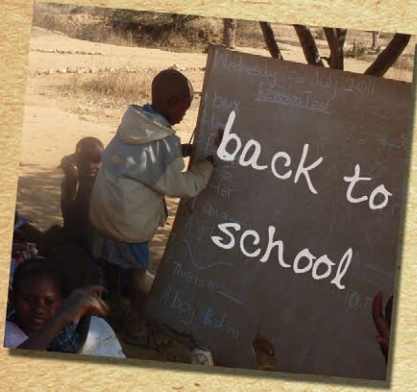


# GOOD NEWS

1006 children are...



## FEEDING THE MINDS OF ZIMBABWE'S CHILDREN

Hundreds of  
children arrive  
back at school

We are excited to report that thanks to your very generous donations and the work of the True Vision Foundation (TVF) and Zimbabwe Benefit Foundation (ZBF) – 1006 children in Zimbabwe have had their school fees fully paid and are back in school, with no risk of being sent away from receiving the education they so desperately desire.

Our project has been given the very apt title of “FEEDING MINDS”, and we would love to share with you here what we have achieved over the last nine months – and how you can continue to fund this crucial work.

Firstly, we are pleased to welcome our two Project Managers, who have been a vital part of running this project on the ground in Zimbabwe. They have a wealth of experience, qualifications and come highly recommended through our friends and partners working in Zimbabwe. Without them, we surely would not have been able to achieve our goals so far. During our Project Manager's initial research for the right schools, we realised we could not simply start paying school fees for these children – there were local authority procedures and precautions to be followed in order to safeguard ourselves, the recipient children and our funding. We established that many Government schools received a percentage of the fees whereas other schools are run by the community, and are the ones who suffer the most – hence it was the community schools we chose to target for assistance.

### Chinhoyi School - 750 children

In Chinhoyi, (the school that featured in the film), we immediately negotiated the end of sending away any child who was unable to pay their fees, and started to work with the School Development Committee (SDC). We sought the right permission from the District Education Officer and advised the local Councillor of our work in the area.



Our Project Manager spent a great deal of time meeting with the parents, guardians, teachers and children trying to understand how they were living and what we could do to help make this school a centre of learning and hope. Approximately 850 children are registered and only 10% can afford to pay the fees. It became apparent that only paying the fees would not be sustainable and in most cases would not encourage parents and guardians to send the children to learn. The percentage of HIV/AIDS, starvation and poverty is high in this area. The ground is dry, there was no clean water source and lack of equipment means little food is grown. We met with the School Development Committee and developed a plan which they believed would encourage high attendance, learning and involvement from parents. We agreed that every term, for as long as our project is sustainable and until we are confident the school is becoming self-sufficient, we will provide the school fees – not in cash, but in the form of teacher training and essential materials for education, health, agriculture and development. The school is given a budget (equal to the amount of children that require payment of school fees) and every term we work together to prioritise and supply the needs for that particular term.



### Gatsi Primary School, Manicaland - 166 children

Gatsi Primary is a community school, run by the parents and teachers. It has a high rate of orphans and vulnerable children who are in desperate need of support. The school leadership committee stood out in that they were welcoming and open with their school records; they co-operated positively in our research and embraced the ZBF evaluation system. Gatsi Primary school is also one of the many schools ZBF are providing financial assistance in the form of agriculture training, seeds and basic farming tools. In June ZBF paid for two teachers from Gatsi to attend an intensive agriculture training course to give them a good insight into best agricultural practise.

Costly artificial watering and fertilizer systems are discouraged during this training, in favour of techniques such as zero tillage, mulching and composting. The teachers returned to Gatsi enthralled with the prospect of implementing their own nutrition gardens as well as doing workshops to educate pupils, parents and the surrounding community.



### The Anglican Diocese Scholarship fund, Manicaland – 90 children over 24 schools

The Anglican Diocese scholarship fund targets the intellectually gifted but financially challenged students in and out of school. The scholarship fund was launched on 30 April 2011 with 75% of the schools being in the rural remote areas of the province. The report from our Project Manager states "to date, 81 primary school and 9 high school students have benefitted. Of the total figure 15 primary & 6 high school students had already left the school system



for periods ranging from one to three years. It was great joy for them to be reunited with their colleagues in the school system. In addition to the school fees funding, the Diocese also provides psychosocial support activities to HIV/AIDS infected and affected students. Close working linkages have been established with all hospitals that are close to the schools so that those students who need anti-retroviral therapy are closely monitored.

Proposals are under way to engage the target group in income generation activities to create a sense of self reliance among the beneficiaries. It is pleasing to note that all the students under the scholarship fund project are doing exceptionally well in school work".

### HIV/AIDS Education

One of our primary goals (along with seeing children learning in school, providing nutrition and clean water) is to educate the parents, teachers and children on the AIDS virus. By providing this understanding, we hope to cut new cases, reduce the stigma attached to those who know (or suspect) they have contracted it, encourage them to get tested and receive treatment in the form of anti-retro viral drugs, and lastly try to stop children being marginalised within their school. We aim to provide the right kind of nutrition through the agriculture side to those taking ARV medication as this is an important part of being treated and living a healthy life. We are starting at the Chinhoyi School, where chosen teachers and parents will be trained on HIV/AIDS, general health and child protection issues, and asked to pass their knowledge onto the school community.

### Awards

We are extremely excited to applaud the film makers of Zimbabwe's Forgotten Children – Xoliswa, Jezza, Brian, Debs, and their team on receiving a USA Peabody Award, and.... the most prestigious award available in the UK film industry – a BAFTA for Best Current Affairs Program! Huge Congratulations to you all!





# Thank You!

It goes without saying that we CANNOT achieve any of our goals in helping Zimbabwe's Children without our valuable donors! If it wasn't for you, none of the above would be brought to fruition. There are no words that can express our sincere gratitude. Your donations have made this project happen!

Very special thanks go to Nick Jones of the Electric – and all the parents and children who attended and gave so generously at the "Hogwarts to Harare" fundraiser. Massive thanks also to Patrick McKenna, Jimmy Mulville and the company and staff of Ingenious Media for the screening they put on in January 2011.

A huge thank you also to Charlene Mukuzvazva who put on an extraordinary event - "Fashion Gives Back" in aid of our education project and Zimbabwe's Forgotten Children.

Tapiwa Makaka and Richelle Badley of Stourbridge College in Birmingham, attracted revellers to their concert in aid of Oxfam and Zimbabwe's Forgotten Children, and not only raised money but much needed awareness.



## WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP...

We have come a long way in our Feeding Minds education project this year; however we feel we can go much further in helping Zimbabwe's children - with your continued assistance.



### Donate

£30/year educates a child in Zimbabwe. This amount will allow us to expand to more children in more schools.

£50 would equip one school with enough seeds to last a year.

£100 would contribute towards a water pump for our Chinhoyi school.

£150 would contribute towards our borehole payments and maintenance for 850 children and their families to have clean water to drink every day of the year, plus irrigation for their crops.

£500 can buy enough nutritional supplements for 500 HIV+ children for a month.

### Fundraise

Please contact us for any fundraising ideas. Perhaps you'd like to organise your own screening? In which case we can send you our screening kit. Or you might be competing in a "great runs" or you're a fitness freak and love your triathlons,... Please look at our justgiving page and consider creating your own page to help our cause. <http://www.justgiving.com/educatezimbabweschildren>

### CONTACT US

We hope you are pleased with what we have achieved so far, and we are always happy to hear from you, if you have any questions or ideas to share please email us at [sharon@zimbabweschildren.org](mailto:sharon@zimbabweschildren.org) [www.zimbabweschildren.org](http://www.zimbabweschildren.org)

### **SPECIAL APPEAL:**

Are you or your organisation able to fund nutrition supplements to children with HIV/AIDS?

*Whilst our nutrition gardens are being prepared and food is growing, for a short while, we would like to ease the terrible feeling of hunger and start offering our school children, who we know or suspect are suffering from HIV/AIDS, and orphans who are not receiving sufficient food from guardians – a nutrition drink called Mahewu. Mahewu is a high protein supplement drink for people that are malnourished, taking antiretroviral drugs and gives children much needed energy. It is a short term relief to hunger and starvation and costs approx £1/month for a child to have this drink every day. However we have over 500 children that are in need of this supplement, and unfortunately we cannot offer one and not the other, therefore our ask is BIG! If you or your organisation is in a position to fund £500 per month then please get in touch with us asap. This is not a long term funding initiative – it is only until the school reaps enough crop to feed every child, therefore approx 6 months.*