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For immediate use

Staff volunteer time to build piggery for poor villagers in Uganda.

Twelve staff from print management company Halcyon, and their sister company Domain, are leaving their desks for seven days to do manual work in a village called Kabubbu with Christian relief and development charity Quicken Trust. Their task will be to build a brand new piggery on a demonstration farm for alternative education purposes.

This project will help teach children about “exotic” breeds of pigs and generate income later for them, especially for those who are not of an academic level to get through secondary education.

For many staff, this will be the first time they will have visited a developing country where poverty and disease are a fixture and fitting of everyday life.

One staff member, Lisa Eller comments:

“For me this is probably a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to visit Uganda and see the reality for myself - and not just have to rely on television to inform me of the true situation. I believe the experience will be life-affirming and I am hoping that I can really make a connection on a personal level.”

Kabubbu is just one of the many remote villages north of the capital Kampala. The villagers have called themselves the ‘Forgotten People’ because in the past they have had no clean water or safe sanitation, electricity, education or healthcare - only knowing abject poverty.

Quicken Trust has been working in the village for eight years, bringing hope to poor families by helping to provide the basic things we often all take for granted.

The charity’s director Geoff Booker says:

“Quicken Trust has been working in Kabubbu since 2000 and has done much to improve the lives of many people, such as building a school for 400 children in desperate need, but there is still so much more we can do for them. We are delighted that Halcyon staff are giving up a precious week away from the office to help build this piggery. They will leave a legacy that will help change the lives of many children in the years to come.”

Company staff are busy raising their own funds for the trip and have been receiving jabs to protect themselves against common diseases such as yellow fever, malaria and TB.

CEO, Andrew Saunders comments:

I am excited that we are able to take a group to experience working for a week in a Ugandan village and to help change the lives of some very poor families. It always surprises me that the majority of staff who return feel they have gained so much more than they have given. This is the second time I have taken a group of colleagues to Kabubbu and I am looking forward to spending a week in a village where they have never heard of a 'credit crunch'. Their life is taken one day at a time and they are so grateful for all that we do for them."

If you would like to show your solidarity with Halcyon's staff and support Quicken Trust with a life-changing gift, please go to **www.quickentrust.com**.

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Editors' notes

Halcyon CEO, Andrew Saunders, is available for interview. Photographs of a previous volunteers' week are also available on request, along with additional information about Quicken Trust's long-term projects.