



# Our Children Your Children In Zimbabwe

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## Special Points of Interest

- Ancient Ways directly serves over 2,800 people in Mhondoro and Dewedzo area through the Nhimbe for Progress and Jangano projects, and employs 20 people in various capacities.
- Nearly 1,700 of the people we serve are children, from infants to young adults; nearly 1,100 of these are school age.
- It was hearing the sweet music from Zimbabwe that first captivated us in 1990. We continue with Shona music study, classes and performances in Oregon's mid-Willamette Valley.

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## LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR



We appreciate your help so much ... YOU make the difference! Since 2000 I have been writing to the “collective you” and sharing my innermost heart’s desire for the people in Zimbabwe. Your response to my requests for help has been magnificent, moving, and generous. Each year, through this process, you teach me more about myself, what is real and what is practical, and each year we are able to fulfill our mission, uplift those in need, and refine our services to better reach more of the people.

These  
“people”

include over 2,800 village residents in rural Zimbabwe whose main hope for change is you and I. They live in regions with little to no assistance from other humanitarian programs but, because of Ancient Ways and your part of that, they have hope. Sometimes they see that it’s their

neighbor who gets the well, but they know it will likely be them one day. Why? Because we are entering our 14<sup>th</sup> year and we have a track record that is grounded in accountability, built on trust, and blooming in sweet simplicity. I can say that sometimes it feels like a flower in the desert. And I can say that we work extra hard to make it all happen. And that is the point – we do make it happen - for the elderly, the unwell, the children of all ages, the girl child, and the families stressing over putting food on the table. Time and again we come through for them...as you have come through for us. Thank you! *Tatenda!*

The economy in both parts of the world has played havoc with any 3, 5, or 10 year plans.

Most NGOs left the country years ago, along with the best doctors and teachers. But some of us stayed for the long haul. Thank you for your continued commitment that sustains this direct line of aid to these people, some of whom have become friends and family, some of whom are just a

familiar face, and some are people whose lives have been enormously impacted in a very positive way.

Please read the rest of this newsletter and ask yourself: How might I help? There are many ways to reach out – only you know what fits your heart, your budget, your life. Thank you for this consideration – we can’t do it without you.

From *SENIOR NURSE*  
**FREDRECK MUCHIRIRI**

“Donhodzo Health Center came as a lifeline for the people of Mhondoro. What really strikes the most about the effectiveness of the Center is its magnificent timely interventions to the precarious health needs of the children, who become the most affected whenever the national health system crumbles. Having realized that drug treatment is not a completely effective approach to meet the diverse health needs of the community, we introduced a comprehensive approach that includes herbal therapy, NMT [see nmt.md], health education promotion forums, community door to door visits, as well as water and sanitation programs.”

## GIVE THESE BRIGHT STARS A PATH TO SHINE!

Rural life, malnutrition and other economic hardships become oversized obstacles in a child's life, often deterring them from seeking academic excellence. In our villages there are always a few boys and girls who rise to the top. The brightest and best succeed regardless of opportunity but the measure is what they will achieve. Given their talents and natural abilities they could get A's in high

school but never get a chance at college, or for example, could graduate with Honors from a University, (just like two of our staff – our Senior Nurse and our Executive Assistant, who grew up in our villages).

Please help us to let them help themselves – there are special children with unique needs to attend better schools than what their parents can afford. The

tuition ranges from \$150 to \$1,500 depending upon the school's program. Can your family sponsor one of these motivated and earnest above-average students in 2013?

Their school year begins near February so please let us know soon if we can contact you with the particulars and count on your assistance to extend them a hand! Thank you!

*“Education is not a right in Zimbabwe. It is not free. Nor is it a requirement. It is a priority though for all the families ... prosperity & empowerment is directly linked to their child's education.”*

## EDUCATION & THE GLOBAL COMMUNITY'S FUTURE

Every year we do all we can to make sure that any child in need is sponsored for academics plus after school activities. School tuition averages \$100 per year, which either sends a child to a government (primary or secondary) school, or sends a 3-to-6 year-old to our Nhimbe Preschool, feeding them daily with a wholesome meal, as well as offering them early childhood education. Can your family send a child to school

this year? We have nearly 1,100 children who want to attend school and most all can't afford to pay the fees that the government requires.

Education is not a right in Zimbabwe. It is not free. Nor is it a requirement. It is a priority though for all the families as they know that prosperity and empowerment is directly linked to their child's education.

Their education is also our priority. As this generation matures, the lives of all children will be intertwined because of the global nature of our world.

Just think about how your life is changing! You can reach across our vast planet, which is now just microseconds apart, extending your abundance to one of these children in need, 70 of which are preschoolers. Thank you for whatever you can do!

## 2012 TRIP RESCHEDULED FOR 2013

After careful consideration we decided it would be safest to reschedule our August 2012 departure for next year. An unexpected donation purchased my ticket and fortunately we were given a full refund! Since Zimbabwe elections had not taken place, the campaigning was continuing for another year. Campaigning there is

far more rigorous and potentially life-threatening to the people who live there.

There isn't a risk to us if we were tourists since we would just move through quickly. But in our unique case, we live with them for several weeks, work with them, holding meetings which are misconstrued as threatening gatherings, and spend much time in congregation filming, teaching and sharing. This is perceived suspiciously by anyone

watching. Many of our villager's lives have been threatened and harmed. Rather than visit for just a few days, and not getting to work, we decided that we would wait.

Once we know the dates of our expected 2013 departure, we'll let you know! Sending embroidery floss, etc. is helpful!



**SACRIFICING the LATTE or VIDEO BUILDS A WELL!**

*“8 in 100 residents (that is less than 1 in 10!) have a brick built well, instead of only a hand-dug hole.”*



*“Wells are the fishing pole and not the fish...”*



*“Just \$2 assures that one resident receives free medical care...\$100 donation buys medicines, and staffs Donhodzo, offering health care and education for 50 people, 40 of which are children!”*

We take much for granted – we go to the sink, turn on the water, and know we can drink without fear of ingesting pathogens. We can bathe a wound and feel confident that it won't cause an infection. We can count on a water supply to garden.

There, 8 in 100 residents (less than 1 in 10!) have a brick built well instead of only a hand-dug hole. A brick well costs only \$250 (\$5.21 per week for one year!) and protects the water from contamination by rain run-off. Be-

cause these wells are sealed at the top, bacteria and debris cannot get in.

These wells provide an extended family (babies to grandparents, siblings without spouses, orphans, all living together) with the profound opportunity for clean water for many generations. Pure water dramatically affects their health, reducing disease and increasing energy. Brick well water depth assures the family of enough water to have a bountiful garden.

This translates to prosperity of health and wealth: to feed one's family, to sell produce, and be empowered to change one's own future! Wells are the fishing pole and not the fish... Please ask your family if they can save \$5.21 per week to give a family in Zimbabwe this incredible gift! As an added bonus, your family's name is painted on the well and they in Zimbabwe are reminded when they pull up the water pail, that someone here, on the other side of the world, cares.

**... NEWS FLASH ... WE ARE COMPLETING 17 WELLS IN 2012! ... 8 Y.E.P!**  
*Youth Empowerment Program boys are trained and assisting the experienced builders...*

**HOW YOUR \$2 CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**

The Donhodzo Health Center evolved out of a First Aid station we began in 2001, and is now daily reaching out to Mhondoro families with a focus on the vulnerable. 80% of the patients are children.

Isaac, a 52 year old man, was bitten by a dog, during one of my stays. With his foot aching, he walked to the nearest clinic, close to 4 miles away. The attendant there said they could do nothing, suggesting he return home and wash it with salt water. Isaac made it back to Donhodzo, presenting a red and swollen foot. He received betadine, gauze bandaging and a pain killer. Isaac's foot could easily have become infected or

worse, but Donhodzo was there and able to help, gratefully due to your contributions!



Fredreck Muchiriri, our Donhodzo Senior Nurse, says, *“Scabies, a highly contagious skin disease, affected a number of kids, and local clinics did not have medicines in stock. Donhodzo then stood in the gap and instituted a community wide campaign to successfully eradicate it. We treated kids from a radius of over 15 miles.”*

For many years, the Donhodzo Center has been treating Bilharzia, which comes from a parasite living in standing water. A recent government survey revealed a staggering number of people are affected. The drug needed is pricey so most

clinics can't afford to stock it. Bilharzia medicine continues to be a big part of our drug budget.

We tackle the challenges there holistically, using many tools. Fredreck says, *“The diverse disease burden of our community calls for interventions outside of the box, thus the introduction of NMT, which has offered hope where medicines have come short.”*

Just \$2 assures that 1 resident receives free medical care...\$100 donation buys medicines and staffs Donhodzo, offering daily health care and education to 50 people, 40 of which are children! Please help us reach those in need. Everyone deserves the basics!



## ANCIENT WAYS & THE WEB WASSUP (What's Up?)

SCULPTURE! Go to [www.ancient-ways.org/store/for-sale/zimbabwean-sculptures/](http://www.ancient-ways.org/store/for-sale/zimbabwean-sculptures/) to see the latest! Here you will find exquisite hand-carved sculptures in all sizes, from wee ones to giant ones. All sculptures you find are available for immediate shipping...there is no delay in getting your special items packed and mailed to their new home, whether directly to you, or to another address as a gift. **YOU CAN RAISE MONEY WHILE SEARCHING THE WEB**—Just go to <http://isearch.igive.com/> and follow instructions there to choose Ancient Ways as your non-profit to benefit every time you do a web search.

WE'RE ALSO HAPPY TO SAY that we have just received a 2012 Top-Rated Award from Great Nonprofits! Check it out at [greatnonprofits.org](http://greatnonprofits.org) and add your own review!

### ~JANGANO LATEST~

While Fradreck and his brother Sam Mujuru visited the US this summer, we were able to raise awareness about the need for children's school fees. In Dewedzo, the school fees went up by 33% after the first of January 2012. Adding that to a reduced number of donations, we were running over \$4,000 short. Through

Fradreck's very candid sharing, many people decided to offer funds on behalf of these students. And we met our goal! An online pie chart ([www.ancient-ways.org/projects/jangano/campaign-to-keep-jangano-children-in-school](http://www.ancient-ways.org/projects/jangano/campaign-to-keep-jangano-children-in-school)) kept our finger on the pulse of the money flow so we could see exactly what was needed. Thank you to everyone who helped pass the word, pass the hat, and keep the children in school for 2012! For 2013, besides enrollment, we hope to set a youth mbira class in motion....please donate now!

## LIFE ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES ARE A KEY TO SUCCESS!

We, in North America, are most often insulated from how economic and political upheaval affects children, but science tells us that early onset of disease and aging is directly affected by both malnutrition and the continued stress of deprivation, war, and grief. Our Youth Well Being program helps ease that stress by providing an effective, vital and viable safety net for any child, afterschool, on weekends, and holidays – whether or not they are sponsored academically. This program offers opportunities for: 1) success at team play, 2) marimba, song, dance and drum lessons, 3) great adventures in the library with picture books and literature on a regular basis. All of these “recreational” exposures bring important stability to their lives by stimulating endorphins, alleviating depression, and balancing neurotransmitters.

Our Youth Well Being Program also creates special Life Skills Learning Retreats 3 times a year during the month-

long holiday for any interested child to attend a 3-day campout at the Nhimbe Community Center. All of these activities are free to the children, but cost us \$5 per campout as we feed them for 3 days. So for \$15 per year you can make sure that one of these children goes to camp!

I realize that this may seem indulgent to some, when people generally struggle to have enough to eat, but in the broader perspective, this assures us of a chance to really get to know them, share personal stories (this is how we learned that the girls needed underwear), and explain HIV and premarital risks, for example. The Life Skills Learning Retreats help bridge generational taboos, for example, never talking to one's child about sex, but instead facing Pandora's Box head on. It helps us reach the children at the tender age that makes a life-changing difference. Can you help us send 1 child

to camp? We believe these are serious times, with tremendous consequences to the choices and challenges of being a child.

### MONTHLY CARE FOR OVER THERE!

The Monthly Care for Over There Program requires a hands-on learning opportunity so it will be top of the list for the next trip. The teenage girls particularly need these hand-made supplies as well as a small wash tub and soap, as currently there is no extra fabric, nor soap, for the maturing young ones. Lotus Pads ([www.lotuspads.com](http://www.lotuspads.com)) has helped to work out a design that we can take to the village setting, giving them an option which will prevent illness. We are all very excited to be able to expand this simple idea to reach the many females in our villages. Donate now!

# Zimbabwe