



Our Children Your Children In Zimbabwe

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Executive Director

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Special Points of Interest

- IT WAS HEARING THE SWEET MUSIC FROM ZIMBABWE that first captivated us in 1990. We continue with Shona music study, classes and performances. We also continue to reach into our depths to bridge the cultural diversity amongst us all, making building community "the priority and final frontier".
- SIX VILLAGES create the Nhimbe for Progress core since 2000.
- THERE IS A NEW TEAM ON THE BLOCK, KICKIN' IT IN THE HOOD!

INSIDE

NHIMBE PRESCHOOL REOPENS 11/9/20	2
Oregon Bottle Drop	2
Listen In! Mwoyochena CDs	2
African Fabric Masks for SALE!	2
How Can You Help?	2
W.A.T.E.R! Wells and Toilets Everyone's Right!	3
NHIMBE COMMUNITY CENTER GARDENS!	4
MMC RESURGENCE	5
COVID-19 NHIMBE INTERVENTION	5
PICTURES!	6



Life has a way of teaching us how to evolve. No one said Zimbabwe would ever be easy, but that has never mattered. Important, yes. Essential, yes. Tenacity, a requirement, yes. Easy, no.

Fierce Love sums it up well.

2020 has put everyone involved through their paces. Cosmas Magaya, the co-founder of Nhimbe for Progress which began in 1999, passed on without warning on July 10. Besides being a long-time friend and cohort in this visioning, his personal mission to alleviate suffering of fellow Zimbabweans has now fallen to the shoulders of those remaining. His widow, Patricia Nyamande, was deeply moved to unexpectedly return to her father's rural home in the beginning of October, rather than stay in the Magaya village. She was being groomed for several years by both Cosmas and myself, to inherit Nhimbe leadership and administration, so this came as a large surprise, and an awakening.

Who is going to handle the affairs of this incredibly active and forward-thinking project?

After much discussion abroad and here in the US board room, we outlined a plan, all agreeing upon a partnered leadership between Mudavanhu "Muda" Magaya, Cosmas' son, and Febby Shava, committed volunteer since 2002, in charge of the preschool operations as well as Mhandara Monthly Care (MMC) maturing girls' program. Please see more about the two of them at Ancient Ways online HERE.

Muda and Febby make a well-balanced partnership. He handles the email, tech, and financial dealings as well as oversees the W.A.T.E.R project and marketing of the Nhimbe brand. Febby has the day-to-day grit of operations with all youth, reporting to the school district, as well as hands-on implementing all of the Covid-19 training and resource strategies. They both respect each other's expertise and appreciate what the other can bring to the team.

Another team member is me, Jaiien, the third stake in the tent, on the other side of the globe. We detail everything via hours of email and Whatsapp texting. Our Zimbabwean bookkeeper deserves mention in the middle of this, serving generously since 2004.

The fourth tent stake is our committed Board of Directors, whose five members help intuitively guide and hold the balance for the Zimbabwean crazy-upside-down economics, as well as our own US challenges.

You, the donors, have an incredible and extraordinary team at your disposal to continue pushing into the savannah where:

- ⇒ water is a luxury...
- ⇒ education, an insufficient empowerment resource...
- ⇒ and living conditions plus health care are sub-standard!

You (yes, you) are leading the team by your commitments to help, and that is a true vote of confidence in this passionate endeavor. All involved are gratefully willing to do their part, relying on your contributions, without which renders no progress.



Thank you for helping Ancient Ways and Nhimbe for Progress to keep the faith, the focus, the momentum, and also keep the fastidious records for both governments.

Tatenda Chaizvo! You do make the difference!

~ NHIMBE PRESCHOOL REOPENS 11/9/20 ~

Page 2

Nhimbe for Progress preschool, first beginning in 2002, has been on a temporary break, like all of the educational institutions in Zimbabwe. A small group of 35 preschoolers showed up on the 9th, which made the formal reopening much easier, than if there would have been three times that. Now there are 53, graduating 25. Everyone is very happy to be back to work. Gratefully, all volunteers were receiving a partial stipend during the pause.



The Health Inspector requires spraying the premises with bleach, weighing the children, and taking temperatures. We also had purchased two of our own infra-red thermometers for regular use. All operations and the new standards are flowing smoothly.

Taking turns as they arrive, each child uses the *chigubhu*, by stepping on the stick tied to a string and jug, so water with a touch of soap comes out. Worldwide, this generation's children is greatly impacted by Covid-19 protocol, in so many unknown ways.



Our costs remain \$195 per year per child to run the pre-school half-days, all being run on a shoestring budget:

1. food and preparation for a variety of daily healthy meals,
2. upkeep of the grounds, such as cleaning of classroom huts, as well as orchard & garden maintenance,
3. Library and teachers for first grade preparation, and
4. supplies for all operations.

Our Nhimbe Preschool has been recognized by the Ministry of Education as a model. We all thank you for investing in the minds and hearts of these children who are the future of Zimbabwe. By creating learning opportunities for the child's development early in their lives, their potential is maximized to contribute to their communities and the nation at large.

We all start in preschool...how that shakes out for these Mhondoro children largely depends upon you. *Our collaborative intervention is profound. Thank you for whatever you can do!*



Purity Zaranyika Housekeeper/Library

~ OREGON BOTTLE DROP ~

Can BottleDrop be an easy way for you to donate? One bag of returnables buys **Three, (yes, three) girls** monthly soap for 1 year! Check out how this works—**CHOOSE** Ancient Ways as your charity...thank you! www.bottledropcenters.com



Our Online Shop lets you listen to the track clips on the incredible [Mwoyochena kuZimbabwe CDs](#), all donated by the best musicians. If you don't have a copy, you should! The song selections are exquisite.

AFRICAN FABRIC MASKS FOR SALE!

PLEASE CHECK OUT our amazing selection of hand-made masks, with donated fabric and highly skilled seamstress time! Yours for a donation! The proceeds from this effort help us to intervene on behalf of our Zimbabwean neighbors to help with Covid-19.

~ HOW ELSE CAN YOU HELP? ~

Go to [smile.Amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) to donate a % of your purchases to Ancient Ways! Consider a recurring donation with a bank draft or credit card! Become a member! Donate your time...technical help is greatly appreciated and very needed, as is any gesture of time you offer! *Tatenda Chaizvo!*



We all deserve the basics!

Thank you for being part of the solution!



Kenny Ndavambi
MMC Marimba Teacher



Purity is watching over the building of her new well! Yes, that umbrella is not for sun, its for the coming rain !



Zaranyika village: mom & baby Paidmoyo Zvenyika



Brian Bhakuza
*Grateful Village Resident
(offering kuwombera with his traditional hand clap)*

~ W.A.T.E.R! WELLS AND TOILETS EVERYONE'S RIGHT! ~

We are completing two brand spankin' new wells in 2020. All previous monies for well building were directed to deepening this year. One well is for our librarian/ housekeeper Purity Zaranyika (left). The second well to finish before year end is for the Nhimbe preschool teacher, Susan Shanghwa. It's a blessing to offer more hygiene, since they work with community children daily! YAY!

Well building couple team!



We began the year with a list of wells to deepen, with one family realizing they didn't need to deepen, but rather to buy a longer chain! There is comic relief in this, even in the midst of these otherwise dire circumstances. A wonderful ah-ha moment!

We completed the deepening of 43 wells by October and an additional 29 wells in November! A total of 72 deepenings, including 7 wells for the elderly who could not dig. YES!

During my trip last December, I was told deepening a well would cost \$10, for a particular widow I was visiting, whose well needed an extra meter of depth ... that was a rough translation, and for the digger only. Another ah ha;*))

Now at the end of their winter, without rain for months, we found another 5 meters of additional depth really requires diggers to be hired, to get down to water levels. This added expense, along with cement, bricks and the builder, continues to raise the costs.

We are now facing \$120-180 a well for deepening and \$500-550 to build from scratch (depending upon if it is an elderly person who has no one to help dig).

All and all, this is not monumental or insurmountable and, since all operations are carefully supervised with construction following local Health Department standards. We feel very grateful with our feet firmly planted on this clear path forward towards water access! Water is a priority!

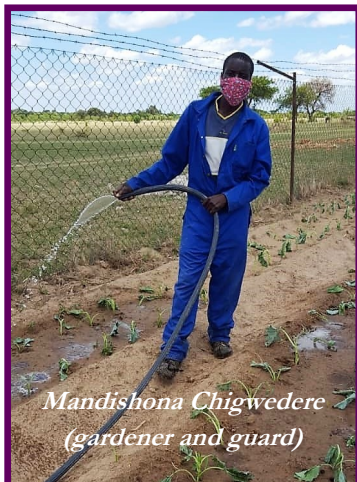
Think of all the ways you need water, let alone dealing with Covid-19! Your generosity affects an extended family for generations, giving clear water to wash, bathe, cook, and clean, as well as grow a garden for more community nutrition.

Please join us as we deepen more wells in 2021, as well as build wells for those without. Whatever way you can assist the villagers is enormously impactful!



~ NHIMBE COMMUNITY CENTER GARDENS! ~

Page 4



*Mandishona Chigwedere
(gardener and guard)*

We have one big request for 2021! We are fundraising to establish the drip system for the 22 rows. We only need to buy the drip line, gum poles, and buckets. Current estimates come to \$3,600 to run the lines throughout. This is a key sustainability plan for Nhimbe's long term!



*Fortunate Takaendesa Nhimbe
preschool teacher and MMC*



... SERVING THE PRESCHOOL AND VULNERABLE ...

We began expanding our Nhimbe garden and orchard to include 10 additional rows during the 2019 visit. We were trained in a bucket-drip-line system that is an incredible boon to rural farming. With the added purchase of a hose, we are making big headway hooked up to our incredible fountain from the bore hole and windmill installed in April.

Additionally, the team manually prepared 14 more very long rows during the winter (June-August). Yes, that means shovels and hoes, maize stalks and compost brigades, water and more water then raking into beds. There was quite a team of people working to put it together. I think the new bore hole is the most impactful thing I've seen—it shouts abundance as water gushes forth and inspires gardening! Bless you for all of your assistance to put this miracle together!



*Musufare Ziriwo & Mandishona
Chigwedere - gardeners and guards*

Our Nhimbe guards took over the 24-row garden management in July. Each one works nights for 10 days as a guard, and then during their 10 days off they tend the garden. They have stepped up in this important capacity to care for the grounds. The garden has extreme potential for raising capital for improvements, maintenance, and helping with daily operations of the preschool.



The bore hole was a major investment to help us achieve these goals. Besides clean and abundant water, it assures our local community of fresh produce, meaning more nutrition as well as long-term possibilities of produce sales in town.

For our Covid-19 intervention for the vulnerable (the elderly and pregnant or nursing women), 20 people come every 2 weeks for their free bunches of rugare and vegetables.

The guards continue to take care of the moringa trees they planted in January 2020. There are 5 of them which survived their first year. These trees as you may recall are called a "tree of life" and are so loaded with nutrition that a person does not need vitamin/mineral supplements... *they just eat moringa leaves!*



I'm happy to sing praises to the guards and their inspiration to keep things moving forward when so many things were at loose ends for several months, with Covid-19 stopping the school operations, and the entire team without their founder and leader.

Thanks to them, and thanks also to you who share the vision, and support this beautiful work! Any way you are able to assist in 2021 to is incredibly appreciated. As an investment, I see so many ways that it is helping the Nhimbe project become self-sufficient, which has always been the dream! Many blessings your way in 2021!

~ HELP US GROW OUR SUSTAINABILITY! ~

~ Mhandara Monthly Care Resurgence ~

Page 5

After an 7-month hiatus, Mhandara Monthly Care (MMC) has come back strong. Government virus lock-downs since April required no school, but that recently changed. Children are back to school, and the oldest students were the first to attend our November MMC Friday after-school meetings with a turnout of 33.

Like usual, they talked together about the MMC program, but now a large focus is



Covid-19 protocols. The children were given a mask, if they didn't arrive covering their faces. These masks were sewn by our women's group

from a simple pattern that we sent in April on Whatsapp. The girls are also learning to sew masks. They are starting with one for themselves and then more for family members who may not have one, like siblings.

We also would like the eldest of the girls to participate when we distribute soap and masks to the villagers. The goal is to make sure that families have soap, and so a long laundry bar every 2 months is recommended. The girls can volunteer in various ways and see how things are put together. They can earn credits for each time they volunteer and receive a prize for being involved. For instance a hand towel, or a pen for school, is a nice prize.



Before the end of the year we expect to provide over 40 new girls with their MMC start-up kits (soap, bucket, 3 pairs of underpants, reusable washable pads, and a sewing learning kit). This will get them going in our program. We are holding off on our 3-day Teen Care Camp. Monthly soap distribution is expected to follow in a routine manner. And, marimba music, singing and dance lessons also continue. 84 girls are now attending Friday afternoon meetings!

[SEE VIDEO ONLINE!](#)

Girls who stay home because they don't have monthly care supplies, also don't do well on tests, don't learn English, don't graduate, and are often found with larger teen challenges, such as pregnancy, dropping-out, and early marriage. One plus one equals two. Is it hard to imagine poverty so great that you can't buy supplies?

"Girls who stay home...don't do well on tests, don't learn English, don't graduate and are found with larger teen challenges..."

Help us, help them! Join with us in reaching the girls and giving them monthly supplies and personal education for dealing with their bodies' hygiene and function as well as dealing with boys! Thank you for whatever you can do!

~ COVID-19 NHIMBE INTERVENTION THROUGH U.S. MASK TRIBE ~

We continue to seek the best ways to help the Nhimbe residents outlive the Covid-19 virus. More masks and soap are being distributed yet in December 2020, as we did earlier this year in May along with training that we organized for about half of the village households. The people are so grateful for it all:

- ⇒ Providing fabric, training, and pay, for a mask-making collective of Nhimbe women who learned how to sew an easy pleated pattern, producing 286 masks in May, and now making another over 400 before year-end.
- ⇒ Providing soap to the families for handwashing,
- ⇒ Deepening wells so that water is available, since this multiple-year drought has families in a desperate situation **worse than no food, is no water.**
- ⇒ Offering education in every way possible through adult gatherings (yes, sitting in a field 6' apart with face coverings), as well as directly with the children who attend preschool and the MMC girls.
- ⇒ Providing the vulnerable (elderly and pregnant mothers) with regularly supplied fresh produce.

Soap distribution was intended to be every 2 months, so that the families have consistent supply they can count on, not having to make a decision between food or children's school fees and more soap for the family. About half the people showed up in May, not really knowing what this virus was. Then Cosmas passed on from Covid-19 in July and the light went on. Now we expect to reach more villagers!



Thank you for purchasing our masks online ([HERE](#)) as that revenue impacts all of the intervention!

We also appreciate that you have extended your hand to so many people that you don't know, even when your own life may feel upside down or inside out. No one is exempt...be safe, be well!



Febby Shava, CHANGE! Project leader , MMC lead, and the Preschool head, working with Roselyn Mukuze, seamstress and the 'best cutter' in the women's sewing group.

Please consider that your choice to help us with any one of these projects is exactly what makes the difference!

The MMC maturing girls are being given a life changing opportunity for expansion in leadership, health and wellbeing, and new kinds of peer relationships as well as monthly supplies.



Preschoolers are playing on the jungle gym that has been sprayed with bleach obtained from the Chibikira school. These are the same protocols we are seeing here in the US.



Muda, Nhimbe Co-Director, is farming his mom's land and his grandpa Joshua's, as he is spending more time in the rural area.