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Mission Statement

The U.S. - Africa Children's Fellowship, Inc. is dedicated to expanding and enhancing the education of children. Through developing respectful and trusting relationships, and appreciation for one another's culture, the project will increase educational opportunities for all participating children, and their communities. And it is through mutual understanding and support the children of Africa and the United States will build bridges to the future.

Activities in support of this goal include:

- Study and research
- Letter and e-mail exchanges
- Sharing of photographic histories
- School supports
- Collection of educational materials for African schools
- Raise funds for support these activities.

U.S. - Africa Children's Fellowship

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Our 2nd Shipment Arrives- Progress Continues

USACF wishes you could have been with us when we brought all the books, school supplies and toys you collected to the children of Zimbabwe. It was an amazing experience. Everywhere we went, we were greeted with songs, hugs and celebration. Eager principals showed us their new libraries, gardens and work centers. In every classroom we were welcomed with smiling faces and signs of progress. If you had come along you would have been filled by an overwhelming sense of pride and joy just seeing all that has been accomplished.

It is hard to put into a few words the incredible changes that have occurred in the sister schools since the first shipment arrived seven months ago. For the first time school classes have complete sets of textbooks from which to work, children are able to copy lessons into the notebooks and soccer balls made of paper and tape are a thing of the past. The worlds that students once dreamed of are now before them in the books. For the first time they can see the mountains of Mars, read the plays of Shakespeare and gaze upon the shadowy strokes of Rembrandt.

Headmasters have taken us by the hand and asked that we thank all who have contributed. There is a new sense of hope. Teachers have the materials from which to teach and children have the materials from which to learn.

What is most amazing is that all these changes have happened just in the last few months. Imagine all that will be accomplished by our tenth shipment, or by our twentieth.

USACF's third shipment will be sent off in July. Each shipment brings us closer to the day when every child has their own books.

You are a big part of all this. USACF can not be more proud of the work that supporters have done. 18,000 children and their communities have a brighter future because you recognized the need and decided to do something. We look forward to a growing partnership. It has been an extraordinary year.

Thank you for your time and energy. We have achieved great things!



Mark Grashow & Sheri Saltzberg

ITEMS NEEDED BY ALL SCHOOLS:

- **BOOKS** - children's books, young adult novels, classics, poetry, reference books, maps and any set of textbooks
- **SCHOOL SUPPLIES** - pens, pencils, erasers, writing pads, notebooks, paper, calculators, rulers, blackboards, chalk, etc.
- **ART SUPPLIES** - markers, crayons, construction paper, paint, paintbrushes, glue, glitter, scissors, stapler and staples, pen sharpener, etc.
- **SPORTS EQUIPMENT** - soccer balls, volleyballs and nets, basketballs and rims, cricket sets, tennis balls and rackets, ping-pong sets, sneakers, shorts, etc.
- **TOILETRIES** - soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, nail clippers, shampoo, sanitary supplies, plastic gloves, etc.
- **FIRST AID SUPPLIES**- disinfectants, skin creams, bandages, etc.
- **MISC.** - bicycles, garden tools, board games, radios, batteries, fencing, etc.

In Their Own Words:

Mr. Mandla Mangena;
Principal of Lukona
Primary

From the Maths, Science and English textbooks that were received, children no longer share reading materials. Reading has improved and the books fit well into our syllabuses. Class libraries have been introduced and children borrow books for further reading at their homes. Pencils, crayons, pens, just to mention a few, have benefited the entire school as some children are now exploring drawing in art. Attendance in school has greatly improved since textbooks are no longer something to cry about. The zero grades (pre-school) also enjoy playing with the toys as a result attendance is good.

The community is quite blessed by all these donations. Parents are now enthusiastic to send their children to school. Children at the ages of 4-5 years are now sent to pre-school. Parents are free to work in their homes and fields as children are pre-occupied at school.

Thank you for your continued support. Illiteracy will soon be a thing of the past in our community.

Mr. C. Foroma; Principal
of Saint Peter's Primary

I write on behalf of the school to thank you over the help you have given us. Myself, the head teachers, pupils and entire community are greatly in

appreciation of the assistance you have so far given to us.

Our students have greatly benefited from the library books and the sporting equipment. The books and other donations have made a tremendous impact on the educational development of the pupils. Definitely my school's pass rate will improve in the near future. The reading level of our pupils is improving because of your wonderful work. The staff members would like it known that they are appreciative of the goods which you have sent us. Words cannot express all our gratitude. We look forward to many years of friendship.



Dan and New Friends

Dan's Notes...

Dan Brof (our heavy lifter) volunteered to accompany and assist with Shipment #2.

Growing up, my father instilled a great curiosity and wonder about the world we're part of, in an anthropological and historical setting. From an early age the one place I was always the most curious about was the continent of Africa. When the Grashows invited me (or did I invite myself?) to accompany them on their latest trip, I jumped at the chance.

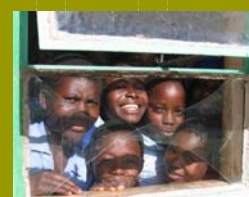
What better way to spend a couple of weeks than in Zimbabwe helping with a shipment of books and visiting rural schools on behalf of USACF. Africa was and is everything a curious traveler could hope for. With its incredible landscapes and wildlife, and seemingly endless skies, you could easily get sidetracked from the purpose at hand, which might help describe the laidback and easy going nature of its people. But the thing that stays with me most, was actually meeting students and staff at the schools. My lasting images of Zimbabwe are the beautiful and smiling faces of the children we met at the sister schools. Sensing their warmth and enthusiasm, and their endless smiles really brought the trip into focus and reinforced why we were there. Helping these kids to have the materials to learn about the world as well as have some fun along the way with a donated bike, soccer ball or sneakers is more reward than I could ever ask for. The expressions of awe of the teachers and head masters as they surveyed their new books and supplies...it doesn't get much better than that!



Fall Fundraiser

USACF is planning to produce a calendar for 2007. We will use photos taken in Africa. We anticipate it to be a Best Seller!

School Windows



“Sewing” for the Future

A New Program: Fabric and Fashion

Mangubeni Secondary School now has a new program, thanks to the generosity of a few wonderful New Yorkers. When Grace Wilner donated an antique manual sewing machine, and members of the Quilters’ Guild of Brooklyn donated sewing supplies, Mangubeni finally had the resources for a new and needed program.



Students receive training in hand sewing as well as turns on the “wonderful, machine”! Notebooks are full of fabric swatches, carefully pasted in to best show samples of practiced stitches. Wooden blocks are left near the machine as several of the girls were unable to reach the peddles and unwilling to give up their time for machine sewing! The students are excited and the teachers are thrilled.

Thanks to our generous donors!

The Agriculture Teacher

He came over to me after the headmaster had completed his tour of the school. He asked if he could speak to me privately. I nodded and he took me into an empty classroom. His is Nyathi and he told me he was the agriculture teacher. He had just one problem, he could not do any agriculture. He had no tools, no fencing and no seeds.

I told him that USACF could make no promises but if he gave me a list I would see what I could do. Within minutes, he slipped the list into my hand. He asked for: garden forks, picks, rakes, wheelbarrows, buckets, watering cans, a 100 meters of hose and chicken wire.

Agriculture serves three purposes within a school. First, it teaches the students how to grow crops. Secondly, the produce grown enables the school to set up a lunch program. And finally, extra produce can be sold to raise funds.

Using funds from the sale of green wristbands, USACF purchased everything Nyathi asked for. We even got a few local hardware stores to donate 100 packets of vegetable seeds.

I can't wait for the day when the ORAP truck arrives at Nyathi's school and all that he ever wanted is laid out before him. It should be the smile of a lifetime. I'll try to take a photo. - MG



The Evidence of Change

Below are just some of the changes we have witnessed between the 1st and 2nd shipment. I don't even think that being there and seeing these changes first hand really allows you to understand the full ripple effect these goods have on their communities. The stories flow in. We never stop being surprised.

1. In one school reading passing rates have risen from 3% to 50%.
2. Schools now have libraries that are utilized by students, staff and community. Principals complain that their teachers are very sleepy because they now read novels late into the night.
3. Donated sewing machines allowed for the creation of "Fabric and Fashion" programs.
4. Because of donated toys the enrollment in Zero-Grade classes (kindergarten) has risen sharply. In one school enrollment increased from 15 to 80 pupils.
5. Donated fencing has allowed for the planting and cultivation of vegetable gardens.
6. For the first time some schools are running art classes.

7. More students can play sports because of donated sports equipment, uniforms and sneakers. With greater availability of soccer balls, girl's teams are now being formed.

Students who never played sports because they only had their school uniform to wear, now are able to play and compete. Mangubeni Secondary placed second this year in soccer competition. In years previous, they never won a game.



Tame Primary School's Bookroom ...

8. With the donations of circular saws, jig saws and other carpentry tools, a center is being developed that will build desks, benches and bookcases for participating schools.
9. Tutorials have been created to better prepare secondary students for "O" level exams.
10. A community of educators has been established. Headmasters and teachers of participating schools now meet on a regular basis to coordinate curriculum, share materials and standardize exams.



... A new Sports Team...

A Short Story

One day as I ran to deposit the USACF donations in an unfamiliar bank branch, I again realized that generosity can be spontaneous and inspiring! As the bank teller checked my figures and then checked them again, she asked me questions about the USACF. I told her about the organization and its goals. She handed me my receipts... and a donation of \$50. Just like that! She said she just wanted to feel a part of all the good work! It sure made my day!

- Sheri Saltzberg

Carpentry Center

Three of the boxes included in the second shipment contained carpentry tools. ORAP and USACF have agreed to establish a carpentry center near Siganda Secondary. Here students will not only learn carpentry skills but they will learn to build furniture that the schools desperately need. This furniture would include desks, benches and bookcases. It is hoped that the Center will be able to sell some of their furniture to deter costs of running the center.

USACF green wristbands, embossed with the word **FELLOWSHIP** are available in packets of twenty (20) for Fundraising purposes.

Each container costs \$10,000 to ship.

We look forward to another incredible year, but we still need your help. You can help by supporting us financially or by donating needed supplies. This project changes lives and not by the hundreds, but by the thousands. Help us keep it alive.

USACF is a 501 C 3 Tax Exempt Organization.

All gifts are tax deductible to the full extent of the law



U.S. - Africa Children's Fellowship

The US Africa Children's Fellowship, Inc. is a non-profit organization, dedicated to expanding and enhancing education for children in the US and Africa.

We are primarily dependant on your kindness, generosity, vision and trust. All gifts are tax deductible as far as the law permits.

- \$ 25.00 Friend \$ 100.00 Mentor \$ 500.00 Head Master/Mistress - Principal
 \$ 50.00 Supporter \$ 250.00 Teacher \$ 1,000.00 Ambassador

In Kind Donation _____ Describe _____ \$ _____ Other _____ The "Your name Here!" fund.

Enclosed is my Contribution as listed above (Checks payable to US-Africa Children's Fellowship)

Name _____

Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

Telephone _____ E-mail _____

Would you like to join our mailing list? (circle one)

YES NO

Would you like to remain anonymous? (circle one)

YES NO