

The Beatrice Project: Zimbabwe

Restoring dignity and opportunity



HAPPY CHRISTMAS 2019 TO YOU ALL!

It's hard to believe that Christmas is almost upon us once more. Whilst here in the UK it's getting darker and colder, in Zimbabwe the temperatures are still rising and the country hasn't had any proper, steady rain for a long time. Crops, if they were ever planted, have died; food, if it is available in the shops, is too expensive for most to afford and the people are really suffering. But despite the drought and the challenging economic situation, our partners remain positive and full of hope as the work of Ntombi Nto and The Beatrice Project steadily moves on.

Although we haven't been able to visit this year, we've been working with Joy and continuing to raise funds to enable her and her volunteers to support, teach and provide for our girls in Zimbabwe. It's been an exciting year!

- Joy is now an integral part of a collaborative network working with TARSC (Training and Resource Support Centre) adapting and developing teaching materials including the 'Aunty Stella' kits.
- Under Joy, links have been established between Ntombi Nto and Chiedza who are local expert in re-usable sanitary pads
- A second sewing machine and start-up materials have been bought by The Beatrice Project and plans are afoot to get this set up in early 2020
- Our in-country supplier of pads continues, against the odds, to be able to sell to us
- Over 100 of our girls are now using the menstrual cups, bought in Zimbabwe, and are loving them
- Ntombi Nto were successful in being recognised and accepted by the Gwanda District Council which means they now officially have access into schools and can work with health and social services
- Plans are underway for the inclusion of boys in the teaching programme
- Here at home, we were successful in our first application for funding and received £1000 from St. James's Wealth Management

and most exciting of all

- Almost all the girls on The Beatrice Project have been attending school regularly!

We are indebted to you, our supporters, for the funds to be able to continue the work and are so grateful to each and every one of you. We very much hope to see some of you at our next fund raiser, a 'Come and Sing' event on March 14th, which promises to be another fantastic day of music making! You should have received an email about this a few weeks ago.

If this Christmas you were able to give a donation, however small, we would be so grateful to you and you would be contributing to making a real difference in the lives of our young women in Zimbabwe.

Please accept our very best wishes for Christmas and the new year, and thank you again for your interest and support.

If you would like to give, please visit www.give.net/20237532 or, if you prefer, you may give a cheque or cash to me, Sue Hutchinson, or either of the other trustees, Karen Trewinnard or Adrian Thomas.