



afadu
aid · for · africa · down · under

AUTUMN 2013

Come Alive!

NEWSLETTER OF AID FOR AFRICA DOWN UNDER AUTUMN 2013



PHOTO: Lirhanzo School Bush Pump

This issue:

WATER, WATER, WATER!

Drought / Borehole / Oceans / Rain!



Craig Gear

Chair of AFADU

This Autumn issue of Come Alive! is a less formal approach to telling the Zim story. Our editors claim they have been very lazy. They have decided that the best people to tell the 'story' of what is happening in Zim - at LCV and in the Chikombedzi community - are those on the ground. This includes the AFADU board in Oz and contacts in LCV and at Edenvale - and anyone else who has stumbled into our email sys-tem. So they have assembled bits and pieces from emails exchanged since our last newsletter. Contributors - please for-give our editing - but changes have been made in the interests of ensuring all readers continue to the last exciting page! We think the use of the words from Zimbabwe tell the story of the difficulties and triumphs of the people on the ground (with assistance and support from Down Under) better than straight reports and narratives. These are real words and real feelings!

Our 'theme' for this particular edition is WATER. In Queensland and NSW we have been inundated by tornados, cy-clones, monsoons-affected weather patterns resulting in dams overflowing and towns flooding. In southern parts of Australia bushfires raged with no rain since December 2012. WATER embraces topics we hope 'flow' together suc-cessfully in this issue. Remember - the human body is seventy percent water. Best wishes to all of you for a bountiful 2013. May it shine and rain for you. At the right time and place - and not too much...

LCV WONDER WOMEN

Most of the words reproduced in this issue come from emails and messages by two key women who live the Zim experience every day. Below are brief biogs of them so you know who signs off: Love to all, LCV

(We have also included edited correspondence from fundraising functions in Australia usually involving women but men too!)

Ezelle

Ezelle was born in South Africa. She studied nursing at University but before she completed her training she had a whirlwind romance with a farmer from Zimbabwe. She married and was whisked off to share an idyllic lifestyle on a 400 square kilometer cattle and game ranch on the Mwenezi River. Over the past fifteen years or so the fortunes of the ranch and Ezelle's family, by now including a son, changed in the social and political circumstances of the country. The farm was reclaimed by the government, many workers on the farm were unemployed and poverty and HIV/Aids spread through the community. When workers died their children were left alone and Ezelle began building an orphanage which became Lirhanzo Children's Village (LCV). She also set up a tiny kindergarten at the farm and later established a school within walking distance of LCV. Ezelle is a key participant in the Chikombezi Mission Hospital, having been a former Chair for many years.

Margret

Margret, as a teenager, was supported by Ezelle through Secretarial studies at Technical College in Zimba-bwe. After successful completion of her course she sought work with Ezelle and now manages the Lirhanzo Children's Village on behalf of AFADU. She lives in Chikombedzi with her husband who teaches at the local secondary school, and her two children (along with two AIDS orphans the family have adopted).



About Aid For Africa Down Under (AFADU)

AFADU is a not-for-profit charity based in Australia which supports charitable works in Southern Africa, particularly Southern Zimbabwe, where a children's orphanage and local hospital are provided with funds and material support from sponsors and do-nors from Australia. All funds go to support children, their carers and the communities in which they live. All premises, printing, media, legal, transport are donated by sponsors and volunteers so that there are no administrative costs. All the goods and funds received therefore go directly to the children and the community development projects that AFADU supports. Come Alive! is pro-duced as an aid in providing sponsors, members and interested people with information about the work being done by the organisa-tion and its supporters. Further information is available at AFADU's website at www.afadu.com , by emailing afaduco-mealive@yahoo.com or writing to PO Box 3023 Redfern, NSW, 2016 Australia. ACN: 107 632 904

DROUGHT

ANIMALS

December 2012

Dear All

This has been a very difficult year in terms of animal food. There is completely no food for animals anywhere due to no rain falling. There is no grass and people are digging certain roots in the fields to feed cattle, there-fore all the cattle are very thin. If it does not rain soon most animals will die. The goats have not been sold, we haven't found a good buyer. Shonhai is still look-ing after the cattle. The donkeys are look-ing much better than the cattle and they are being very useful transport wise.



Some of the goats in better times



LCV GARDEN

We had a few vegetables in October but it did not last long due to too much heat. Our biggest chal-enge was the diesel to water the vegetables. We could not plant vegetables because it needed lots of water and with our budget we could not afford it. The garden fence is now well fixed that the animals can no longer jump in.

Water for irrigating has been a challenge to our garden. We could not afford to water twice a day because we could not afford the diesel. The gar-den required a lot of water and it has been so hot that many irrigations in the area failed including the one near the river. We want to thank all the members who are contributing to the day to day survival of Lirhanzo Children's village. We really know what it means to have friends like you who are al-ways there in all times. We are happy and appreciate all your efforts.

Love to all

LCV

SHADE CLOTH

Dear all

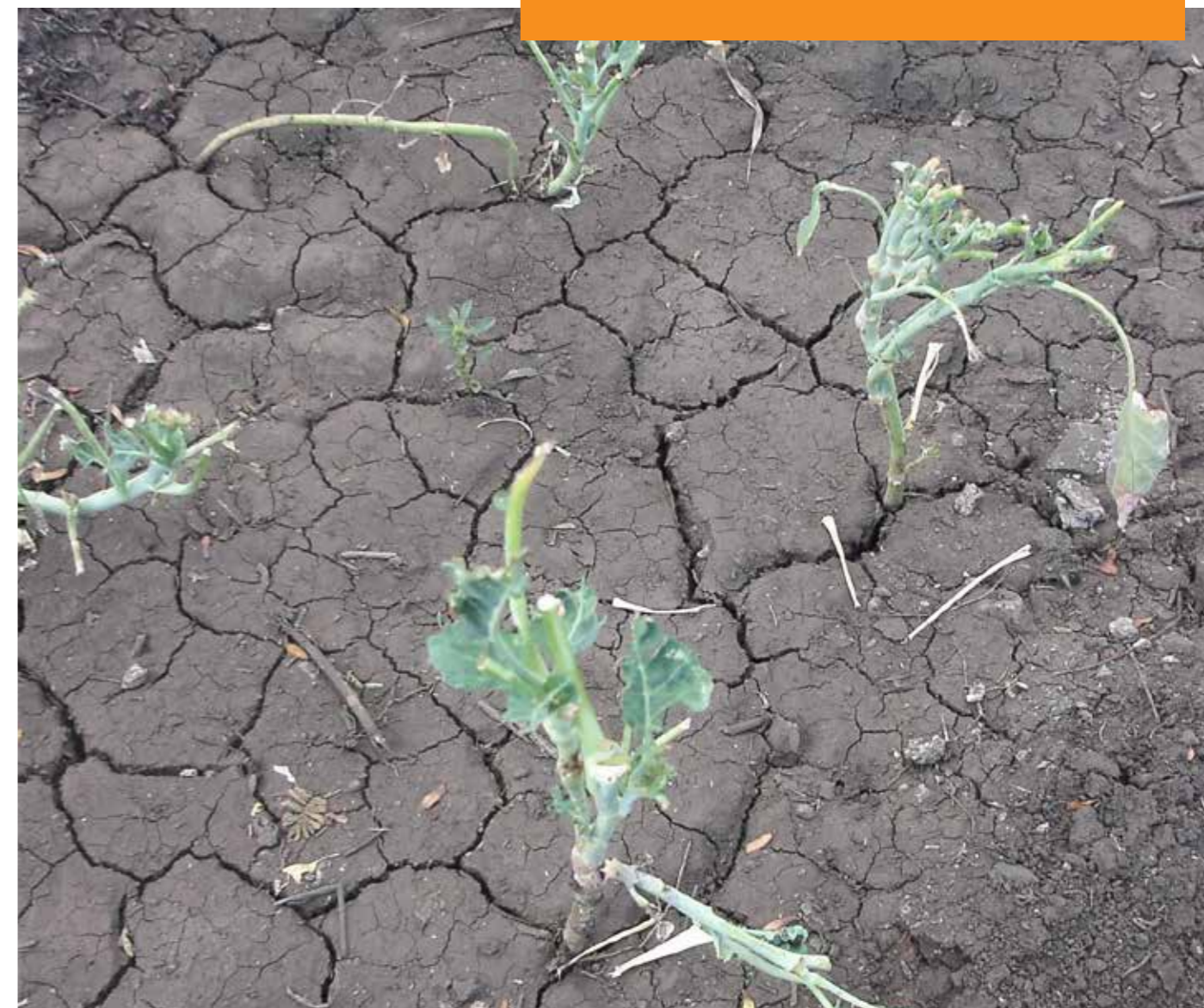
We could not put these up earlier because we wanted to do them properly and final-ly we found some money to buy the material to make the frames. Victor made the frames for us and erected the first one at LCV. The others will follow after his SA holiday as he is going to make the bends for the corners at his cousin's home in SA to save costs. It looks like a strong structure and the advantage is that one can move the whole thing if it needs to. He is making three more for LCV, one for the irrigation group and for the Edenvale garden. We tried to do the de-sign so that it uses the cloth of one roll.

Love from LCV

Dear LCV

How bad the drought is! When I arrived for the first time in June 2005 it was in the middle of a drought and it saddened me to see the suffering that those conditions brought on the people. I pray for rain and watch the news every night for news of it. I am not sure what we can do about the goats but it must be heartbreaking. What animal feed are you able to buy for the \$20 month which is in the present budget?

Wendy (AFADU Board)



-THE- BORE HOLE

DRILLING THROUGH DESPAIR.....

Background

The orphanage is situated on a site dependent on water pumped several kilometres from the Mwenezi River. This has proven very unreliable. Presently there are around 40 orphans living in the orphanage and 157 students attend the new school nearby. Guardian mothers and teachers also live on site and are dependent on this water supply for all their needs. The water from the river flows from two pumps. One is located in the sand accessing river subsurface flow, and the other at the top of the bank to pump the water. Local farmers also use this flow for irrigation of crops. Both engines are old and maintenance intensive. They need a great deal of fuel which is difficult and expensive to obtain as the nearest supplier is over 80 kms away. There is no delivery service and the ranch vehicle is used to transport the fuel.

The children are often left with little or no water, necessitating long walks to obtain supplies. There are associated health risks from drinking, bathing, cooking, washing clothes and bed linen in river water in which cattle defecate. An experienced hydrologist/geologist from Masvingo came and said there is ground water at a reasonable depth close to the school and orphanage. As there is no local electricity and small generators expensive to run and maintain, a solar pump is required and more tanks to ensure a safer level of reserve water.



The Onga pump drawing water from the river bed

November 2012

Hi Fergal (AFADU Board)

We just came back after leaving for Harare on Monday. We were called to Harare to meet with Australia's Ambassador, about the Lirhanzo borehole proposal on Tuesday. He wanted to meet us personally to ask a few questions about the history, etc. and was very happy about our Australian connection and wanted to know what the contribution of AFADU is to Lirhanzo. We told him that AFADU carry us and that we are very close. The consulate basically had agreed on most of the proposal and had to tick a few boxes still before the committee to give the final green light. She commented on how professional our proposal was and that it counted in our favour. We explained that it was our special friend from Aus that did it and we could take no credit for it. Thanks Fergal!!!. For the next few days we were running around Harare trying to get quotes ... The consulate is now satisfied and we can expect the funds. We are not sure when but we are over the moon!!

12 December 2012

Dear All

The surveyor finally came out yesterday and surveyed the two boreholes. The one for the orphanage and can you believe it! He found a spot right near the existing rain tanks in the yard. The second hole is near the top end of the school behind the hill and about a kilometre away from the orphanage. That hole will be 25m deep and give us very good water and can be used with the bush pump. The proof will now come when the drillers arrive on the weekend, so we pray hard that all goes well. Yesterday, after taking the surveyor back to the tar road, we had to go to Zinwa to pay \$60 for each hole for the application to drill and after the holes are drilled we have to go back there to pay the same amount for each hole for the borehole permits.

Love from all at LCV

Borehole drilling in the LCV grounds



Hi All

Nothing is guaranteed when it comes to drilling for water. Some of us did not have a lot of hope for the hole at the orphanage because the area at the school site had more of the correct geographical features needed for a good hole. The fact that the hole was actually sited inside the yard of the dormitories and kitchen hut was in itself a miracle. We spent a lot of time during this whole exercise, monitoring the drilling because we were all anxious for the holes to come up with a yield. All the teachers and guardian mothers of the orphans came to watch us measure and check figures over and over. Even the Principal of our little school left his office. He stood in the shade of a mapani tree with the older children while the little ones played in the dirt from the hole dug earlier near the vegetable garden. The one that didn't yield.

The drill broke down twice and the first time we had to rush with the driller to the nearest railway line to get a lift to Bulawayo to repair the hydraulic hose of the compressor. The second time the air hose burst and the owner who had come to see how things were progressing rushed back to Bulawayo to get it replaced. Our friend who lives with us offered to do some welding repairs on the drill.

Then we all moved to the second site. The school grounds according to all including the drillers was the better site. We made a picnic next to the drill for the day and watched in anticipation as they drilled meter after meter. The first break at 25 m where we were supposed to find water was bone dry. The boss driller then drilled through stuff that looked like cement rock. We joked that if we did not find water we could always put up a cement factory! The hole stayed dry through all the breaks and our hopes grew faint. At 46 m there was no sign yet and it was past 5 in the afternoon. The driller (a very nice Ndebele man) also lost hope and wanted to stop drilling. The report said to drill up to 70m which was out of our budget. We all went home very disappointed.

They found water after drilling late into the night! Unfortunately they left very early before we could talk to them. Their report said they drilled to 50m. This is strange. We cannot believe they took that long to drill only 4m after we left. Maybe they felt sorry for us



Solar pump

and decided to drill deeper but only reported 50m to their boss so we don't pay more. The yield is not so good. Only 225L/hour but for a hand bush pump this should do. It is better than having drilled and getting no water. We are very grateful for the two holes.

Off to Masvingo tomorrow to go and pay the drilling and surveying bills so far. We have to submit also 10% of the bill (which we deduct from the supplier if they don't have an ITF263 (Tax Clearance Certificate) to ZIMRA in Masvingo. This is With-holding Taxes. A new law in Zimbabwe on all transactions over \$US250. As if we don't have enough paperwork. We have to get more numbers and papers for all these new laws. Will find out tomorrow what is needed. A team from Chiredzi will be coming in about a week to install the tank stand and tank and the solar pump. Yippee, no more carting water when the river is flooding.

Greetings to all
LCV



30 December 2012

The borehole at the Village was fitted with the solar pump and tank plus stand. So all done there and it is working fine. The water is just very salty like we expected from boreholes in this area. We are still pumping from the river as we need a lot of water for the garden at the moment. The solar pump is a backup and fill the gaps when the river pump cannot work. So yippee, no more carting of water up and down! The bush pump at the school is not complete yet as something was bent and they went back to Chiredzi. They will come back next week to finish that one off. So going slower than what we planned but it is actually finally getting there.

The solar pump and the hand bush pump at the orphanage are both working fine. The solar pump is working so well to the extent that we sometimes have to switch it off because at the moment the water is just used by the houses. They are still preparing the veggie garden and the rain was enough for the rest. The big consumption of water will come when the gardens are in full swing and the rain stops. The boreholes are both very salty as we expected in this area. Same as Chikombedzi. But water is water and we are so happy.

Have a wonderful New Year 2013
Love from LCV

What a little water will do

8 February 2013

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF INVOLVEMENT OF AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT

Lirhanzo founder, Ezelle and other members involved in the project have informed the local community and children of the role of the Australian Government and will dedicate the new pump and associated infrastructure, via a plaque, to the generosity of the Australian Government and its people. On behalf of the communities we wish to express our most sincere gratitude towards the Australian Government.

LCV

22 February 2013

BOREHOLE OPENING

Dear All

Am sorry for late reply but very busy at LCV preparing for the official opening of the boreholes sponsored by the Australian Embassy.

LCV

PS: Will send photos soon!

PPS: The ambassador postponed the official opening of the borehole until May when schools are open. His programme is a bit crazy now.



OCEANS AND SEAS

LUDWIG 'THE SEA' DVD

Dear All

As Zim is landlocked, the children rarely get to see the ocean. So Ludwig made an educational sea DVD and we played it at the school two days before closing and gave them their little containers with sand, sea-water and shells in. One or two actually drank the seawater, but that is kids. Even the teachers learnt a lot. We showed them an animation DVD afterwards and the two big solar batteries actually lasted the whole time running the projector and the speakers. The laptop pulls the inverter completely dead. It seems that the old power supply pulls a lot of amps. Even at home it makes the generator run slower, so we thought it may be better to use it with town electricity. We really need another laptop that does not use so much power. When we want to show them something through the projector, we need a laptop though for the decoder and dish setup which can stay at the school for lessons through the learning channel. Since it would be for certain age groups on certain subjects they can view it as a small group on the laptop without the projector. We will then do things for the whole school through the projector.

Love from LCV



ACROSS THE SEAS

26 February 2013

Hi Everybody

I have put together a wish list from the hospital's perspective. Obviously we would appreciate whatever we can get!!!

WISH LIST FOR CONTAINER

Water containers -any type and size, Cord Clamps, Sanitary pads, large size stainless steel kidney dishes, MacIntosh Fabric, Surgical Drape Fabric, bathroom Scales x 6 - the ones on offer here are very cheap and break easily, Sphygmometers - Pulse Oximeter, Laundry Powder, Electric Heaters x6, Chairs - just the standard sturdy armless type (we could use 20-30 no problem!), Wall Clocks x 4, White Boards and white board markers, Mobile privacy screens (the older style fabric on casters would be fine), Lockable Trolleys that could be used for dressings and drugs, Free standing fan x 4, work tables/desks x 6, weighing scale suitable for new babies, adjustable height measurement gauges, Doppler, Theatre stool, Heavy duty shelving, Rechargeable lanterns (those that can be recharged with by solar or by mains power), Gluco-metric strips, Urine strips (apparently very difficult to get in Zim at the moment), Diatherm with different heads, Connectors for the O2 humidifier, Theatre bed - tilting sort with slots for privacy screen, a good printer that will scan and also print photos and larger numbers of copies etc that we can use in Chikombedzi and Printer cartridges for the above

Thanks

Alison (AFADU volunteer in Zimbabwe)



CONTAINER NUMBER 15

3 February 2013

Dear LCV

We are getting goods together for the next container and this will be a 20ft container this time. Can you give me your wish list of what you want us to source and send to you so that we can start putting this together. In the last 40ft container there may have been things that you did not need as we needed to fill the container and this time we need to try and make sure we send what is needed.

Ian (AFADU Board)

Seaside Event

FOR LANDLOCKED ZIMBABWE

28 September 2012

We organised our AFADU fundraiser on a cold wet Sunday afternoon. We advertised in our local paper and invited every-one that we met. People were asked to donate items that they would have otherwise giv-en to the OP shop plus they could bring home made goodies. Anne made a luscious afternoon tea and we charged \$5 per person to attend an that included afternoon tea. Our friend Helen was the auctioneer assisted by another willing friend Peter. Items auctioned included a bike, home made jams, wine, cakes, as well as bric a brac and clothes. Unsold items were taken to the OP shop. We raised \$1600 on a fun afternoon sup-ported by very generous people. We intend to do something similar again next winter

Geoff

23 July 2012

Have just transferred \$1500 into AFADU account today.

Also banked your cheque for \$100 the other day - Total \$1600 to be used for nursing school project - that is the project we promoted on the day.

Love

Anne & Geoff

Queenscliff, Victoria

Sunday 15th July 2012

I am having a "High Tea and Auction" fund raiser for AFADU. I am making luscious cakes for arvo tea and have asked for a \$5 donation to come plus people bring something to auction. I did it last year for our daughter who was fund raising for SIDS & KIDS-it was a bit of an experiment and was so successful that I have decided to make it an annual event for AFADU. We are hoping to make \$1000++ We already have about \$200 donations from people who can't come so... I am going to make copies of the newsletter and print off the photos of our kids - it will be a fun afternoon - we light the open fire, open the bar and sell wine at \$5 per glass all of which goes to AFADU plus the \$5 per person. My friend is the auctioneer - what better way to spend a cold miserable Sunday afternoon?

Anne



BABY-LOVE-

IN-A-BAG

Hamilton, Victoria

27 January 2013

Monthly report

On the 20th January we held a sewing day at Bev's and made bags, change mats and bunny rugs to use at our meeting the next day. Jane and Kiara, Jessie and Bev sewed while Kim, was in charge of refreshments and finishing touches to article made.

Eleven people attended this meeting made up of six adults and five children.

40 bags (20 girls and 20 boy bags) were made up on the night and are awaiting shipment to Melbourne. I will combine these with the bags made up at our next meeting on the 22nd March..

At our next meeting we are hoping to make approximately 60- 80 bags.

Donated items since 6th September -

Hartwig Country Classic and Whats Inn in Portland donated material for the bags we make. So far we have made 45 bags from this material. They have advised me that they have plenty more samples for us we only have to ask. This will then ensure that we have plenty of bags in the future.

Eileen knitted many hats, jumpers, teddies and donated jewellery for mothers presents

Our Portland outreach girls made 10 beautiful baby jackets 53 baby hats and booties.

Marj gave us 40 soap containers.

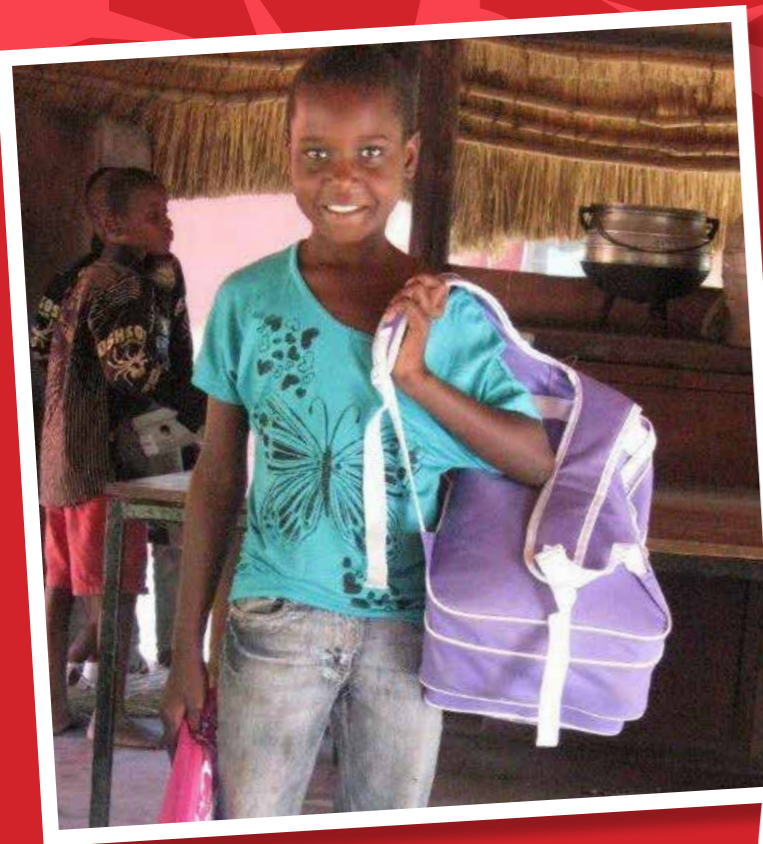
Kim and Jessie donated Mother's gifts

Bev





Thank you from LCV



CHILD SPONSORSHIP & Donations

HOW CAN I HELP?

AFADU has a range of ways you may help the children of Lirhanzo Children's Village (LCV) and the surrounding community.

SPONSOR A CHILD

Full sponsorship of the care and upbringing of a single child INCLUDING THE OPERATIONAL RUNNING OF THE VILLAGE (e.g. wages for carers), education, food, health and medical care is \$900 per annum. AFADU invites sponsors to share with friends and family and contribute this amount in supporting a child and in doing so supporting the community at large. Through sponsorship funds opportunities are generated for the community and its children to grow and eventually be self-supporting.

Contact: David and Susie at david.utting3@bigpond.com

SPECIFIC PROGRAMS

AFADU welcomes donations from individuals and businesses to help fund specific programs, such as those referred to in this newsletter and on our website.

Contact: info@afadu.com

GENERAL DONATIONS

If you would just simply like to make a donation we welcome one off or regular contributions of any size. These can be made via Pay Pal, Direct Deposit or by cheque and you will find all relevant information on our website: www.afadu.com

FURTHER INFORMATION

More details about the work of AFADU are available at our website: www.afadu.com, email info@afadu.com or you can write to PO Box 3023 Redfern NSW 2016 Australia.



Kiss the Sky

CREATIVE MEDIA

EDITORS: David & Susie Utting
ACN: 107 632 904

DESIGN: kissthesky.com.au





afadu
aid · for · africa · down · under

WWW.AFADU.COM