

## **The Beatrice Project: Zimbabwe**

### **restoring dignity and opportunity**

In about five weeks we'll be on our way to Zimbabwe again. It's been a busy year: Joy continues to visit the 300 girls on the project, generally managing and overseeing things, delivering sanitary protection and conducting regular workshops while we continue fundraising, researching and networking here in UK and, via the internet, in Zimbabwe and the rest of the world!

We have been very grateful to receive some generous donations from individuals during the year, and also to continue to be supported by people who give on a regular basis. Our quiz fundraiser in March brought in over £1100, just under £600 was raised by friends who ran the Brighton marathon and the Southampton 10k and St Anne's School, where I used to teach, raised almost £800 for us during their Lent appeal. Amazing!! These were all significant contributions towards the £10,000 + it costs us to keep the project going for a year.

As with last year's trip, our focus will be the weekend training camp for the peer educators and adult volunteers on the project, though we hope also to meet with some key people both in Harare and in Bulawayo, and have extensive discussions with Joy about the project and the coming year.

There are various considerations/concerns/matters for prayer which we'd like to share with you:

- The first election post Mugabe is due to take place on July 30<sup>th</sup>, just over a week prior to our arrival. Election time in Zimbabwe has always been tense, with the potential for intimidation and violence. Zimbabwe needs this election to be peaceful, free and fair, and for the outcome to be just and good for the future of its people.
- Joy has a lot of preparation to do, especially arranging transport and buying in the food for the 150 plus people who will be attending the camp. This year, she has managed to hire part of a boarding school for us which means we have some amenities and a slightly shorter journey, but the delegates need transport from their various rural areas.
- Karen is working hard preparing to deliver and oversee the training sessions, giving room for and coordinating contributions from local people, including representatives from Childline and a Harare based menstrual cup firm.

As Joy expressed last year, we are hugely grateful for all the support you and others give.

At present, it costs £36 to keep one girl on the project for a year. That means we are able to provide her with sanitary protection for twelve months, which helps her stay in school, and offer monthly workshops where she receives teaching, support and encouragement, as well as some bread and drink to sustain her on what is usually a 5-10 k walk to the distribution sites.

***Could you donate £36 to keep a girl on the project for another year?***

OR

***Would you like to sponsor someone so that she (or he!) is able to attend the weekend training camp in August?***

***We estimate that this will cost £25 per delegate.***

Last year, the girls had an unforgettable weekend, being taught and challenged, making friends and having fun but most of all being loved, valued and just a little spoilt! Thank you so much for helping to make it all possible.



We'd be so grateful if you could help us to make this year's camp an even better time for all of the delegates. If you are able to give, please do so at

[www.give.net/20237532](http://www.give.net/20237532)

Your gift may also be given personally to one of the Trustees (Sue Hutchinson, Karen Trewinnard or Adrian Thomas) who will process it for you.