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**December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

**Dear Friends of Ancient Ways,**

**Greetings to all, from the Ancient Ways Board! It is remarkable to me that this year we are heading into the 30<sup>th</sup> year since the Ancient Ways non-profit was formed, and going into the 25<sup>th</sup> year since Nhimbe for Progress project was founded in Mhondoro. The donor support has been phenomenal and continues to sustain the efforts to help alleviate the extremely difficult conditions facing the Zimbabwean people in this region.**

**Our preschool program remains excellent, graduating 35 children this year. Plus, we have completed several needed improvements to the preschool facilities. As we look forward, we have a dedicated focus on our pre-schoolers by feeding, nurturing and preparing them for their 1st year in nearby primary schools.**

**Our Mhandara Monthly Care (MMC) continues to grow, this year providing our MMC start-up kits to 435 girls, (most of them from schools outside the Nhimbe villages!) We have also been very fortunate to have the opportunity to collaborate with teachers, who are partnering with the Zimbabwean Girl Child Network, for help with the weekly meetings for the primary and secondary girls outside of Nhimbe. The potential long-term impacts and benefits of this program are truly far reaching.**

**Our water program stays the course with the construction of 6 more wells in 2023, providing much needed clean abundant water to more village residents. This is an ongoing necessity that we plan for every year, which makes a huge difference in the lives of the families they serve. This year we were also able to initiate a program to provide quilts and comforters to elderly women to bring relief on the cold winter Zimbabwe nights. We are looking to maintain this effort through next year and beyond.**

**August this year, our board was excited to host Mudavanhu (Muda) Magaya, one of our Nhimbe Co-Directors in Zimbabwe. This was his first trip to America and allowed us a great opportunity to talk with Muda at length about the status of our current programs (both here in the states and in Zimbabwe), exchange ideas, discuss future needs, with time to really just get to know each other. Our meetings were very productive and we sincerely hope we will be meeting with him again in the near future.**

**Over the last 30 years, besides the above-mentioned preschool, MMC, and wells, Ancient Ways also operates an incredible community library, and has sponsored thousands of children to attend local schools in all grades, built toilets, smokeless stoves, and huts, often providing relief funding to get through both unexpected disasters and also famines. All of this was only be possible with your generous contributions and encouragement!**

**Our team here and in Zimbabwe continues to provide a strong, reliable infrastructure to ensure that every donation dollar received is well spent or saved for that inevitable "rainy day". We ask that you consider any of the many avenues listed in our Annual Letter, as well as also becoming a member of Ancient Ways. Your committed contributions, in any amount, inspire us as we move into next year's planning process. I want to express my sincere gratitude to all who have assisted our efforts over these past 30 years. I wish you all the best.**

**With Warm Regards,**

**Jan Six**