AKANY AVOKO BEVALALA (AAB) – HOME DESTITUTE BOYS



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BACKGROUND: Akany Avoko Bevalala is a home for destitute boys, which was set up as part of Akany Avoko Ambohidratrimo Girls centre on the outskirts of the capital Antananarivo.

INTRODUCTION TO AAA: Akany Avoko Ambohidratrimo is one of the branches of the Social work of the FFPM. It was originally set up as a place to help young girls who had been in trouble with the law. But since then it has become a home which takes in vulnerable children and seeks to educate them and protect them.

AIMS OF THE HOME: Akany Avoko Ambohidratrimo aims to give children the affection, education and protection which they need, so that they can become responsible citizens and take their place in society again.

WHY DID AKANY AVOKO AMBOHIDRATRIMO TAKE IN YOUNG BOYS? As has been stated above, the Home was originally set up to cater for young girls. The situation changed over the years. Sometimes Judges came across cases of children being abandoned by their parents. If there were brothers and sisters from the same family, they could be placed together at the Home. They had already been abandoned so why increase their trauma by separating them?

So brothers and sisters are taken in together, but as children grow up there can be problems. Once the boys have reached the age of 14 or so, the Home is no longer suitable for them. So they should really be in a Home for young boys but since there was no suitable Home available they remained at Ambohidratrimo.

Eventually the judges decided that the boys could be placed at a boys boarding home at Ambatonmanga, while remaining the responsibility of Akany Avoko Ambohidratrimo, and returning there during the holidays – especially those without any other family.

It is now planned that AAB becomes self-sufficient with its own budget and responsibility. The centre has its own market-garden which the boys tend to and allows them to learn skills whilst growing their own food. The boys also learn other skills such as woodworking and farming. Education is extremely important for these boys to have a future and so they all attend school and church. On the sporting side the boys have teams that play football, basketball and more recently kick-boxing.

APPEAL: Whilst the centre has been improving year on year with the help of funding, there is still a lot to do before it is fully renovated and self-sufficient.

Added to the current programme of renovation works, there is now an urgent need for a new well to provide water. Due to the climate change the current well is no longer able to provide clean water. The likely cost of the well, complete with a solar pump to take the water up to a storage tower, is approximately £1500. If we are unable to provide the means for a new well then the boys will have to collect water on a daily basis from the nearest local water point over 2km away.

Additionally the centre has the capacity to grow and hold upto 50 boys. To achieve this new dorms are required and the kitchen renovation programme needs to be completed. It would also be useful if a workshop could be provided to help the boys learn new skills which will benefit them in adult life, as well as keep costs down at the centre.

A list of some of the items required to help with the renovation or providing water is available by contacting admin@moneyformadagascar.org

With your support we can help renovate the centre and help these vulnerable children to have a future

