

Charity chief praises the volunteers

By Claire Lomax

01943 607022

THE chairman of a Wharfedale charity, David Geldart, has praised the work of volunteers and supporters.

The multi-award winning Bambisanani Partnership has gained international acclaim for its work using sport to promote education, health, global citizenship and leadership in one of South Africa's most deprived rural areas.

From an initial visit to South Africa in 2006, which established a partnership between St Mary's at Menston and Mnyakanya School, the effort has gone from strength to strength, becoming a registered charity in 2015.

Two pioneering student volunteers visited South Africa in 2007 and since then over 200 more have followed - from St Mary's, the University of Leeds and Leeds Trinity University - to deliver the Bambisanani programmes.

Other statistics clearly indicate the development and impact of the charity:

- over 500 South African students have gained Bambisanani Leadership awards
- over 2,000 South African students have participated in Bambisanani Sports Festivals



David Geldart praised the efforts the charity's supporters



Charity volunteers making a difference to people's lives in South Africa



- over 1,500 South African students have participated in Bambisanani Reading Festivals

- over 1,000 orphans have been supported into school by the partnership

- over 3,000 South African students have participated in Bambisanani learning activities

- over 1,000 UK and South African students have engaged in joint learning activities involving various curriculum areas.

Mr Geldart said: "Our student volunteers are remarkable young people who want to make a difference in the world. They are prepared to

work in the most difficult of circumstances for the sake of others and learn so much in the process.

"Whilst the statistics are impressive, they only ever provide part of the picture: behind and in front of all the numbers are real people with amazing stories to tell about how their lives have been changed in some positive way by the partnership.

"Our supporters are absolutely fantastic and I cannot thank them enough for their outstanding commitment to our work. We have ambitious plans for the future and this will only be possible with volunteers and supporters."