to sponsor 5 more Deaf children this year from poor families. They live in a boarding school and we are meeting all their living costs including paying for their education fees, uniforms and educational materials. With support from partners, we are now supporting 8 Deaf children in total.

We are keen to continue to support Deaf children in Burundi, however, due to the huge number not in education, our efforts are like a drop in the ocean.

There is also a lack of data regarding the number of Deaf children in Burundi. The Burundi Deaf Association estimates that there are nearly 10,000 Deaf children without a school to go to. However, the number may be



higher. From our observation during field visits, it has come to light that the number of Deaf children in Burundi is increasing and some families have two or three or even 4 children who are Deaf siblings. This appears to be a new trend and the reason for this is not known due to a lack of research.

6. Big Leap



ADAA has been working with the Deaf community in Burundi for a number of years. ADAA have made massive efforts to introduce new partners to Burundi such as Disability and Development Partners. Despite huge efforts made by ADAA and its partners, little has changed and the lack of national policy concerning disability and Deaf people in Burundi does not help.

Last year, ADAA held a successful conference in Burundi in an effort to mobilise the local government by bringing the Deaf community to their local government. The conference was attended by the Honourable Prime Minister of Burundi who acknowledged the shortcomings of the Burundi government. The important point from the meeting was that the government promised to include Deaf people in the National Census for the first time and provide education to Deaf people. There is no doubt that the availability of data regarding the Deaf population in Burundi and education provision will make a significant difference to Deaf people.



7. Future – Rwanda

Rwanda Deaf Community leaders and ADAA have been working together remotely including joint efforts to provide leadership and management training to their counterpart Deaf leaders from Burundi. Given the social and development issues facing by Rwanda Deaf community, the ADAA's Director has made a decision to explore more common ground in order to work with and support the efforts of the Rwanda National Union of the Deaf (RNUD). A visit to Rwanda is expected by some members of the Board of Directors next year.



7. Special Thanks

Massive thanks to supporters, especially those providing regular support and donations such as, François, Etienne, Margaret, Susan and, our big donor, Hebert.

So we would like to wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and a fantastic New Year. Remember you can support our work by going to www.auroradeaf.org and clicking on the 'Donate Now' button.

For more information email us at info@auroradeaf.org

