



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 areas through the Nhimbe for Progress and Jangano projects, and employs 18 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.

INSIDE

Build a Well for 69 Cents a Day! Can You Do It?	2
Children and Academics—How Can We Help?	2
Another Type of Special Needs Students	3
2013 ~ A Year of Many Transitions	3
Help Us Reopen the Donhodzo Health Center!	4
Our Youth Well Being Program Puts the \$\$\$ Where It's Needed!	4



WHY DO WE SEEK TO HELP OTHERS? Is there something in our minds or hearts that can't be quieted? Is there something provoking us to seek the truth about Zimbabwean life conditions? Is there a problem they see that needs our attention today, which can only be solved by them, with our help?

They, in Zimbabwe, know that their children "should" be eating, be dressed appropriately for the terrain, weather, the long distance hike to school, and be studying textbooks for exam preparation. They know that they "should" drink clean water so they don't get sick, they "should" use a toilet, if there was one, instead of the bush, and that they "should" be able to generate an income that covers the requirements of living. They know what is wrong. They are not able to fix it. Neither do we suppose that we know how to fix it, or that we really know what isn't working exactly right.

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

We know that the resources are within our reach to help supplement what is missing for some, so that we can make a marked difference in "the standard", so that having a well, having a preschool child eating more than one meal a day, and working together as a large cohesive group both here and there can change the face of rural life. And then a new standard, well worth accepting, is born.

Please consider joining our team-approach to everything. Because of your part of the action, we are more than just individuals with concern — we are an active arm that can reach across the world

and touch the children and families who are in need.

We live pretty insulated, isolated and comfortable lives here in America. And we tend to have large hearts that want to go beyond helping just our immediate families. We want to slice through the illusions that cause separateness and heartbreak and bring healing and compassion to all corners of the earth. Do I have it right? Is this not who we are?

Once again I come rattling along on the tin cup trail to seek assistance for our friends in Zimbabwe, their families and friends, and even people who may be unrelated but are feeling desolate. Do they have to meet some special criteria to receive our aid? Not really — they need to show up. They need to be responsible participants in our programs. They too need to reach out to those in need so that the ripple of loving-kindness expands.

EVEN \$10 CHANGES SOMETHING!

Even though we have our own issues to contend with right here in the states, we also recognize the face of suffering elsewhere and want to be someone that makes a difference. Even \$10 changes something — for instance, it buys several pairs of panties for little girls without. For real!

Thank you for your consideration! We continue to embrace the diversity on both sides of the planet and do what is possible to match up the needs and wants of the two. For instance, you want to share a gift of education? They need go to school? There is a match! Now is the time...it isn't getting any easier. How can you get involved today? Let 2014 be your year!

BUILD A WELL FOR 69 CENTS A DAY! CAN YOU DO IT?

WELL BUILDING BRINGS MANY PEOPLE TOGETHER. First, is the family digging the well, usually involving the sons and nephews, boys and young adults jumping in and out of the hole. We buy 1,000 bricks from local brick makers who deliver using an ox cart drawn by *mombe* (oxen) or a donkey.

We buy the cement which nowadays is often shipped from China. This year the cement would not have arrived until Nov 1, which was too late to build because the summer rains had begun, wells would collapse and any bags of cement would harden up in storage. So we will work on wells after May 2014, cement allowing.

Well building also trains the gradu-

ates from the Machapro youth program. They are mentored by the experienced builders in production and creating a sustainable program for the future of the region.

Do you like the idea of building an uncontaminated well that offers:

- ☑ an extended family (babies to elderly, orphaned nieces and nephews) a clean water source,
- ☑ better health for a half a century, and a
- ☑ highly productive garden potential that helps them contribute to the community?

Then donate now for building later this year. Doing so will allow us to make plans as well as get the mentoring program underway. The earlier in the year you can help us

create momentum towards this important life-saving and hope-inspiring building effort, the better! Plus, your name is painted on the well top! It helps us all remember that it's the people involved that make the difference, and not only the money that fixes the problem at hand.

Thank you for supporting our well building...\$250 completes a well, but you can also be part of a team and build one together. We currently have set aside money for 6 wells from 2013's budget to build in 2014, and have built a total of 60 wells so far since we took on this critical sub-standard living component. Join us today!

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

CHILDREN AND ACADEMICS—HOW CAN WE HELP?

The Special Needs students manage to suc-

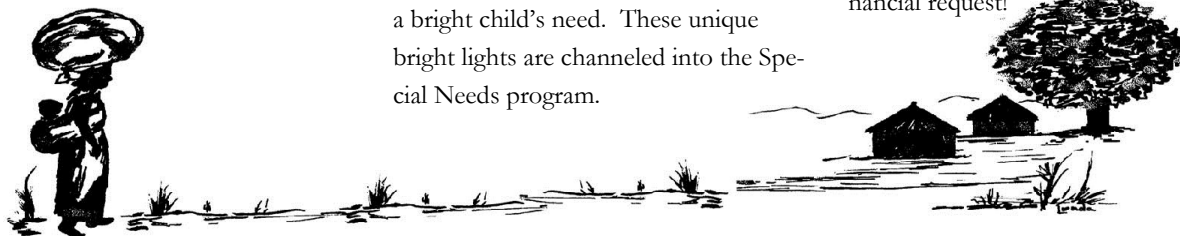
YOUR DONATION TO KEEP THE PRESCHOOL IN OPERATION AS WELL AS SPONSOR CHILDREN TO ATTEND THE GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS IS NEEDED NOW, TO MEET THE OPENING DAY OF JANUARY 15TH. When we are not able to commit to the year of education at the beginning of the year, it gets very complicated for the child, the parents, the school, and us. Please consider this important academic support. Tuition ranged from \$50-\$150 for the government schools in 2013. Last year \$100 was what we thought it would take to operate the preschool, where we fed 70 children every day. We find that prices continue to rise, and so we pool the

funds as we never know what associated costs will be. We do meet the challenge to direct funds to where they are needed most, and give children the opportunity that they would otherwise not have.

All children gain entry to the preschool, no one is excluded. As they enter the government primary schools, we aren't able to sponsor specific children without knowing their grades, attendance records, and their parent's support at home. Once determined, then we can help those earnest hard-working children gain the academic growth needed to succeed. As they graduate from grade school, it becomes more obvious if they are to be recognized as a gifted child who really must attend a better school. The rural schools are very poor and unable to meet a bright child's need. These unique bright lights are channeled into the Special Needs program.

ceed regardless of their circumstances and come to us with higher than normal grades and a propensity to do well.

Coming right out of the rich earth, they are children of the soil, and they are the future of Zimbabwe. Consider investing with us in these children. They will make a difference on our planet. We sponsor them to attend schools which provide a better education, as well as help them get through the higher academic system with their particular gifts so that we have young graduates who contribute to society in a way that only education can cultivate. The Special Needs students require \$150 to \$1,500 depending upon the school. We will get in touch with you based upon your financial request!



ANOTHER TYPE OF SPECIAL NEEDS STUDENTS



PURE WATER AT THE BOTTOM!



“Its more than just “is our glass half full or half empty” or seeing the Universe with an “attitude of gratitude”. It’s also about transition taking time. Transition is an organic process.”



WE ALSO CAN SERVE THE FAMILY OF BEAULER DYOKO with our Special Needs Program. She blessed our lives with her vibrant music, energetic song, and endearing conversations and we have an opportunity to bless her through her children’s children.

If you are interested in specifically sponsoring one of Beauler’s many orphans that came to her due to the early death of her family members, please write or call and we can sort out how to move forward on behalf of Beauler! She had always wanted to see her

grandchildren succeed. She had such a unique life traveling to other countries that she really understood that education is empowerment. Please, remember schools begin on January 15th in Zimbabwe! Thank you for this consideration!

2013—A YEAR OF MANY TRANSITIONS!

2013 HAS BEEN A YEAR OF TRANSITIONS. Everything started as somewhat of a “normal” year with the elections in Zimbabwe being unresolved for the 3rd year, their economic spiral continuing with an increase in all relative program expenses, and our own US economy not recovering in a way that encourages people towards charitable giving.

Mid-year, elections were held and Mugabe was kept as the President. We stayed the course to sponsor children and their special programs even with rising costs, and began pursuing a new option for pregnant women as well. Also in mid-June, my husband had a close unexpected brush with death due to Agent Orange compromised immunity.

By late fall, my husband, Steven “Lodi” Glass was in hospice and then passed on soon thereafter. Our dog, Skye, unexpectedly became acutely ill and followed in his footsteps. Lodi was an incredible support to us in Ancient Ways, as well as to his Shona family, the Magaya’s. As the *mukwasha*, or son-in-law, he brought his extraordinary regular American guy persona into the village setting, at times being moved to tears by the poverty he saw, the kindred spirits he engaged, and the blessing of being one of the men on the bench. Many thanks to all of you who made time to read his tribute and

comment at www.weddle-funeral.com. Your prayers, encouragement, and financial support to Ancient Ways in his memory are greatly valued.

At the same time Lodi was moving on to his next chapter, our Senior Nurse, Fredreck Muchiriri, and his wife, our Executive Assistant, Benita Chirisa, decided to move to China to improve their standard of living. Although their exodus made sense to benefit their son, John, and his education, as well as their overall income generating capacity, their choice threw another completely unforeseen hurdle in our path.

What does that all mean to our homespun efforts? We are weathering the storm and faring well considering all that is going on. Its more than just “is our glass half full or half empty” or seeing the Universe with an “attitude of gratitude”. It’s also about transition taking time. Transition is an organic process. We must give ourselves evolutionary space to come to new places of personage, as well as project development decisions that allow for the loss on the personal and project level. Clearly there is no way that the Donhodzo Health Center will not miss their manager, Fred. And his wife, Benita, was really great as a communications specialist, as she made sure that all details were understood between our two worlds. These

were our two University graduates on staff and it will take a while to replace them, particularly because of the convenience of having their home in the rural area within the project villages. Finding a nurse to run the primarily women and children’s program, who also lives in the area, is fairly unlikely.

This shift of personnel means that we must close the Donhodzo Health Center temporarily, and then open it when we can: 1) pay wages which will keep the person in Zimbabwe and not frustrate their prosperity visions (competing with other countries has been difficult for several years), 2) provide housing on site, similar to all rural run schools and clinics, and 3) have a multiple-year commitment towards these expenses, since we can’t start and stop casually. An initial estimate would be a minimum of \$1,000 per month for a year’s value of \$12,000. If you know of a project granting organization which could encompass health overseas, particularly for the vulnerable populations of women, girls, and children, and would be excited to meet us, being such a grassroots but well-qualified and competent organization, please write or call me! We are preparing for 2014 — please consider donating today to your favorite parts of the vision! We are ready!



HELP US RE-OPEN THE DONHODZO HEALTH CENTER!

WE REPRESENT THE NEEDS OF OVER 1,400 PEOPLE WHO WILL NOW NOT HAVE THE BASIC CARE THAT WE HAVE BEEN PROVIDING.

They can walk several miles to get treatment or advice at a rural clinic, but will not be assured of receiving help when they arrive.

Lets re-open the Donhodzo Health Center so that the residents have options. I would personally like to see the next

nurse be a woman so that she could take on the particular needs of the females of all ages. Every age brings changes to a woman's body and mind. It would be a tremendous asset to bring feminine perspective and consultation to the women who work so very hard for their families and are very little understood.

We began a pregnant woman program in June. Zimbabwe is 14th in the world

of 183 countries in terms of the mortality of women and infants. 14th! Many of the reasons are controllable. What can we all do to be part of the solution? The goal is to provide a diversity of services which encompass the needs of girls and women, and give specific attention to the women who are bearing the lives of the next generation. Step up with us in 2014! Tatenda Chaizvo!

OUR YOUTH WELL BEING PROGRAM PUTS THE \$\$\$ WHERE ITS NEEDED!

MOST OFTEN CHILDREN IN ZIMBABWE ARE SEEN AND NOT HEARD.

There is a very important role they play in observing and honoring their parents who are observing and honoring their ancestors. Its an entire system of interwoven threads that make a societal fabric. Our goal is to add strength to that fabric. We need to support the children in their seeking of well-being primarily because the current economic hardships have broken some of the threads that made their traditional society strong. For example, a young girl or boy is to seek advice about romance and dating through visits with their aunts and uncles. What if their aunts or uncles are no longer alive or live close by? Now its common, that many relatives have gone to seek work all over Africa. So the reality is that a young person may not have an aunt or uncle with which to consult. No big deal, just go to the school counselor, or God forbid, get advice from your peers. Why not just talk to your parent? Because there are taboos which are traditional in nature that inhibit that sort of exchange. Although the original cultural bias against parents telling their children about sex may have been grounded in perfect rules of order for freedom of choice and lack of oppression within their society,

now the rules can't be followed and we have many children without guidance. This is only one example. There are many ways that our Youth Well Being program can intercede on behalf of the rural children to help them find their way:

music, dance and song after school and on weekends. **(Jangano children need mbira lesson sponsorship!)**

a community library,

"Underwear for Over There" so that girls have panties,

"Monthly Care for Over There" so that maturing girls have healthy options to address their growing bodies' needs (we have waited for the electoral campaigns to cease because our training gatherings would be misperceived as political rallies.)

Weekend campout retreats to learn basic Girl Guides protocol while giving young girls and boys the time to be outside of their family structure for a brief period to learn about a less homogenous world-view. The Life Skills Learning Retreats offer ways to discover more of

their potential by expanding their individuality and engaging with the be-happy gene that is primary to nature, all of which lessens the great burden of poverty and economic strife.

Although not a war-torn country, the vestiges of a continuing economic battle put undue hardship on the well-being of the children, who are the future. Your contribution towards these children's early years makes an untold difference. How can one measure being able to play, read literature, know comrades through music, art and storytelling? You do change their lives!

REMEMBER!!!

1. EMPLOYEE MATCHING FUNDS will double your personal donation—check with your employer! 2. HP EMPLOYEES for example can all contribute as a team to purchase a "matched" piece of equipment (our computer is an antique) reducing the cost to half—email me! 3. SEE OUR WEBSITE for sculptures and CDs for sale — rapid shipping available. 4. TELL OUR STORY! Get the Teacher's Packet to watch fascinating short documentaries and slide shows. 5. DONATE TODAY!

Zimbabwe