

## Newsletter – Education Project May 2012

Chinhoyi Primary School – 750 children

# FEEDING THE MINDS OF ZIMBABWE'S CHILDREN

During 2011 we saw every child that was registered in the school given back the right to attend school without the threat of being sent home. You will remember from the film, Zimbabwe's Forgotten Children, the school had NOTHING – it was barren and surrounded by a depressed community – it lacked hope, and the sound of happy children!

Now – THANKS TO YOU – children flock to school every day laughing and eager to learn.

They have all the necessary educational materials, a water source so they can drink clean water, a flourishing agricultural plot producing enough to supply HIV+ children and orphans with vegetables, and soon every child will receive a meal at school. The school itself has funded (with a small pot of money received through the UNICEF funded BEAM system) a new school block, and next term they will be starting a carpentry club to build their own desks and chairs. Grade zero and pre-school classes have been introduced and young children are no longer being kept at home to do chores rather than get the education they deserve.



**Children enjoying  
clean drinking water**



**Agriculture lesson**



**New school block**

It is important to note that we have worked in partnership with the children, and their parents to make this happen and all the training has created opportunities, which they have jumped on, to bring in their own income. It is their community and the children themselves who have put in all the hard work and effort to improve their lives, and we are delighted by their passion. The school fees allowance allocated for each child, has been stretched as far as possible with training workshops, extra-curricular activities and after school clubs so everyone who wants to, and is able to, can be a part of creating a centre of hope and future sustainability. From watering crops in the agriculture plot to building their own desks, our goal is that these children will not only leave this school with an academic education, but the wherewithal to build a healthy life without the need for aid.



# FEEDING THE MINDS OF ZIMBABWE'S CHILDREN

In February 2012 we held a workshop on HIV/AIDS, health and child protection – attended by the parents and teachers in the health committee and child protection committee. Following this workshop, the committee members and school head arranged training for the older pupils who represent the children on the Child Protection committee. Through several weeks of creative drama, poems, presentations and role play the older children then showcased their talent and knowledge to all school children and guest speakers were drawn from the parents and teachers who attended the workshop. This has been a very successful project and encouraged the community to create systems in which sick or abused children can be given the help they need. It has also massively reduced absenteeism.

**HIV/AIDS workshop**



**Children with HIV  
receiving vegetables**

## **The Anglican Diocese Scholarship Fund – 16 children**

After several meetings with the staff at the Manicaland Anglican Diocese we are continuing our support to the children within their scholarship program who are intellectually gifted but lack the financial means to realise their potential. During 2011 we sponsored 96 children who were on a waiting list to receive full time funding from corporate/banking companies within Zimbabwe. This funding has now been approved and those children have the financial commitment to see them through to the end of school. However a small number (16) were not successful in receiving this vital funding, so we are pleased to report that we have been able to step in and provide this commitment so they are able to continue thriving in their school environment. Most of these children have completed their junior school education and did extremely well so we felt it would be wasted potential not to allow them the opportunity to carry on into high school with the exceptional grades they had proudly achieved.

## **Project Batsirai in partnership with Astute Ltd**

We are very pleased to report that thanks to the management and staff of Astute Ltd we have been able to expand further on our goal of getting more children back into school. We have chosen to work in a township just outside Harare whose children and families are living in dire poverty. Our Zim Project Manager has been working with volunteers to identify the worst cases of orphans and malnourished children who have been out of school for a while. Due to the scale of poverty we will not only be assisting with school fees, we will be working with the families to find ways of providing nutritious food and in some cases – healthcare. As the need is so urgent, food hampers will be supplied whilst we ascertain the best methods for the families and children to start creating their own income generating plans.

# FEEDING THE MINDS OF ZIMBABWE'S CHILDREN

The staff at Astute Ltd do a very simple but effective fundraising activity every month – dress down Friday! Whatever money they raised is matched by the company, doubling their contribution. If your company is in a position to do the same, please do get in contact with us as your £1 every month to dress down, will make a difference beyond your expectations for the children in Zimbabwe. Thank you everyone at Astute Ltd.

## THANK YOU

We were extremely fortunate during 2011 to have amazing people help us through the year and expand on our work for Zimbabwe's children. Without all our loyal donors, these children's lives would be the same, if not worse and as a Foundation we are always aware of this – the words thank you seem so little to express our gratitude.



Our wonderful friend, **Fredrik Eklund** donated enough money for us to begin the process of installing a clean water source at the Chinhoyi school which has been invaluable – not only is clean water a vital part of our health and lives, it also provides sanitation to reduce disease and irrigation for the agriculture plot that nourishes the children's brain's so they are able to learn. But Fredrik didn't stop there – with the help of the staff at ESNY and AIDS Accountability, Fredrik also held a screening in his home city of Stockholm where he invited Swedish children and their teachers to watch the film Zimbabwe's

Forgotten Children to create awareness amongst this young generation. Who knows – a couple of doctors could one day come out of that audience and find themselves in Zimbabwe saving lives because of that one screening! Thank you Fredrik!

We would also like to say a massive thank you to all the people who have chosen our Foundation to support through their company and personal fundraisers:

**Rose Murphy** and all her colleagues at **Shine Limited** have been special supporters with their brilliantly creative fund raising events including a softball match, quiz and book n' bake sale. The money raised has contributed to the agriculture and water harvesting training, which many teachers and parents attended at our Chinhoyi school and consequently passed onto the children. This precious training means HIV+ children are receiving the nutrition they need for their medication to work effectively, so they can have a long and healthy life.

**Brampton College's** contribution made it possible for us to go ahead with the HIV/AIDS and Child Protection workshop that has been mentioned above in this newsletter. This type of training and knowledge will inevitably save lives and reduce the cases of child labour and abuse within this community... a priceless result!

## **SPECIAL APPEAL for Emmanuel**

Emmanuel is a 7 year old boy with cerebral palsy who lives within our Chinhoyi Primary School community – both his parents passed away from HIV/AIDS last year and he has been left in the care of his elderly and frail grandmother who is struggling to give Emmanuel the care he needs. We have found a home school in Zimbabwe that is able to provide proper full time care for Emmanuel's condition at a cost of £65 per month. If you have the means to make a commitment to helping this very special boy and his heartbroken grandmother, please contact us immediately – thank you so much!