



Pakati Pedu ^{'Among Us'}

Shungudzevana Trust Official Newsletter

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Shungudzevana Trust Celebrates 17 Years



Shungudzevana was founded in 1992 and on 21 June 2009 the Trust celebrated its 17th anniversary. Many may ask why celebrate 17 years, why not wait for 20 or more years? But for the Trust there is every reason to celebrate all the way, because the Almighty God has blessed us. If resources would permit we would celebrate even more, but because of the economic hardships we constrain ourselves to celebrate once a year.

The day was graced by the Papal Nuncio to Zimbabwe his Excellency George Kocherry who presided over the Holy Eucharist in thanksgiving to the Almighty God for all that He has enabled us to do for the last 17 years of our existence in our quest to make the lives of vulnerable children better and beautiful.

Also present were Rev. Frs. B.Enright SJ, E.Chinzara, Norbert (O'carm), J Dandiro, His Worship the Mayor of Harare Muchadeyi Masunda, The Mayoress Mrs. Fikisile Masunda, Hon. T.Mashakada (MDC-T) Councilors P.Musagwiza. Mutyambizi of Mhondoro, Chief Mashayamombe. The liturgy was made possible and inspiring through the choir from the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, Alter Servers and Dancers from Our Lady of the wayside Mt. Pleasant Parish, and all the invited guests made the day a wonderful celebration of thanksgiving to God.

In his homily the Papal Nuncio asked this question, "We all celebrate the Eucharist but not all receive its benefits". Its all because of our little faith, our selfishness and our cruelty to children whom our Lord Jesus calls friends. He challenged all present to be concerned about the plight of children in our society and for people to support orphans because Jesus said "... *the least you did to my brothers you did it to me*". And lastly he wished the Trust well and God's blessings all the way.

The Mayor of Harare His Worship Masunda registered appreciation to Sr. Mercy and the board of Shungu and the Catholic Church for the tremendous work they are doing in the lives of the children. The Mayor thanked Councilor Musagwiza for bringing Shungudzevana Trust to the attention of the City Fathers, "I'm struck by the desire of the Trust to make itself self-sufficient" he said.

"For these reasons you deserve all the support available from the City Fathers and all the other organizations and well wishers". The Mayor gave his support to the Trust especially in its quest to have the land in Hatfield to build a children's village and he pledged immediately that the hand suckers owned by the council will come regularly to empty the septic tanks. Lastly he thanked all for the success the day was going to be. He said, "The family at Shungudzevana Trust, it is your day so lets celebrate it!". These were the concluding remarks by His Worship the Mayor of Harare. Speaker after speaker praised the efforts of the Trust and the team behind it for the splendid job they are doing to make the lives of the children better. Makorokoto. Amphlope, Congratulations Shungudzevana Trust!

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Letter from the Trust...

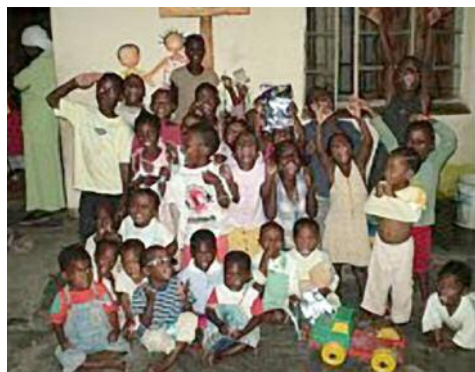
Hello! Welcome to our first newsletter after 17 years in our work at Shungudzevana Trust.

Shungudzevana is a widely used Shona phrase meaning 'passionate concern for children' This organization was started by Sister Mercy Mutyambizi in 1992. The Trust is a private voluntary organization giving support to orphaned children in the form of institutional care and child fostering.

The Trust is currently catering for 496 children in Chitungwiza, Kadoma, Mhondoro, Chegutu and Harare. The Trust is registered under the social welfare organizations number PVO3/2000. The Trust provides the children with the following: food, all educational needs up to tertiary level, rentals for child headed families, decent clothing and foster families. Shungudzevana Trust believes that our God is the 'God of widows and orphans' who wants us, His people, to be His hands in taking care of these children, Jesus Christ our Lord gave us special responsibilities for the little ones. *Matthew 9:14*

A brief history of the Trust

By Sr. Mercy, the Director



Shungu Dzevana Trust is a registered charitable child welfare organization based in Hatfield, Harare. In 1992, I became concerned with the increasing number of orphaned children as a result of poverty and other social economic problems resulting in babies being abandoned. I formed the Shungu Dzevana Trust caring mainly for children who have been abandoned. As you are aware, since 1992, the HIV/AIDS epidemic has had a devastating impact on the lives of Zimbabwe's children. With the support of committed staff, we now care for 496 children.

The children range in age from babies to over 16 years old. Despite the serious economic challenges in Zimbabwe over the years, Shungu Dzevana Trust has continued to help children with support from foster parents, companies, churches and individuals. It is most encouraging to see all the children going to school. Three students who have been in my care for a long time are now graduates. In other qualifications 7 nurses, 15 teachers, 1 Policeman and 29 others are already in professional full time employment. As the National Director of the Trust and Catholic nun, I am accountable to a strong board of six directors including Fr Oskar from Jesuit communications.

As you know, these are difficult times for our children. Inspired by God's love and responsibility to serve the poor and vulnerable, our role is to provide security for the children in our care so they can experience life in all its fullness. We have the will to make this happen, but we cannot do it alone.

The Board Members

Rev Father A Manyere SJ (Chairman)
 Mr G Nota (Administrator)
 Ms T. Mugwetsi (Vice Secretary)
 Mr R. Chigovanyika (Advisor)
 Mrs Jaricha (Legal Advisor)
 Mrs. M.I. Sena, Ms P. Charakupa, Father A Kangoya (Projects)
 Mr O Mpfu, Rev. Fr O. Wermter, SJ, Mrs Musengeyi (Treasurer)
 Mrs Chapfika (Secretary)
 Mrs Mfarinya (Member)
 Rev Sr M.T. Mutyambizi (Ex-officio).



Board members taking a tour of the projects the trust operates in Mhondoro which generate income for the orphanage.



Papal Nuncio His Excellency Archbishop George Kocherry.

It was a great day on the 26th February 2009 when His Excellency, Nuncio, Archbishop George Kocherry visited Shungu Dzevana Trust. His Excellency donated three dairy cows to supplement the diet of the children. The Nuncio pledged his full support.

Improvements at 26 Alexandra Drive Hatfield

It was a relief after a long struggle to complete the ceilings in the children's rooms including the children's kitchen. The project was scheduled to be completed by January 2010, but due to the Director's ill health and hospitalization, the project was finally completed in November.

Father Albert Kangoya, together with Sister Illumina, the Trust's social officer, managed to assemble the beds from Belgium and rearrange the children's sleeping rooms. The beds were furnished with new linen sourced from Otting, Germany, by the Director. The children were very excited. All the old mattresses and beds were given to our staff from both Harare and Mhondoro. They were also very happy. Some beds were sent to our centre

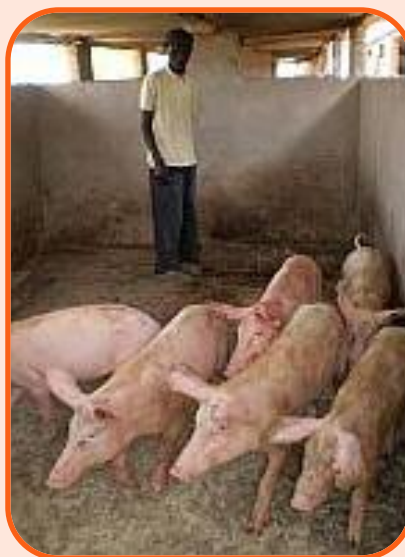


in Mhondoro together with some extra new beds for the children to use during the school holidays.

Some of our successes...

As much as we want to be self reliant through the projects run in Mhondoro things are very difficult for us. With hired equipment such as tractors etc, it remains hard to archive what we really want. The Trust has some successes to write home about. In brief the Trust has managed to wean off about 73 children, 15 state registered nurses, 1 social worker, 1 medical doctor, 17 teachers, 1 mining engineer and 2 hotel and tourism graduates. This year alone we expect to wean off about 29 children to be independent after completing their college and University studies.

Our major success has been that we are trying to be self reliant through the projects in Mhondoro Communal lands. In Mhondoro we run a vegetable garden with a variety of veggies under cultivation, a piggery project, fowl run, a dairy cow and we have just harvested 150 tonnes of maize, 2.5 tonnes of butternut and half a tonne of king onions. The Mhondoro projects are the heart bit of the Trust and they heavily subsidize and compliment the diet of our children.



Poem

Orphan

If not for the love of Shungu Dzevana, Where would I be?

I am an innocent soul but I have experienced lots of neglecting. Being looked at with eyes of sympathy, abused and discriminated were my characteristics.

If not out of love of one person I wonder what life would be in the streets. The world is heartless, full of hatred but I was protected from all these.

I will strive for the best to show appreciation since I have been given bread and butter. Having all I needed were one of those wishes that they say "If wishes were roses, beggars would ride"

Out of her I have learnt that we are not beggars but she calls us friends. She is a superwoman, my hero because she took care of me through THICK and THIN!!!!

I salute her.

By Constance Chipango

The BBC visits Shungu Dzevena Trust

Story by Mike Thomson - BBC correspondent

With inflation under control, food back in the shops and a power-sharing government in control, life is getting better for many in Zimbabwe. But none of this seems to have curbed the number of children being abandoned. When I was last in Zimbabwe, 16 months ago, I was told how desperate mothers had been putting unwanted babies on garbage dumps, railway lines, in rivers and even in trees. To read the full interview click out the following link:

http://news.bbc.co.uk/today/hi/today/newsid_9005000/9005372.stm

The Director Speaks...

As we journey on with our mission of trying to give a chance to the orphaned children who have lost their beloved parents through HIV/AIDS, those abandoned by their desperate mothers and children affected by poverty in our country.

I believe it is not fair to have a group of marginalized people looked down upon by those who think they are better than others in any society. We should remember that both the rich, the poor and the marginalized are all equal in the eyes of our God. Let us all put our heads together and fight this spirit of segregation. Lets all work together to heal the wounds created by our own families, community and society i.e. hunger, ill health, child abuse, unemployment, poverty and homelessness.

It's a big challenge for all of us to be people of goodwill by opening our ears and eyes out there so that we can be of help to our brothers and sisters. We call them 'destitutes and beggars' because of AIDS and poverty but we should call them FRIENDS. Remember the words of Jesus Christ, *"the least you did to my brothers and sisters you did it to me."* Let us ask ourselves what we are doing for Jesus and the least of our brothers and sisters. God Bless you all!!

Poem

Father mother are you not my
parents, other children laugh at
me but I do not have faith.
Father and mother I need your love.

By Tatenda, 7 yrs

Our projects and how you can help!

Shungu in Mhondoro...

We managed, though without much rain, to grow and harvest 16,5 tonnes of maize with the assistance from the Jesuit relief fund and our friends from Belgium who helped with both cash, maize seed and fertilizer. The maize is going to assist us in both feeding the children and in boosting our piggery and chicken projects. Some of the maize will be used for the pigs' concentrate mix. About US\$ 2000.00 is required to renovate the pig sty and extensions. US\$ 3,700.00 is needed to start the chicken project and we are looking for a donor to help us jump-start this project.



Electrification Project: Misserior

This project has taken longer than anticipated. Misserior has sponsored the electrification project since 2008. The delays were because of the then unstable currency (Zimbabwe dollar), however our friends from Zimbakids donated US\$ 5,000, and we sold ten pigs but we are still short of \$3,300.00 for the meter and the two meter boxes for two houses which still require wiring. The transformer is up and will enable us to run all the projects like gardening, poultry, welding, sewing and other projects which will benefit the community, youngsters and single mothers, together with our foster parents.

Many of our projects ceased in 2008 due to lack of stock feeds, drought and shortage of vaccines for chickens and pigs. We are very excited that as soon as our electricity is switched on and we have a borehole running, our projects will start running properly again. Everyone will be kept occupied and away from mischief.



Some of the children speak...

Laughter and cheering are the sounds that greet you when you arrive at Shungu Dzevana Trust. The cheerful smiles on the children's faces make it hard for one to believe that they are orphaned. If you were to meet one of us on the street while they are as well groomed as they always are, you would never believe that their parents are gone. We find comfort and love here and believe we belong to one big and happy family. Shungu Dzevana Trust is home of peace, love and care. Just the thought of home brings the image of Shungu Dzevana. We are at home and will never know a better home than this one. Shungu Dzevana Trust a heart so big it can hold everyone.

By Tariro Manunure, 20 yrs

To everything there is a season and a time to every purpose under the heaven, a time to love, a time to hate, a time of war and a time of peace but I have learnt to love from the time I came to Shungu Dzevana. I have been given a chance that any other child with parents could not get. The best education food and cloths and I managed to pass my 'A' levels with 13 points.

I had one of the best moments, all the sorrows in my mind never came back when I was at school. I cant believe I will be studying law in Germany, these are some of the many fruits of Sr. Mercy. She has been my mother, our mother and everyone's mother. For sure God would not ask her what job she has done on earth but will just reward her for taking care of the homeless, the outcast because of her love. She has helped and is still helping orphans by doing for them what they cannot do for themselves by giving them redemption and a home full of love.

Though Shungu Dzevana might experience some difficulties my mother, Sr Mercy, has put us through all those rejections and she has been through a lot but we are still moving strong because of her braveness. I know that her arms are always open to embrace me even after I am through with my studies because my home is Shungu Dzevana. One day I will be one of the donors to this place I have known since childhood. I LOVE YOU MUM!!!! I am me, because of you.

By Constance T. Chipango 19 yrs

There is a reason for everything in this world. I started to stay with Sr. Mercy when I was a very young girl and she treated me as her own daughter. I never knew that there would be someone who would give me motherly love. I am one of those children who enjoyed my staying at Shungu Dzevana, still enjoying it.

I was given a big chance that any other child with parents couldn't achieve anything in their life. I had a chance to achieve all that I dreamed since childhood. I know I will become an air hostess though currently I am being trained at crown plaza.

It is that love, guidance and concern from Sr Mercy that I managed all these success. She has put me through a lot and I believe in her because she is a superwoman. She has joined us and I am proud of her because I now have 40 siblings. "You cannot strengthen the poor by weakening the rich" as been best saying I have seen through my mothers work. She has accommodated everyone despite class. I am the number one with Sr Mercy's support. I love you mum with all my heart

By Vimbai White 17 yrs

Poem

I wonder why the grasses are green
and why the wind is never seen
who told the bird to build a nest
and tell the trees to take a rest,
all when the moon is not quiet
round were we can the missing
part be found

By Vimbai White

Achievements by the children



It is with great joy we announce the graduation in April 2010 of our three girls at the University Of Zimbabwe.

We were blessed with one medical doctor M.B.C.H.B., one environmental scientist H.A.E.S. degree, and one with a BA honours degree.

At the university of Zimbabwe we have one young man in his third year studying Tourism and Hospitality, one girl studying law and many others in different colleges. These children need education and must use every opportunity they get in life to learn. It is very difficult to secure places unless you know someone in authority, for example, only one girl managed to get a vacancy to train as a nurse in Kwekwe after five of them applied to different hospitals. We are happy though that some were accepted at Harare Polytechnic and the University of Zimbabwe after initially failing to get responses from these hospitals.

We have 46 pupils at Goroni primary school, 21 at Hatfield Junior school, 36 at Rio Tinto Mhondoro high school, and 28 at Munyaradzi primary school in Kadoma, with many smaller numbers in other schools in Kadoma, Mhondoro, Epworth, Chitungwiza, Harare, Musana and Masvingo.

We also have foster parents who successfully completed their training in gardening, piggery, poultry, crop rotation, batik designing and business skills.



Donna, Aoife, Catherine and Carmel from Ireland – we had some great moments, though the stay was too short with these young ladies at Shungu. The children, staff and Sr Mercy will miss you a lot. The children have learned a lot from you and other things like following rhymes. The children are now able to concentrate, follow and practice what they have learnt, especially those going to grade one in 2011.

Schools such as Twin Rivers primary school have been great to the children of Shungu, just as much as Dominican Convent Secondary School and St Ignatius College.

The guild of Moyo Musande from parishes that include St Agnes (Chitungwiza), Rhodesville, Epworth and Manyame, Hatfield and Mr Seka Nevana Holy Nama Parish. Josefa Guild has also been a major helping hand in making the lives of these kids happier. Other groups include Hosiyedenga and Josefa (Manyame).



- Luck Naran Brand
- Nigerian State in Zimbabwe
- Albert Okolo
- Victor
- Marie, Christine, Lut, Carren, Greet and Leen (Belgium)
- Zimbakidz (Belgium)
- Moneri Anne Sylvie
- St Thomas More (UK) group
- Kitty and friends Baptist church (USA) group
- Isabel and Sebastian (Zimbabwe)
- Evergreen foundation (Zimbabwe)
- Aunt Rose and Doreen
- Celebration youth groups
- Golden girls (Christ Embassy)
- St Thomas Aquinais (USA) group

To all our friends we are truly thankful for your wonderful friendship. Please continue giving us your love and help in spreading the name of Shungu Dzevana Trust to everyone so that we may be able to make more friends who may give us love like you have given us. We really appreciate you. THANK YOU!!

News in brief...

Water pump stolen at Shungu.

Tragedy struck at Shungu on the night of 23 June 2010 thieves visited us and went away with the one and only pump for our borehole, which supplies the whole centre with the precious liquid. We are currently using a borrowed pump from our projects in Mhondoro to provide water. We are currently looking for funds to secure a new pump if people of goodwill come aboard. We believe well wishers will come to our rescue so that we can have reliable and safe water for the children.

ST Joseph's Guild donates.

The Archdiocese of Harare St. Joseph's Guild donated food stuff to the Trust. We want to say a big thank you from the bottom of our hearts. We hope the good fathers of St Joseph will continue with their support.

Blankets! Blankets! Blankets!

Mr. R. Cawood and Waverly Blankets donated 52 blankets for the children at Shungudzevana this winter season, and for this kind donation, we thank you very much because our children are now having much warmer nights.

Crèche at Shungu

The Trust runs a crèche which is manned by two mothers, Tinotenda and Susan. We have 9 children attending the crèche, 4 boys and 5 girls who are between the ages of 2 and 5 years. The crèche runs everyday from Monday to Friday starting at 8 am to midday. The little ones are taught how to pray, write, draw, colour, sing, dance, count, read and play. Six children can now write their names! Volunteers are welcome to help in the early education of these children with materials and other teaching services.

Our Belief

It is the Trust's belief that more imaginative and creative ways of caring for orphaned children are needed, hence, the idea of providing children with foster homes and families for their development. These families can either be relatives or non-relatives prepared to accept and love the orphaned children.

Shungudzevana Trust believes that our God is the 'God of widows and orphans' who wants us, his people to be his hands in taking care of the deprived 'orphaned and dumped children. Jesus Christ our Lord gave us special responsibilities for the little ones 'let the children come to me'
Matthew 19:14.

Shungudzevana Trust invites fellow Zimbabweans, world wide and all people of goodwill to lend a helping hand by actively contributing towards looking after the ever increasing number of orphaned, dumped children needing love, care, guidance, education, food, clothing and accommodation.

A BIG THANK YOU FROM US...

From the Board Members, the National Director and the Shungudzevana Trust family we say a 'BIG THANK YOU' to you all who sacrifice to make our lives better and comfortable through all your acts of love. Thank you so much!

Shungu in pictures



Some of the workers having a joyous time with the children as they celebrated some of the children's birthdays. The Director, Sr. Mercy also joins in the dancing!



The children enjoying drinks and cakes at the Trust's 17th anniversary



Shungudzevana Trust
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*'You want children?, ours are looking
for foster parents and sponsors'*