

Nehemiah Project

Rebuilding Broken Lives

From Bulawayo, Zimbabwe

Newsletter

1st Issue 2016

Welcome to the 1st Issue 2016 newsletter. We hope that you find it informative as you read the articles.

COWDRAY PARK SITE DEVELOPMENT & USE

It's possible to get fixated with "building" when you're involved with developing a site like we have been for the past 3 years. At Nehemiah Project, we've tried to ensure that we always maintain focus on what we are developing the site in Cowdray Park for. It must be put into good use and benefit the community that it's been built for, and ultimately, that's where the project's focus must be.

"A picture paints a thousand words" (or so the song goes), so here's "x" thousand words to show our newsletter readers how we put the site to good use and how the Community benefit's from having it there and available to them where once existed only brush-land and a build up of years of dumping rubbish. An eye-sore turned into a treat for the eyes and a place of refreshment to be enjoyed by any and all in the years to come.



"Youth enjoying the Volleyball facilities"



"This small office provides a work-space so staff can just be around and available"



"Community participation in a soccer tournament"



"The team building equipment is a real asset for our officers and volunteers to use"



"This traditional building is a great space for smaller meetings"



"The tent enables larger events to be run, like this performing arts day."

It's not possible in a few words in a newsletter to fully explain the value of these resources in the development of these beautiful and precious children and young people who find themselves in such challenging circumstances. Social skills & life skills teaching and development, advice and counselling, fun and games, resilience building, family support and strengthening, encouragement in Education and much more go on at this site week after week, painting a picture of a brighter future for all participants. Nobody can pretend that, from such difficult circumstances, all who come can or will seize the opportunities that they are encouraged to aspire to, but Nehemiah Project and this centre brings hope to those who have often been hopeless - and that's powerful, that's worth the effort and investment.

A VERY GENEROUS DONATION...

Ruth and Andy Thorn visited the Project for a month in March/April 2016 as part of the UK trust's ongoing monitoring and evaluation of the work in Bulawayo. It was a good time of re-connecting with project staff and Zimbabwe Trust Trustees, seeing how the work was developing and participating in project life.

Whilst they were there, news came through of a very generous donation of £20,000 towards the building program in Cowdray Park. They had to sit down and take a deep breath to take in the magnitude of what they'd just heard. As Andy said at the time, "it was an emotional moment" as the building fund was, at the time, completely empty. The first, and by far the most costly, third of the main building is now under construction. In it will be offices, space for a kitchen, storage areas and the like. But most importantly, we will have male and female flush toilets on site for the first time. This will be a major relief (haha) for everyone who uses the site and will vastly increase what the City Council will allow us to do. We have great plans for up-scaling the work in Cowdray Park as a result of this generosity, and we take the opportunity of thanking again those whose similar generosity has progressed us to this current position.

THE "BRIGHT FUTURE EFFECT"

We're so proud of our children and young people who have come through the ranks of Bright Future Kids Club over the years, and all who read this Newsletter, and who support and contribute to the success of Nehemiah Project in so many ways should be too. Here are a few examples of what's going on with our "Kids". Along with family, schools, churches and other influences, Bright Future Kids Club has played a pivotal role in encouraging these children to set their goals high and achieve them.

Petty Bhaikwa, a Bright Future Peer Leader, achieved the honour of being Head girl Cowdray Park Secondary School.



Catherine Chiwamba, a Bright Future Peer Committee member at a very young age, has been selected as Head Girl at Tatagula Primary School,



Pashor Sibanda, also a Bright Future Kids Club peer leader was appointed as a Youth councillor at Bulawayo City Council and is currently studying for a Business related degree at the local University.



MJ Nyathi & Michael Maketa are currently in arguably the best teacher training college in Bulawayo, These two young men have been key Bright Future Kids Club peer leaders and influencers.



Good friends Awakiwe Madlela and Prosper Dube are now at Lupane State University studying accountancy. They have both been significant influencers at Bright Future Kids Club and still volunteer as helpers at the Kids Club as their studies are being done in Bulawayo.



OVC officers are required to produce quarterly reports for the Trust in the UK. This story, written by Joshua Ndlovu, the Officer for Sauerstown (Bulawayo North) really touched the editor of this newsletter and is reproduced below as a testimony to the great work that Nehemiah Project does, and with thanks to the Emily Davis Individual Child Sponsorship program instigated in 2014:-

"Patience Tshuma is a grade 5 young girl who is a single orphan. She currently stays with her grandmother. She has been positively impacted by the services offered at the kids club and her grandmother told us that she had always been a very quiet and shy person but due to the Psycho social Support she received at kids club she improved in every sphere of her life in a great way. From time to time she had always been sent away from school due to the non payment of school fees and this had affected her performance in school and caused her to suffer a lot of stress as she is a person who loves school. After being added to the individual child sponsorship she has managed to be in school without fear of being chased away. This has helped her perform better in school and now she has the confidence that her dreams will be fulfilled in life. In the picture she is carrying a prize for being second position in class which is a great achievement that we celebrated together in Bulawayo North. Patience shows a lot of leadership potential as she is now able to lead and play with other children younger than her."

