



11 December 2014

Dear Friend of Waterberry

## **Community School Projects Progress**

Reflecting back, my heart warms – It has been a year of growth and progress for the schools we support and their communities ... and I am grateful to play a small part in it all.

So many guests have contributed to these successes in so many ways. I thank each one of you for your contributions of donations, gifts, photographs, ideas and support. You truly have made a difference in the education of these children and contributed towards the growth of the schools.

Here is a summary of the schools we are now supporting ...

### **1. Tukongote Community Preschool**

Still our core focus. Now 65 registered children, aged 3 – 6 years, with 3 teachers – Tembo, Namakau and Christophina - and an administrator, George. All salaries are paid by Waterberry Lodge from guest donations. The preschool building is complete (for now), providing one big indoor classroom with verandah classroom and storeroom. Bookshelves display their library books and much care is taken decorating the walls with posters and art work. An outside under cover classroom, situated directly next to the river, is also used, normally by the older children.

My involvement with Tukongote started in February 2011. I have seen it transition from ...



to ...



## 2. Siandunda Community Primary School

Following the Red Nose Hell and High Water Challenge in aid of UK Charity, Comic Relief, of January 2013, which saw celebrities paddling down our portion of the Zambezi River for charity, funding was allocated to build a primary school in our local village. Project managed by ZOCS, Zambia Open Community Schools, this school was officially opened in June 2014. It is situated in the same village as Tukongote Preschool.

Approximately 130 children, aged 6 – 12 years, in Grades 1 – 4, attend. Previously these children had to walk 10 – 12 km to the closest school.

The Comic Relief funding only provided the building. The school is now run by the community. Through guest donations, Waterberry Lodge supports them by paying a portion of the 4 teachers' salaries and providing supplies and teaching aids. Next year sees the start of a Grade 5 class and extra teacher's salary. We have also implemented a literacy and reading program, called Happy Readers, designed specifically for rural African schools.

This literacy program is also being used for adult literacy lessons given by 2 of the teachers.



The funding we received for the Happy Readers literacy program includes the payment of the salary for the reading teacher, Parity. Parity works with each child, in groups of about 12, everyday. The community has started building a reading classroom to be used in rainy season.

Generous donations have contributed towards the completion of this reading classroom. We have been able to provide the roofing sheets and cement for the floor. Next step is window frames and glass, a door, shelves, desks and chairs for this classroom.

For all schools, we agree with the community that once they have a built a school to roof height, we will provide the roof, floor and finishes. This way we are sure they are committed to the process and take some responsibility.



### 3. Big Tree Community Preschool

A new preschool down river from Tukongote in the village of Siamata. It was started in April this year, by the community, in one of the church buildings. They now have 36 children and 2 teachers, Hilda and Frank, and are progressing well. It is named after a magnificent baobab tree opposite the site for the new school building.

There is a new government directive stating that every child starting Grade 1 must attend a preschool 1st. Siamata is too far from Tukongote Preschool for the little ones to attend. Graduates of Big Tree Preschool will attend Siandunda Primary School.

Having shown they are serious about the project and education, we have started supporting this preschool with school supplies. Community work has started on the new school building. Once it reaches roof height, Waterberry will support in the completion of the roof, cement floor etc. Our new project for 2015!



#### 4. Kamatanda Community Preschool

This preschool is a little further away on the way to the Kazungula border. 21 registered children, aged 4 – 6 years, and 2 teachers – Anna and Martha, also paid by Waterberry guest donations. The school was built by Anna, her mother and aunt 3 years ago. These ladies continue to share their love and knowledge, consolidating their school and teaching. Children who graduate from here go to a primary school in Kamatanda village built by an Italian donor. We also provide the primary school with supplies when possible.



Of course, in order to continue with these meaningful projects, we to rely on guest donations ...

In addition to our school bank account in Zambia, we have a school bank account in the UK. We receive the funds from this account every few months. Western Union donations are working very well and we have immediate access to the funds. Full details available on request.

Our gift suggestion list is now downloadable from our website. You can access it .... and a few more photos ... here: <http://www.waterberrylodge.com/community-projects/>

Top of the wish list at present are:

- Duplo blocks (large Lego) for Big Tree Preschool
- Posters and wall charts (for preschools and Grades 1- 5)
- Wax crayons
- Chalk (white & coloured)
- Presstick / Blue Tack
- Reading books for the various school libraries

And finally, we invite you to add us as a friend on Facebook. Lodge happenings and updates on the community projects are posted here from time to time: <https://www.facebook.com/waterberryzambezilodge>

Thank you once again for your support and interest in our community schools projects. It is thanks to YOU that all of this has been possible.

Wishing you peace and happiness, with an embrace of African warmth and sunshine, at Christmas, today and everyday!!

Regards in gratitude and education

Lynette ☺

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