

Free Live Concert on March 11, 2016

After last year's St. Nicholas Teas were successfully held at the Jaques Art Center in December, a well-received benefit in support of African-focused nonprofit Sylvia's Children, Aitkin is once again playing host to a fundraiser for the organization.

On Friday, March 11, from 7 to 9 p.m., the historic Opera House at the Butler Building will host a free live concert from the Twin Cities-based nine-piece ensemble, the Dirty Shorts Brass Band, performing an outstanding setlist that will mix up a delicious concoction of jazz, blues, Dixie, funk, swing and gospel sounds.

"If you've never heard them you will be amazed at the wonderful sound" stated building owner Allen. "It would be so much fun to have an Aitkin Mardi Gras and feature them."

This concert will benefit the organization, which has been working over the past 13 years to improve the lives of more than 1,000 children in Uganda, Africa, one quarter of which have been orphaned due to losing family members to HIV/AIDS.

Thanks to the continuous generosity and support of those in Aitkin and other areas, the organization's founder Sylvia Allen says the organization has been able to put many of these orphans through additional schooling. There are currently 127 orphans in high school, for example, as well as 25 pursuing higher education in technical school or college.

In seeking to achieve its goal of making the Mbirizi Advanced Primary School self-reliant, she next hopes to raise enough money to buy 3,000 more chickens for the chicken farm. These chickens help to provide a source of protein for the 1,024 children attending the school, getting one egg a day, as well provide a source of revenue with the extra eggs that can be sold at the local market.

If you'd like to attend this special fundraiser concert, you can find more information by visiting www.sylviaschildren.org and www.thebutlerbuilding.org or call the Butler building, 218-678-2441.