



Cotton On Foundation Provides support for mannya

THE **COTTON ON FOUNDATION** AND TOLL GLOBAL FORWARDING **TEAMED UP** TO PROVIDE MUCH NEEDED **SUPPLIES** TO THE **PEOPLE OF MANNYA, UGANDA**. COTTON ON COORDINATED MEDICAL EQUIPMENT, HYGIENE PRODUCTS, BOOKS, TOYS, BICYCLES, CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR, WHICH WERE LOADED INTO A CONTAINER AT COTTON ON'S DISTRIBUTION CENTRE LOCATED IN GEELONG DESTINED FOR MANNYA.



Toll Global Forwarding coordinated the complete movement, which included the purchase of a new 40 foot container which will be used by the community for storage and shelter.

Mannya is located in Southern Uganda, close to the Tanzanian border. The village is a bumpy 4 hour drive from the Ugandan capital, Kampala. The southern part of the country includes a substantial portion of Lake Victoria, which is also bordered by Kenya and Tanzania.

The Cotton On Foundation has joined forces with **St Bernard's Parishes** in Belmont (Geelong), and Essendon, Victoria along with **St Luke's Parish** in Mannya with the combined goal to help the community become self sufficient. A health clinic was constructed 2 years ago bringing much needed medical care to the community which has been devastated by HIV, malaria and tuberculosis.

In addition to the health centre, the charity is currently undergoing the rebuilding of nurses' homes and the secondary school. The Cotton On Foundation, is also building a dormitory at the school for 200 boys, a teachers' house, a library and 2 new rooms for years 11 and 12.

Education for years 11 and 12 had previously not been provided. There are 860 children on the site, including 280 secondary students, many of whom are being sponsored by the charity.

Water is a major problem in the area, which has also been addressed by the foundation. A dam has been constructed, that when full, will hold more than 10 million litres of water. Once the rain arrives and the dam fills, it will solve the community's water problem.

Nigel Austin CEO of Cotton On and his staff make regular trips to visit the community to monitor and assist progress of the infrastructure. **Dr Shannon** from Geelong and **Father Peter Foley** from St Bernard's Parish Belmont also regularly visit the people of Mannya.

The locals refer to the visitors as '*Muzungu*' which means '*white person*' in many '*Bantu*' languages of east, central and south Africa. The two main languages spoken in Uganda are English and Swahili.

Brendan Moloney ■