



Our Children Your Children In Zimbabwe

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Special Points of Interest

- Ancient Ways directly serves nearly 2,500 people in Mhondoro and Dewedzo area through the Nhimbe for Progress and Jangano projects, and employs 20 people in various capacities.
- Over 1,400 of the people we serve are children, from infants to young adults; over 1,100 of these are school age. You sponsor nearly 500 of them!
- It was hearing the sweet music from Zimbabwe that first captivated us in 1990. We continue with Shona music study, classes and performances.

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MANY COLLABORATIONS MAKE LIGHT WORK!



Nhimbe has captured national attention in a very positive way! The Zimbabwean government, private sector and NGOs have partnered with us on numerous occasions.

The Ministry of Health utilized our Donhodzo Center for the National Measles Immunization Day campaign to eradicate this childhood disease. They also recently donated 5 bags of cement to help us to build another preschool toilet.

UNICEF partnered with us to upgrade our well and install a manual pump which cranks out 3,000 liters an hour! This was in collaboration with Mvura/Amanzi, a private indigenous company wanting to support our preschool.

J.F. Kapnek Foundation chose us to provide the know-how and materials to upgrade the Nhimbe preschool playground. We provided volunteers (residents, older Youth Well Being children, and staff) and the paint to create wonderful wooden climbing structures and swings.

The National AIDS Council partnering with PSI International joined with our Donhodzo Health Center to provide a location for one of their mobile New Start Centers, which provides HIV Testing and Counseling.

Ancient Ways is proud of this recognition! These partnerships also leverage your donations so that we are able to provide a larger impact to a broader scale of recipients for a longer time. **Donate to 'Greatest Need'** to help us carry out the vision!

Thank you for your support!

MICROLOANS: WIN-WIN PLUS SUSTAINABILITY

Again this November we have invested in the local Mhondoro farmers to raise maize for the Nhimbe Preschool. It began with several residents wanting to purchase 10 kg of certified maize seed so that they could be assured of maximum germination when planting.

We provided a 'soft loan' (no interest) to them by purchasing certified seed in town and de-

livering it to the rural area. They expect 1 ton of maize at harvest time. They will have enough to feed their family with this staple crop, sell some for profit, as well as repay their loan in maize to feed the preschoolers.

We can sell any excess maize to generate revenue to help pay for project services. This

has been a very successful collaboration program over the years.

Please consider providing a microloan to a resident today. With \$30 you can provide a family with food, a business, and an empowerment opportunity to pay back the loan, while feeding the Nhimbe preschool children!

That's the best \$30 investment I've seen in a long time!

WEBSITE, FACEBOOK AND MORE!

WWW.ANCIENT-WAYS.ORG (click there) has a new look! The new website has been online for several months now. We are elated although like most evolving sites, it is a work-in-progress.

We are much better equipped to share the story of our Zimbabwian neighbors with the world, as well as receive payments online for everything

from our Youth Wellbeing Program, to local music lessons, and CD sales (watch too for sculptures online soon)! With many volunteer hours logged, we are still building the site and excited to share it.

Facebook too has brought us out of the dinosaur days.

You can 'like' us today and

share us with friends and family!

The Blog on the website is also an ongoing link to what is happening on the ground from month to month. Subscribe to an RSS feed or our Blog at www.ancient-ways.org/?feed=rss2 (<— click here)

Thank you for your continued support!

“They share amongst themselves, just like they share shoes or socks so that their friend walks with only one barefoot.”

2012 VISIT

If you have long desired to offer your talents to help people, do consider applying to intern/fellowship with us on this upcoming trip. Tickets run over \$2,000 and so this is an investment in your life. Minimum requirements are great relationship skills, and the ability to track details. Experience in international travel a real plus.

Donations for April trip expenses (and air miles) are most welcome! Thank You!

SCHOOL BOOKS NEEDED!

Books, paper, pens, pencils are all the basics for education. We have been sending a few books with travelers in their suitcases,

partnering with Books for Humanity, and purchasing school books at the open air markets. Our focus has been to get the little ones on board with reading, but also getting exam books for the eldest. We have a huge need for school books.

One child in five has a school book to use. They share amongst themselves, just like they share shoes or socks so that

their friend walks with only one barefoot.

Please help us purchase educational materials for the library to provide children with their basic academic curriculum books! Thank you!

LIFE SKILLS LEARNING RETREATS

Three times a year, our girls continue to enjoy an amazing Life Skills Learning Retreat. Enrollment is now at around 70 girls of all ages. The boys too have taken a liking to the idea with around 60 boys participating. Boys educated in health and gender equality issues, as well as other life skills, make a better life partner and are a key to a different future!

Normally, daily life consists of waking at the crack of dawn, cooking over a fire, bathing in water heated on that fire, and walking a great distance to school, coming home after a day of study to do survival **chores, washing one's uniform, and** enjoying nightly meal time. Each day has little variation and is limited in opportunity. Our weekend retreats provide much in the way of: 1) learning to cope with the modern world in an educated way, 2) camaraderie, and 3) innovative teaching opportunities using traditional music, crafts and elder tutoring.

We have the children's ear during this time and are able to share education regarding HIV, hygiene, and abstinence promotion as well. All of this highly organized and structured time is provided with your help!

The three Life Skills Learning Retreats are only \$15 for the year for a child!



“Water availability isn’t just about clean drinking water, but is also about food production.”



A girl’s chance of getting HIV falls by half if they finish primary school .



“it will give us regular meeting times with each girl and help us to help her with her personal needs”

~ W.A.T.E.R! ~

WELLS AND TOILETS EVERYONE’S RIGHT!

Everyone having the basics is a birth right. Yes! Clean **water, and a toilet...don’t ya think?** Safe drinking water and basic sanitation are among the 2020 World Health Organization (WHO) millennium goals. The statistics regarding water-borne disease and fatalities are staggering.

The problem occurs at multiple points in the water cycle. First, only 7 people in 100 have wells. Of those that do, most cannot afford a cement well lining, so the rains collapse the wells. Since only 7 in 100 have toilets, most use

the bush. Hence, ground bacteria is washed into the wells, causing serious water-borne disease and fatalities. This is a health crisis that can be addressed!

Currently we have 480 more wells to build, and 494 more toilets. Pictures of new wells are sprinkled with pictures of people standing proudly in their gardens. **Water availability isn’t just** about clean drinking water, but is also about food production. It profoundly boosts the ability of the family to grow what they

put on the table. This translates to healthier children, stronger adults, plus longevity for the elders. A key contributor to HIV becoming AIDS is malnutrition.

With \$250 you can build a well and change the future of the extended family for generations. These wells last!

And, remember, our youth have been trained to be part of the building team! Any amount for W.A.T.E.R! is helpful. Thank you!

Tatenda Chaizvo!

YOUNG GIRLS’ HYGIENE HELP & HOPE!

Underwear for Over There proved to be immensely successful in 2011. Thank you for your incredible support! We were able to buy 3 pair of underwear for more than just the sponsored girls in both projects! We are continuing to purchase underwear as needed costing \$3 for 2 pair.

Monthly Care for Over There is a new collaboration with adult women from the villages. We are planning on providing the girls with adequate supplies, thus enabling them to engage fully in life with the confidence and vigor of emerging young women.

This all seems so simple to those of us in the U.S., but unlike us, women in many parts of the world, and specifically Zimbabwe, cannot take these necessary resources for granted.

Another long term goal with the Monthly Care for Over There Program is that it will give us regular meeting times with each girl and help us to help her with her personal needs regarding HIV and pregnancy prevention, while at the same time, decreasing her hygiene challenges.

Donate now to Underwear & Monthly Care for Over There!

Your interest in these young girls changes their lives forever!

Thank you!

From the Underwear campaign we learned a great deal. Resources necessary for health and hygiene related to the female monthly cycle is not something young Shona women can take for granted. Without these basic resources, these girls cannot adequately care for themselves. So, often they stay home from school, suffer illness from lack of sanitation and struggle with self esteem.

Brenda Andresen of www.lotuspads.com (click above), out of Corvallis, OR, is our new partner, who will be assisting us in developing a solution for these girls and women. Besides investing in a sewing machine for the Center, bolts of cotton flannel, and organizing the women to sew together, we will also **buy (15”) laundry bars of soap** so a girl may get a slice of soap for the month.



TAKING THE PRESCHOOL TO AN INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

We have done an incredible job with the Nhimbe Preschool since the first foundational stones were laid at the Community Center in 2002. Our efforts have been recognized by the government and supported by the NGO and private sectors. The next step is to develop the early childhood program to an international standard. This will provide children with a sound foundation for independent learning and a social confidence that will allow them to make the best of whatever schooling they choose. With your fundraising efforts, we have saved over \$4,000 towards this end. These children are the future! They hold the seed of change in their hearts and minds and will bear the fruit of this influence for a long time to come. Please consider joining us in this growth with a donation of any amount! Many thanks!



YOUTH WELL BEING PROGRAM: A NEW MODEL

Sponsoring children for the Youth Well Being Program has been at our core since 2000. We have always felt blessed to connect you directly to the child you **sponsor, but it's now time for us to alter how we function.**

We have been impacted by the changes in our US economy, and the costs of doing business in Zimbabwe have increased over the last 3 years. For instance, this year soap increased from \$1 **to \$1.50, Jangano's high school fees increased to \$90 per year, and nurses elsewhere were suddenly minimally paid \$400 per month as of June when we have been paying \$250!**

We cut staff both in the states and Zimbabwe, as well as limited many other expenses. In 2009, we increased the sponsorship of children from \$35 to \$40 then \$60, but that does not cover the full costs of sponsoring a child for a year. In the past, the generous donations of my **godfather, C. 'John' Pare, Jr., supplemented the sponsor's commitment.** With his passing, however, those funds are no longer available. We have had to

accept how time-and-labor intensive it is to connect one person with one child.

To address these financial challenges and increase our flexibility to provide high quality support to children, we are introducing a new model. Your donations to the Youth Well Being Program can have greater impact by directing them to the needs of all the children. It will eliminate the high costs of maintaining the one-to-one contact between donor and child. And, it will allow us to address the emerging opportunities within the program, thus promising reaching more children with health and education services.

This new approach also makes it possible for you to support the program at whatever level fits your budget, and without committing to future years. Additionally, with the new website and Facebook we are able to share the children and families in an up-close and personal way using video and slide shows.

We expect to continue to provide options for the nearly 500 children that we sponsor, as well as more children as they come along. We hope you can help us with that! Full costs average \$100 for the staff to provide well being services to each child for the year. You can contribute any amount you like to help with that effort!

If you have been sponsoring a child for many years, and are incredibly personally involved, then by all means, write me privately (windgatherer@ancient-ways.org) **and let's talk about possible options (a 'grandfather clause'). But if it's all the same to you, and you can live with our decision to stop sending pictures and letters, then please consider our new model.**

Choose 'Sponsor Youth Well Being' and donate whatever your budget allows. Thank you for your understanding and continuing support!

Zimbabwe