

NENIWO/LAMIFUTHI Third Disbursement Report January 2006

14 April 2006

To all our sponsors and interested parties

I would like to belatedly give you a report of the events of this happy period when once more we had the privilege of disbursing the funds that you entrusted to NENIWO/LAMIFUTHI for the payment of school fees and other school requirements such as books and uniforms for the year 2006.

Statistics

We had 37 sponsored children: 10 are in secondary school (Junior high school) and 27 in primary school. Four are in their fourth year of secondary school. This means that they are writing what Zimbabwe calls “O” Level examinations in November this year. If they pass these examinations they have two options: 1) they can continue in school to do another two years generally referred to as “A” Levels. In some countries it is known as pre- university or senior high school.

2) They can look for a place to train for a trade or a profession. There is a slight possibility to be taken into the teacher education colleges or some of the health professions training colleges. We are both very anxious and hopeful that they will do well. It would be very satisfying for their sponsors and others if they do well and get something useful to do. Then they will be really well on their way to leaving the poverty cycle not only for themselves but also for their host families. One child less to feed makes a major difference in some of the homes.

Finances

We received **2543, 00** Euros for 2006. We used **3268, 18** Euros for the whole process. We are very grateful to you all. On behalf of the children and their host families I want to say thank you very much. We remain indebted to you. Our progress and especially that of the children depends entirely on your support and trust. We are working very hard as from the beginning that we do not at any time betray that trust that you have bestowed on us.

Sponsors

Existing sponsors

Almost all sponsors contributed to the administration of the process. This is very much appreciated. We had a new experience this year. Some of our sponsors did not contribute the fees for their children despite reminders sent to them. This meant that we had a situation where we had to choose whether to tell a child that there is no money for fees or borrow money to pay for the children affected. The NENIWO/LAMIFUTHI team found it very difficult to tell the children that their sponsors had not paid. The organization therefore decided to use whatever it had to pay for these children. To date there are 4 sponsors who have not paid and have not indicated either whether they are still interested or not despite a number of reminders. In case they are no longer able to continue, I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for the contributions they made in the previous year.

Sponsors not available this year

One sponsor could not be traced. One sponsor paid for this year and indicated that it will not be possible to continue in 2007. This is appreciated as it gives us time to identify other possible sponsors for the child involved. We are grateful for the support given in the past two years. Now that the child has been set on the way to a new life, NENWIO/LAMIFUTHI will do all it can to ensure these children do not go back to where they were.

The financial report with all the details is now available for those who would like to examine it. Please just send us an e mail and we will send it to you.

New sponsors

We had two new sponsors this year that identified children they would like to support. We welcome them and can never thank them enough, like all the others, for their support and trust.

One off donations

NENWIO/LAMIFUTHI received €177, 00 as one off donations from people who were informed of the project and felt they could not commit themselves to supporting a child. This came in handy in supporting the children whose sponsors had not paid. Thank you very much to these sponsors.

Highlights of this disbursement

1. It was REALLY gratifying to note that the systems that were put in place at the beginning of the project have held water so far. The number of children has been increasing slowly from 2004 to 2006. It was possible to learn and adapt to each situation whilst still dealing with few children and families.
2. The inflation rate in the country has drastically eaten into what the money can buy. Blessedly, in all the cases except two, the 50 Euros was able to pay all the fees and levies required by the schools with some left to buy some books. In two cases the money was not enough for fees. One is a child who is starting high school. In the second case, the child suffered some trauma during the year and had to be placed in a private special school. The fees for special schools and private schools are very high.
3. Public transport, as everything else has become extremely expensive. We carried on with the process of ferrying children and their host parents in the family car. This saved a lot of time and made it possible to travel long distances to the 5 children who live out of Bulawayo. However, this car is old and it did what is expected of its age. It had major break downs twice during the month. The repairs were very costly.
4. We learnt a lot from the administration process and continue to discover issues in the lives of the children we are caring for. This emphasises the need for us to have a full time person to do child follow ups. We have been able to note children who are not only orphaned but also living under very difficult situations. We have been in contact with the Social Services and managed to help some of them. The visits from the field officer encourage children who may have been used to irregular school attendants to go to school everyday. They do not know when she might visit. Similarly it has been very useful for the field officer to visit. In some situations host families have been a little slack in encouraging their children to go to school. When the officer arrives she takes this as an opportunity to sensitise all involved on the value of helping children go to school. This is bearing fruit. Most of our children have a good attendance record

(on average they miss one or two days of school in a three month term. Usually there is a good reason for the missed day or two).

5. All the headmasters in the schools where we have children show a lot of appreciation and are helping to ensure host parents keep the children regular. We are very grateful for this.

New developments

We have been working towards opening a bank account for almost a year. So this development is not really new. The outcome is what is new and exciting. I am happy to report that this finally became a reality this year. We now have a trust account with Barclays Bank Zimbabwe. Main Street Branch. Bulawayo.

Branch code: 2307

Swift code: DARCZWHXAXXX

Account type: Current account

Account name: NENWIO/LAMIFUTHI Trust.

Account number: 2163133

Opening deposit required: Zimbabwe Dollars. \$25 000 000,00

We are very excited to have this account working now. We do not forget that we owe this account to the Takawira family who has consistently given 20Euros every month for administration. With a current account we will start using checks for the disbursement process. This makes accounting much easier.

With a functioning bank account sponsors and friends of NENIWO/LAMIFUTHI can deposit money directly into that account if they wish.

Conclusions

It is amazing what a difference three years of support can make. Children looked happier, more confident and more active. Host parents appeared motivated to maintain and support their children going to school because they wanted to show appreciation of the support they are receiving. Once more I would like to thank all our sponsors including those who were not able to support their children this year, for having shown those children and their families that being an orphan is not necessarily synonymous with poverty, delinquency, abuse and lack of self and others' respect. NENIWO/LAMIFUTHI will keep doing its best to make these children's dreams come true.

Way forward

We maintain our desire to continue getting sponsorship until we have 50 children in school. We trust you will continue to help us to achieve this.

Written by N.T. Moyo
For Neniwo/Lamifuthi