



# Our Children Your Children In Zimbabwe

Jaiaen Beck,  
Executive Director

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## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- *Ancient Ways directly serves over 2,200 residents in Nhimbe for Progress and Jangano.*
- *Nearly 1,150 of the people we serve are children and 900 of these are school age.*
- *Our October 2014 survey at Nhimbe reveals that 33% of the families there have chronic health concerns, and 10% of the families have a seriously disabled member.*
- *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

Nhimbe Preschool Has Our Heart!	2
Youth Well-Being in Zimbabwe	3
Plenty of Fresh Water!	4
The Preschool is the Essential Core!	5
Our Library—An Uncommon Pulse	6
Thank All of You From All of Us!	



Recently the following letter was received from one of our village residents. The team and I had been discussing the dynamics of the world economy and how this has affected the Zimbabwe cost of living over the last 5 years as well as the disposable income available to an average American. This author is one of the minority that is well-educated and is fluent in English. Please read his impassioned letter written to you:

When Nhimbe for Progress was launched in the year 2000, the people of Nherera area in Mhondoro celebrated the uplifting of their lifestyles. This has been thanks to our sister Jaiaen, Ancient Ways, other donor organizations as well as individual donors, who have never tired of extending a helping hand to the broader Nhimbe family.

- ◆ We appreciate the school fees that have been paid for our children, the food that has been bought for the pre-school kids, some of whom leave their parents households in the morning without having eaten anything and therefore look to Nhimbe for salvation.
- ◆ We appreciate the food handouts that have come when

people were on the verge of starvation.

- ◆ We appreciate the replacement of houses, destroyed by cyclone Eline, the drinking water wells that were constructed in order to avail people clean household water, the construction of Blair toilets which has put a stop to the habit of using the bush for relief.
- ◆ We appreciate the certified maize seed donated, that has enabled our people to be self-sufficient in food production.
- ◆ We are grateful for the medical aid which has made it possible for our people to access health care services, without the need to walk long distances.
- ◆ We thank you for providing us with a well-stocked library, which we hope will instill a reading culture amongst our children.
- ◆ We appreciate the sewing and knitting assignments that have been given to our women-folk, the monetary proceeds of which have empowered them by uplifting their lifestyle.

Your efforts have not been in vain, as Nhimbe has managed to produce a number of university graduates. The government appreciates your initiatives, as attested by the Member of Parliament for Mhondoro, Cde Sylvester Nguni, and our local councilor Mrs Ruzvidzo, as well as our Chief Nherera.

All the above mentioned officials are very proud to be associated with Nhimbe for Progress.

The downturn in global economic performance, has also led to a decline in donor funding. As a result of the above mentioned phenomenon, Nhimbe has also not been spared either. However bad the situation might be, I would like you

**YOU MAKE  
THE DIFFERENCE!**

to give a thought for the likes of Mbuya Marwei Zvanezero, who has been with Nhimbe since its inception. She is a widow of over 95 years of age, who at one time was looking after 7 orphans left behind as a consequence of the AIDS pandemic. She is someone who appreciates Nhimbe's assistance. There was once a time when Jaiaen was giving away blankets, Mbuya Marwei was given one and she danced like she was going to break her legs. She was overwhelmed by her happiness. When a decision was made to temporarily close the medical clinic, she cried tears because she had become dependent on the clinic for her medical solutions. Mbuya Marwei is not alone as there are others like her, who value Nhimbe for their simplest basic needs. I implore you to help us keep Nhimbe thriving!

I thank you all.

Simon Magaya  
Mhondoro, Zimbabwe

## NHIMBE PRESCHOOL HAS OUR HEART!



Many times I have wondered how the resilience of children has saved humanity. Not the heroics of adults but the flexibility and adaptive nature of our little ones that gives humanity hope. Zimbabwe is no different. These children are living through a difficult time in their history and hold the future of the Shona people in their small open palms.

How they navigate the economic hardships, loss of family, and tearing of their society's cultural fabric is one thing. Dealing with a lack of food is another.

Studies have repeatedly shown that the nutrition children receive in their earliest years profoundly affects their quality of life forever. Their ability to think clearly, resist disease, and socially bond well are all affected by the bounty and variety, or lack of it, as their little bodies are developing.

For us, as an organization, to have adopted these 65 children, and made them our priority, is a profound devotion. We have only been able to remain

committed because of your love and willingness to help us each year. Annually we hire teachers, cooks, guards, maintenance staff, a librarian and a nurse who focus on the children. With your ability to assist us, we can assist them in the creation of a developmentally superior opportunity by purchasing quality food, materials for learning, and the required supplies for the latrine and sanitary cooking. Our partnerships with you and with the Nhimbe team can drastically change the children's futures. We can alter how their neurons and synopsis fire, how hungry they feel, how nurtured they are as they enter the academic track before them.

In 2015, Ancient Ways is prepared to again give these children a way forward, which takes the edge off of the poverty. They have a place to come each day that is designed with children in mind. They are fed a nutritious meal. Their health is looked after as are their educational needs. Between the song, rhythm and dance, there are building blocks and puzzles, and all of this makes the alphabet and numbers an attractive natural learning opportunity. We are once more ready to enlist the Mhondoro residents as another leg of the proverbial stool as we ask them for firewood, or other ways that they can contribute to keep the preschool vital and alive.

**IT TAKES THE GLOBAL VILLAGE TO RAISE THE CHILDREN.** Please join me in this heart-felt journey. The actual cost of sponsoring one child is \$330 for one year, even though we have been asking only \$100 - I just couldn't quite believe that the costs would continue to escalate, but they have. This budget directly provides them (i.e. this amount includes no funding for US operations) with:

- ☑ Minimal nurse oversight,
- ☑ Daily nutritious meals prepared hygienically by our cooks,
- ☑ Appropriate and nurturing engagement by teachers trained in early childhood development,
- ☑ Safe and tended grounds which they can inhabit freely during their outdoor time,
- ☑ Fresh foods from their own Nhimbe garden,
- ☑ Governmentally required uniform fabric for their dress, and
- ☑ Blossoming potential as they move on to one of the nearest primary schools.

**LESS THAN \$1 A DAY!**

The government in Zimbabwe has recently determined that preschool is the recognized beginning grade of the Zimbabwean educational system. The system is not free although required! Currently Nhimbe for Progress is a legal Trust, but not yet a PVO (private voluntary organization) and as such is not yet available for governmental support. Our intervention on behalf of these children will markedly determine the outcome of the next part of their academic adventure. Whether they decide to continue to higher education or not, they will always have these grounded beginnings to stand upon. Our school has been recommended in many official capacities in the Zimbabwean government sector as a model preschool - one that fosters growth, health and sustained learning potential for each child attending.

I invite you to collaborate with us in this highly encouraged venue for these children ... let's make it happen ... \$330 will see one child through 2015! But any amount is helpful! Can you set aside \$28.50 a month on a recurring credit card? This would include the 3% finance charge to us. It is a little over \$7 a week or just \$1 a day. Couldn't that be the spare change from your next lattes or video rentals?

Please consider that you can make a big difference in one of these children's lives! Tatenda Chaivzo! Thank you very much from all of us!





The Zimbabwean women of tomorrow are our young girls today. We can create opportunity for them:

- ♦ To learn about personal health, academics, and how to use their social intelligence,
- ♦ To believe that there is always a community resource that understands, as well as,
- ♦ To experientially be exposed to new ways of being.

This is all at our fingertips! We continue to raise money to fund Underwear for Over There and Monthly Care for Over There, as well as our extra-curricular programs for the children called Life Skill Learning Retreats.

How do you as a young girl learn how to think outside of the box about the turmoil in your adolescent life? From your peers? Are there any adults available who get it? How do you know that you deserve monthly sanitary supplies if your mom doesn't have them? What do you do when you don't have panties? How do you decide to not get pulled or pushed into intimacy with the older man or boy who flatters you as you walk home? We have been, and want to continue to be, part of the answer to these questions and more!

I hope my voice can be heard on behalf of these children as well as offer an up-close-and-personal window that glimpses the reality of growing up in Zimbabwe, not so that we can feel sorry for anyone, but rather so that we, in our fairly insulated lives, can be empowered to create opportunities for those who have less access to resources, both as information and materially. Through our alliance we can have an amazing influence on the lives of these children. Thank you for listening - my heart really needs the relief!

## BACKGROUND

There are so many things affecting the children today. In Zimbabwe there is a grave loss of an entire generation. That means that many grandparents, aunts, uncles or the oldest teen in the home are raising the children. Although this is actually a better solution than adoption in most all cases, it adds a burden that has become part and parcel of every family. I have seen no one unaffected by this shift in "normal" household patterns as the health of relatives, or lack of it, daily impacts each member of the family.

There has also been a generous amount of movement between the villages and city settings and it doesn't stop. The economy and so potential jobs, the transfer of land from white farmers and so potential home and agricultural hope, as well as disease and misfortune befalling one's relatives, all have created a huge transitional affect amongst the people, particularly rural residents. There has been a continued exodus of professionals out of the country as well as a general exit from rural life.

Probably one of the largest motivating factors for going to the city is that the lights and access to 'city poisons' is quite a draw in everything from easier access to alcohol, to craving informational bombardment on the internet and the next great tune on the radio. These all entrain the brain to look to the city for the fix but it isn't there. The garbage trucks don't work consistently so plastics and all other forms of garbage are burned on street corners, the water for the city comes from a polluted reservoir and is one of the most toxic sources available, rolling electrical blackouts called load shedding occur for 2 or 3 hours a day, and the prices are very high so getting by is not like it used to be, which at one time was a reasonable rendition of a simple albeit poor life in the townships.

We can't change what is going on with the evolution, but we can specifically arm our girls there with nurturing and broadminded, educated thought that can inspire them to internal greatness looking to achieve excellence, as well as build confidence to make better choices. It's 'when' they move to the city, not if, that they then can be more prepared with encouragement to think for themselves and not get taken in by the next sugar daddy. They can keep healthy practices for managing their monthly cycle not falling ill to countless problems, as well as feeling more empowered to go forward in life without running away from home to be with the next new fellow who looks like a possible husband, and then being left with child. Staggering teen pregnancy, premarital sex, youth marriage, and HIV continue as demanding but addressable issues.

**LIFE SKILL  
LEARNING  
RETREATS  
cost \$15**

*Can \$1.25 per month be your priority for the kids to have extra-curricular activities that orient them to be prepared well-rounded young people who can tackle their lives?*

**GEAR-UP  
A GIRL  
for \$10!**

*We had 187 girls enrolled last year: \$3 buys two pair of panties and \$7 can give a girl a monthly-care pack of fabric-made reusable cloths, a small washtub, and slice of soap each month!*

## TOGETHER—WHAT WE CAN DO!

OUR LIFE SKILLS LEARNING RETREATS include year-around extra-curricular services (after-school, weekend, holidays), plus the "Over There" programs, which serve both the girls' daily needs as well as the overshadowing lifestyle concerns facing them in their futures. We are asking you to help us sponsor monthly care for our 40 adolescent girls. To intervene in this way, the potential impact on her life is worth far more...It is invaluable. We also sponsor 123 Brownies (primary girls) and 24 Sunbeams (preschool girls), and 35 preschool boys, as well as 105 Machapuro boys for \$15. The boys are the youngsters who will be the future men and potential husbands, and they also need unique support during these incredibly challenging times. The gender roles in Zimbabwe have been very traditionally defined for centuries and this particular generation is needing to create a bridge to the future, as everything is

changing for them, just like for the rest of the world. They are not exempt, and in fact, because of living so close to the earth and then being uprooted from tradition, both in residence and in lifestyle, they must be even more resilient, more capable, and more informed to garner their way into surviving these times of transformation.

We can't let these 327 kids slip through the cracks! The abyss of modern life is too huge. Thank you for whatever you can do!



**NEW WELL RECIPIENTS!**

We are addressing health through the pre-school program, the extra-curricular program, and by building wells, but we have had to reduce what we can offer the local community at large. Because we are still in a position to offer a small amount of first aid assistance, we are asking for general support, and are hopeful about offering health education and services in the future! Thank you for whatever you can do!



## WHAT COULD BE A GREATER GIFT THAN PLENTY OF FRESH WATER?

Imagine no source of good water ... What do you and your family drink? How do you daily clean your body, your clothes, your dishes, your children? How do you raise a garden for your family, or trade produce with your neighbor? What do you do when disease enters your home and you are told to rehydrate someone with diarrhea using a solution of water, salt and sugar? Or clean the cut on your foot with salt water? Or bathe your baby's chapped bottom? Or cleaning up an Ebola infection? Clearly pure abundant water wins hands down!

For several years we have been building wells in Zimbabwe by collaborating with village well builders, the Ministry of Health department, and the locals. The health inspector identifies a safe location away from any rural toilet facilities, the family digs a 60-85 foot hole, and the builders, along with the help of our oversight team, bring all the pieces together. Thanks to your help we are at the end of finalizing the building of 16 wells for 2014! Building has to be wrapped up quickly now that the summer rains are beginning to fall.

Once May 2015 rolls around we can again build wells with your help. Why do we care? According to our October 2014 survey results, 9 out of 100 people have a well! This means that the other 91 people dig a hole, every time the last hole collapses. This hole is filled with muck on the bottom. It is where they collect their drinking water, where the rains pour in bringing ground water that is contaminated with feces and

other pathogenic bacteria, because about 6 in 100 Nhimbe residents have a toilet, and so the other 94 use the bush as the alternative (12 Jangano residents in 100).

The same hole is how they can water their garden if it is plentiful but typically, it is a hand dug hole only deep enough to access daily water needs for cleaning and cooking. Building a well seems like an obvious choice of investing \$250!

These wells not only last for generations, but are serving the extended families which often include not only the infants and elderly who are clearly vulnerable populations, but also the nieces and nephews and sometimes the adult siblings who have lost their spouses. What else can have such an impact on so many for so long as one simple clean water well per family?

Remember to join us again in 2015 to make a difference in these people's lives. Without clean water, how can we expect health, longevity, agricultural productivity, academic pursuits and empowerment? Please consider taking a small amount out of your monthly budget to contribute towards these efforts. \$21.50 a month using a recurring charge on your card, builds a well and covers the 3% financial charge. We can offer this easily if it helps you to jump on board.

Additionally, they paint your family name on their well lid as a huge Thank you!

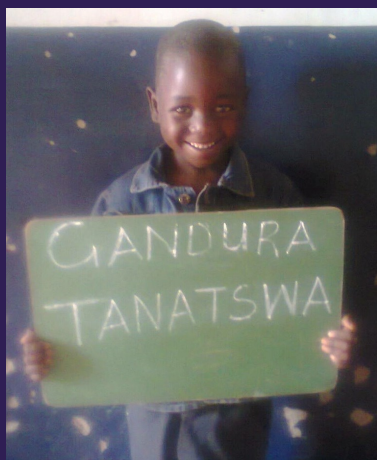
***“WITHOUT CLEAN  
WATER, HOW CAN  
WE EXPECT HEALTH,  
LONGEVITY,  
AGRICULTURAL  
PRODUCTIVITY,  
ACADEMIC PURSUITS  
AND  
EMPOWERMENT?”***

***PURE WATER WELL  
COSTS 69 CENTS/DAY!***



# Zimbabwe







## OUR LIBRARY—AN UNCOMMON PULSE ON THE SAVANNA!

### PRESCHOOLERS AND LIBRARY BOOKS



The Nhimbe for Progress library is actively running. Although we haven't been transporting books in our suitcases, sending books through our partner organizations, or purchasing Shona books in Harare lately, we have been maintaining the library and making it available to everyone who comes.

We are spending a total of \$1 a day to encourage everyone to read! How is that for an economical approach to making the world of words available?

We are serving not only the preschool children who can use the books daily, but also are open for the older children and families.

Another key benefit is that we are serving the local teachers from all the surrounding schools as well as local officials. Many of these folks are coming by to read a good book during their off hours. The teachers also visit to reference some of the materials that we have for the school curriculum, which may not even be available in their school class-

rooms, even though they are required for them to teach!

The closest large library is 1.5 hours away in the capital city of Harare. We haven't heard of any small ones in neighboring towns. Traditionally libraries are not sustained as a community resource - so we are an uncommon pulse on the savanna!

Thank you for your continued support and goodwill for our library venture!

### ROCK COUNTING



**HAPPY  
GIRLS!**



## THANK ALL OF YOU FROM ALL OF US!

Malala Yousafzai ends her speech to the UN General Assembly by saying, "So let us wage a glorious struggle against illiteracy, poverty and terrorism, let us pick up our books and our pens, they are the most powerful weapons. One child, one teacher, one book and one pen can change the world. Education is the only solution. Education first."

This strong and resilient 16 year-old young woman has interceded on behalf of children everywhere.

For 2015, I ask you to consider the reality of a girl's life in Zimbabwe and offer us a hand in uplifting this particular population that we are dedicated to educate.

We have a great track record with these two strong safety nets for these children but require your financial donation to deliver.

Thank you for joining us in this collaboration! The children, their families, our team in Zimbabwe, our team in the US, and our other contributors who endeavor to bring light into the shadows, all thank you for pitching in as partners, in whatever way your budget allows. Maybe it's money, maybe it's time, maybe it's you encouraging us with thoughts, words and good energy ... it all counts!

Thank you!

Do you shop at Amazon? Would you like them to donate to Ancient Ways? **THE NEXT TIME YOU WANT TO ORDER, GO TO**

### AMAZON SMILE!

[smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) instead, to take part in Amazon's corporate giving program.

On your first visit, you will be asked to choose your charitable organization. **CHOOSE US! ANCIENT WAYS LOCATED IN SCIO, OREGON!** From then on, Amazon will donate 0.5% of your purchase price to Ancient Ways. It's that easy! Everything is the same at Smile (cloud, music, kindle, etc.)! **FROM NOW ON, JUST BOOKMARK AND SHOP AT SMILE.AMAZON.COM!**

**...ONE CHILD...**

**EDUCATION FIRST!**

We specifically begin with the children in our preschool, and then follow with a devoted effort to track them as they grow, through our extra-curricular programs where we can intervene in a no-nonsense fashion, preventing a host of problems.

