

CHAMPION DREAM BUILDERS NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2007

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The Champion Dream Builders team offers you the warmest summer greetings! We hope this message finds you having a happy and prosperous year. We are eager to update you on our remarkable successes, projects and plans this year. We will not dwell on Zimbabwe's current sad political crisis, but as you read the following, please consider that the children of Zimbabwe need our help more than ever.

Champion Dream Builders Scholarship Program

Now in its seventh year, our scholarship program has expanded yet again. Remarkably, our scholarship program has evolved from sponsoring just one student in 2000. On June 24th, Champion Dream Builders field directors in Zimbabwe Eunice Velepini and Nomagugu Moyo sent us an email with the wonderful news that Champion Dream Builders had sent a total of 16 children to school! This is a 200% increase on our recipient base from last year.

Nine of these children are orphans and 7 of them are from disadvantaged households and would have not been able to attend school without our help. Because of you faithful sponsors and donors, this coming school term we will be adding one more student to bring our total number to 17. The Scholarship Program has become an important and empowering resource to deserving and needy students. The good thing is that all of these students have a great understanding of the benefits of an education and are maximizing on the opportunities given to them.

This is illustrated by the testimony of Sindiso Nyathi featured in our Champion Dream Builders brochure produced this last spring. This coming year he will be graduating from the National University of Science and Technology and ready to change his socioeconomic situation for the better. Graduating along with him is another Champion Dream Builders student Brian Moyo who will be earning a computer science degree and is hoping to start his own computer business in internet security.

Our Zimbabwean field directors, Eunice and Noma have done a laudable job of fortifying our local presence and laying the ground work of a sustainable infrastructure for our continued operations in a very fluid political environment where the target seems to be always moving. They maintain regular contact with students, guardians and school administrators. In August they will be hosting the first Champion Dream Builders student get together and we are all excited about all the students finally getting to know each other.

Eunice and Noma have also developed and implemented a budget process for Champion Dream Builders, compiled a profile for each student and drawn up a program in which students can participate for their own educational development. They advise students of scholastic competitions and encourage them to participate in those. They are also coming up with a community service program through which the students can learn to give back to their communities.

School Uniforms and School Supplies

This part of our program has not done well at all because of limited funds and our tight budget. So far we have been able to cover school fees but not uniforms and textbooks. There were a few occasions where we had to purchase uniforms for students because they would not have been allowed to attend school even though their tuition was paid.

The lack of affordable textbooks in Zimbabwe has remained a topic of concern to all of us since it is the primary impediment to academic success. The cost of the books combined with Zimbabwe's outrageous inflation (officially at 7,634.8% and highest in the world) often render their prices an insurmountable obstacle for students. On August 4, 2007, the International Herald Tribune reported that "10 children now share a single textbook". This is an area we need to work on.

Acquisitions

A big thanks to all of you partners. Because of your generous support, this summer Champion Dream Builders was able to purchase a digital camera for documenting our students so that you can share in what they are becoming. Also, we would like to thank two of our board members Paul and Barbara Malaba for donating a laptop for use by our Zimbabwean field directors. This is the first time CDB has owned some equipment and we are grateful for your support.

Champion Dream Builders Computer Project

This is definitely our most ambitious project. We are working on acquiring computers and laptops to offer students the opportunity to acquire basic computing skills such as word, excel, internet and email functions without which they cannot successfully compete in today's world. We hope to also utilize some of our graduates and older students to teach younger students.

Website

Finally, our goal this coming fall, is to give our website a face-lift with updates to better inform our partners on the progress made and also introduce to you all the wonderful students you are helping shape and mould towards greatness in life.

With the best regards,

Felix & Juliet Khumalo
Founders