

Jonathan's Impact Orphan Ministries

October 2023 Newsletter

2023 Mission Trip Completed!

After a very long period of not being able to make a Mission Trip to Zim, Cassy and Steve are happy to announce that they were able to complete a trip to Harare from October 5-14, 2023. We were able to meet with the kids and staff at the Chileleko and Shammah Homes, as well as the Habitation of Hope center.

Shammah House Update

We met with directors Pastor Daniel and Miriam Munetsi, as well as the board of Shammah House. Currently Shammah has 9 children under their care. Their ages range from the ages 7-14 years. They are all in primary school and going to Prospect Primary in Waterfalls.



Shammah Kids w/ Dresses for Orphans
Shirts/dresses



Shammah Home classroom



Pastor Daniel w/ Rachel device, which allows online access to books. Jonathan's Impact provided the classroom desks and the Rachel device in the past.

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Shammah Home Aging Out Program Update



Knowledge, Bright, Innocent



Aging out residents with supporters

We at Jonathan's Impact are providing funds for post-secondary education for the aging out students at Shammah House. This includes courses in mechanics for two students, and graphic design for one student. Jonathan's Impact also provides funds for supplies, transportation, and laptops.

Chileleko Home Update

Continued Renovations to the Guest Cottage

The guest cottage is utilized to house visiting mission teams and also has the potential to generate some income from teams visiting other properties.

From our previous newsletter you may recall that Jonathan's Impact provided funding for a new stove, refrigerator/freezer, and mattresses/box springs for the guest cottage. The guest cottage is not on the borehole system, so relies on city water (not potable, but available for showers, washing dishes, etc.). An ongoing issue has been getting water, especially warm water, for the shower. During a previous visit we had the electric hot water geyser repaired for leaks. However, it has never functioned properly. We now know why:



Water geyser burned out thermostat and heating element

We knew something was very wrong when Steve flipped the breaker for the geyser and Cassy got shocked at the bathroom sink!

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To provide a permanent solution to the hot water issue at the guest house, we were able to provide a solar hot water geyser. We were not able to enjoy this while on the trip, as it was installed just after we left to return home:



Additional items purchased for the Chilileko Home during our visit included the replacement of solar electrical batteries for the main home (for backup during electric outages), garden tubing/hosing, several general tools, toys and books for the children, and 4 folding tables for the classroom.



New solar electric system batteries



New small garden hosing



New large garden hosing



Yes, they play Monopoly



Tables for schoolwork, arts



Kids coloring on new classroom tables

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Presenting coloring books, crayons



Cassy presenting various toys



Cassy, kids trying hula hoops



Cassy, Lucia presenting books



Lucia presenting educational aids



Thanks to so many of you who wrote letters to the children! Here is a sampling of pictures with letters:



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Visit to Habitation of Hope site

Hands of Hope operates one of the largest orphanage systems in Zimbabwe, and we have been honored to be sponsors involved in the funding of 2 of their homes (the Chilileko Home and the Shammah Home). Hands of Hope operates a rural location called Habitation of Hope. This site hosts small and large gatherings and offers recreation/training for the children from the many homes operated by Hands of Hope. Of special interest to Steve and Cassy is that the location is utilizing the large irrigation pump that was part of the Make-A-Wish grant for our late son, Jonathan. The history here is that this pump and the connecting piping were provided to a large orphanage (the Mbuya Nehanda children's home) Jonathan visited in 2005. The irrigation system was very successful there. However, the location was sold to a private firm that now operates a boarding school. The directors of the home allowed us to reclaim the equipment, but it has not been consistently utilized since.

The irrigation equipment draws water from a low-lying river on the site and pumps it to four 10,000 liter tanks that sit atop a hill on the property. A pump that was previously used did not have the power to do this. The system is not only used to irrigate the large gardens but is also used to train aging out residents in farming techniques.



Workers wiring Jon's irrigation pump 4 – 10K liter tanks for irrigation (filled by Jon's pump)



Fields irrigated by Jonathan's Make-A-Wish system

Once the entire irrigation system is in place (piping and elevated sprinklers), we will share pictures

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Habitation of Hope meeting area



HOH A-Frame guest huts



HOH view from meeting area

Habitation of Hope is now involved in aging out programs that include agriculture, sewing classes, poultry, and has plans for training in construction.



HOH Sewing Class



HOH poultry project eggs



Additional fields for irrigation

What's Next?

1. The annual budget for Jonathan's Impact for 2024 is being finalized and will be reviewed by our board on November 5th.
2. The Chilileko Home is in desperate need of a transport van large enough to handle staff and residents. Currently the home utilizes Conald and Lucia's personal vehicle for the home's transport needs, but this is not sufficient. The vehicle's size limitation results in multiple trips being needed for such transport. The Chilileko staff is researching available vehicles and will provide options very soon. Our board has agreed to purchase a large van to provide this essential capital item. Your donations have made this purchase possible, and we are very grateful for your blessings.

We cannot thank you enough for your support of Jonathan's Impact, and of course the residents of the Chilileko and Shammah Homes.

God bless you all.