



With Love Concept Note

1. Name of the Organization: With Love Foundation

2. Title of the Proposed Project: One Million Pieces, With Love Soup Kitchen, Zim Clean and Workshops

3. Background:

With Love Foundation (WLF) was born out of a need to help bring charitable causes to the forefront of people's minds. With so many people visibly suffering around us this foundation was started to bring attention to the needs of the less privileged and create platforms for the more privileged individual to be able to assist causes that benefit the disadvantaged in a manner that is transparent and accountable. The organisation has taken lessons from the previous projects done by other non-governmental organisations and government departments and integrated the lessons into its policy and strategic plan. Our main targets are the Vulnerable Households (VH) in which we find double orphaned children (DO) , child headed households (CHH), children living on the streets (CLS), children and young adults living with HIV/AIDS from the ages of 6 years to 21 years as well as the elderly.

With Love Foundation Soup Kitchen (WLSK)

This is an initiative that aims to reduce hunger and poverty. WLSK has a base station in operation in Mbare. Every Tuesday, a wholesome soup, alongside bread is distributed to our beneficiaries. Emergency packages are distributed after the meal, so as to sustain the beneficiaries until the following week. WLSK is our entry point into the community, and we have since managed to mobilize more than 200 families who will benefit from our livelihoods skills training workshops and emergency food packages. We also have a larger scope captured in our data bases that are meant to benefit as well from the participatory community development projects. With love Foundation has managed to build a critical mass in Mbare suburbs to create an enabling environment that places safety nets to prevent hunger, mitigate the effects of HIV/AIDS to the infected and affected, and also assist in the eradication of poverty on the marginalized sections of the community. The main focus of the soup kitchen is to ensure the health of the beneficiaries to counter the effects of urban poverty. Community based facilitators are selected from the beneficiaries and taught how to prepare this wholesome soup so that they in turn train others of the health benefits from a balanced diet and the counter effects it may have on an HIV/AIDS affected individual.

With Love Mobile Soup Kitchens

The mission of the With Love Mobile Soup Kitchen (WLMSK) is to provide free healthy, nutritious and appetizing meals for school children and marginalized members of the Zimbabwean community beginning with Mashonaland Central Province. Thereafter we intend to expand to the Masvingo

Province and Matebeleland Province. Soup and bread will be served from our Mobile Soup Kitchens and food packs distributed five days a week from different locations around the country.

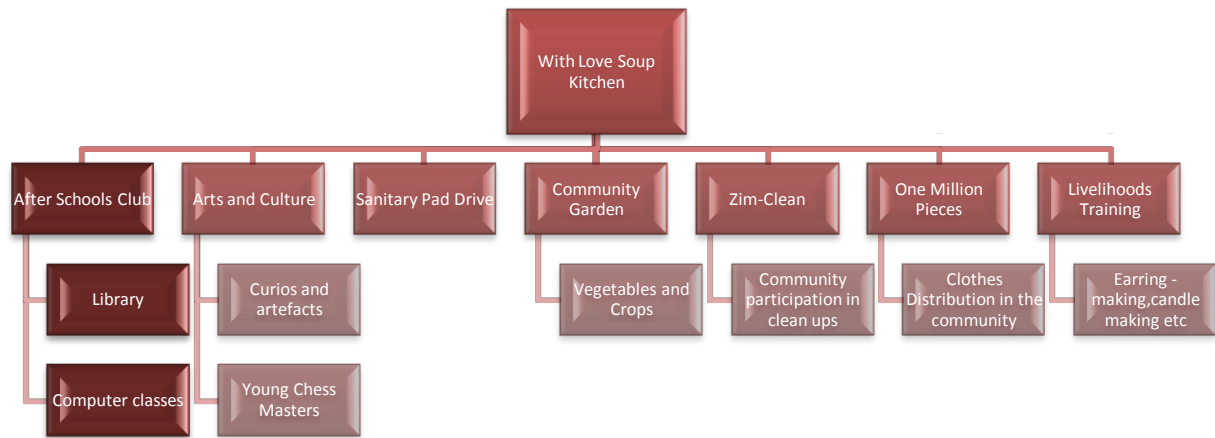


Figure 1 The dark blocks are currently not running as yet

After Schools Club

The after school's club is designed to give underprivileged children in the community the opportunity to have a place to do their home-work and receive assistance while they do it. Most of these children do not have space to do their homework as a family of five may be living in one room. They then do not receive the necessary space to do their homework let alone help with subjects they find difficult in school. It has been found that schools in poverty stricken areas have many children in classes so the teachers are overwhelmed and can't focus on children struggling with particular areas of their studies. With that the after schools program is designed to have retired teachers and teachers in training help kids with their homework and ensure that they produce good results. It is our intention to then provide books in the curriculum for them to access at the centre as well as computers so they acquire computer skills before getting into the workplace.

Arts and Culture

With Love Arts & Culture workshops are held every Thursday at Lutheran Church in Mbare. The workshops are specifically targeted to two groups; children who are not attending school because of lack of funds and youths who have finished school but are unemployed. The aim of these workshops is not only to equip the attendees with a life skill in the form of various arts and crafts ranging from graphic design to painting to sculpture, but to also create a sustainable income generating project for the community. The funds raised from this project will go towards school fees for the children who are currently not attending school due to lack of funds, and the livelihoods of the youths involved in the projects. We have partnered with the Anu Heritage Trust as they do chess classes that teach those learning to play chess the relations of people in the Shona culture. This then brings to the attention of the children the importance of our culture and guarantees that even with modernisation our culture is not lost.

Sanitary Pad Drive

With Love Foundation has identified that it is a widespread but unacknowledged problem that girls in Zimbabwe are missing school and staying at home because of menstruation. They are also substituting pads or tampons for unhygienic and unsafe materials such as old pieces of cloth or newspaper. There are many aspects linking girls' attendance rates to their menstrual cycles. Firstly the lack of affordable sanitary products and facilities for girls and women to buy pads and tampons. Secondly, the lack of clean and healthy sanitation such as toilets and running water means that girls often do not have anywhere to change or dispose of pads safely and in privacy at school and at home. Thirdly, the taboo nature of menstruation prevents girls and their communities from talking about and addressing the problem; raising awareness and education to eliminate the stigma of menstruation is a large part of the battle. With Love Foundation aims to engage people all over the world to donate sanitary pads and keep our girls in school. Long term, we wish to see free sanitary towels provided to school girls in Zimbabwe.

Community Garden

The community garden is a way for the community to get actively involved with providing their own food. One aspect of food security is that people can acquire food in socially acceptable ways, without having to resort to relying on emergency food supplies, scavenging or stealing. For many in the field this means working cooperatively with local government to develop sustainable food systems. This is a way of providing safe nutritious food and building community fellowship. Seed-Co has kindly donated seed to start this project. We currently have got two hectares of maize growing at a farm on Shamva Road, but the desire is to have land in the community to allow access to residents and proximity to the soup kitchen.

Zim Clean

This concept is based on the Umuganda concept which is practised in Rwanda to bring the community together through initiatives that help not only keep the communities we live in clean and free from diseases like typhoid and cholera that come from dirty streets, but that bring about a community spirit. The devastating effects of cholera in August 2008 saw 91 164 cases being reported and resulted in 4 037 deaths since the beginning of the outbreak. Transmission is primarily by the faecal contamination of food and water caused by poor sanitation. This bacterium can, however, live naturally in any environment hence the importance of keeping the environment clean. With that we Zimbabweans have come together and take responsibility of our country. The initiative is not just about keeping Zimbabwe litter-free, it is also an initiative which encourages the able bodied man to affect change in Zimbabwe. On the last Saturday of each month, professionals are encouraged to go out into their community to offer their services free of charge. For example, a builder could help mend roof leaks for the elderly, a lawyer would give legal advice at the local community centre, a doctor would give the community free medical advice and so on. This will not only benefit the community but also encourage everyone in the community to play a role in the bettering of the next person, which in turn benefits the country.

One Million Pieces

The mission of 1 Million Pieces clothing drive is to provide clothing to the economically disadvantaged. The target is to have collected and distributed 1 million pieces of clothing by the end of 2013. How this will be done is by engaging the Zimbabwean community to donate their pieces of clothing so that those without may benefit. This has been done through the media ranging from newspaper articles to television interviews. It will raise awareness of how much others lack and encourage the various communities to find other ways to help the less fortunate and restore dignity to those in need. Corporates have been encouraged to mobilize their employees to have clothing collection days at which they donate on an individual basis. The ultimate goal of this program is to have all Zimbabweans adequately clothed. Not limiting it to casual clothing, but spreading to school uniforms, sports kits and shoes for children whose families cannot afford. How this will be done is that we will train those willing to learn, how to sew using machines through our life sustaining skills workshops thus enabling them to produce the clothing for themselves as well as others in need.

Livelihoods Training

The programme endeavours to provide adults and out-of-school children with the opportunity to learn and receive training in non-formal education centres. The involvement of several partners in the formulation and development of the project enabled it to reflect and capture the fundamental needs of both the nation and the individual beneficiaries within the communities. The project has evolved in response to the practical demands and needs of the beneficiaries as well as the lessons that have emerged as the project was implemented. Moreover, strategies and methods are constantly being refined as new developments emerge. Currently we have Dee-Kaw-Zee helping us teach the art of making earrings.

4. Rationale for the Proposed Project:

The initiative was born out of the dire living conditions our communities are currently living in. Most of the industries in Zimbabwe have closed down citing economic challenges, this has led to a high percentage of unemployment. This has also led to a high level of emigration of the economically active experienced workers in Zimbabwe and the other related effects being the breakdown of the family units. This unfortunate circumstance has created a vicious poverty cycle which has a direct bearing on the dependent population ratio. This has also led to the poverty entrapment of the majority urban dwellers especially orphans and widows.

As a contribution to the broader health and welfare society and also taking part in the effort to eradicate poverty and extreme hunger (MDG 1), ensuring environmental sustainability (MDG 7) and empowering Zimbabwean citizens to be engaged in economically rewarding activities, our organisation has taken the initiative to assist the marginalized sections of the community by helping them to address their immediate needs while at the same time setting up sustainable structures that will assist them in their future. With Love Foundation has organized livelihood skills training workshops which target mainly the vulnerable households which are meant to empower them with information and skills that will benefit them later in their lives (sustainability).

5. Project Goals and Objectives

Objective 1: Develop empowerment network

Objective 2: Livelihood sustenance skills training

Objective 3: To train local people and Project staff in hunger, poverty alleviation and empowerment.

Objective 4: Establish database and carryout regular monitoring and evaluation (M&E) systems

6. Project Strategy

Location

The WLSK project will be implemented in phases. Phase one will be carried out in Mashonaland Central. The establishment of phase one will give better opportunities to make an assessment of the activities and make recommendations. Phase two will be carried out in Masvingo and Matebeland province.

Staffing And Organization

Central to effective and adaptive management of the project will be the development of non-hierarchical teams to tackle implementation issues and management functions.

Impact Assessment and Feedback

Performance monitoring and evaluation (M&E) are essential elements of project implementation. In general, performance monitoring helps follow intervention progress while evaluation focuses on measuring achievement against some standard. For this project, M&E represents tools for tracking results and making necessary adjustments throughout the duration of the project. The project will focus on specified activities as contained in the implementation schedule and annual work-plans.

Communications

In order to have smooth internal and external communication, reliable efficient facilities are essential. So as to improve project effectiveness in operation, the project will have access and use of the Internet and email for information dissemination. This will also allow more emphasis to be placed on dissemination of results. The project will purchase computers and establish a computer network at the office.

Evaluation

Two external evaluations are proposed – mid-term and final.

- A mid-term review, after one and a half years of operation will be designed to obtain an external view on progress made in relation to the objectives sought and outputs chosen. It will provide recommendations for the subsequent work plans and project constraints/opportunities to be addressed.
- A final evaluation, during the final year of the programs, will also seek external expertise to examine the overall effectiveness of the project towards objectives sought. The final evaluation will also recommend future steps to ensure viability of key activities, or for other challenges to be addressed.

7. Expected outcomes

- i. As a contribution to the broader health and welfare society and also taking part in the effort to eradicate poverty and extreme hunger (MDG 1)
- ii. Ensure Environmental Sustainability (MDG 7) through our Zim Clean initiative
- iii. By 2012 December we aim to have 10 trained Community Based Facilitators in Mbare (pilot project)
- iv. We intend on all our beneficiaries to initiate livelihood sustaining projects
- v. To promote youth and adult literacy, non-formal education and training at national, regional and district levels
- vi. Empowered locals who have access to information and are able to make informed decisions (qualitative interviews)
- vii. Local people will be able to influence the decision making bodies and institutions and be more concerned about their welfare.
- viii. A database of local beneficiaries is set up so that they can easily be identified by bodies responsible for economic, social and political empowerment initiatives.
- ix. Nutrition based training will ensure that locals are aware of the benefits of preparing healthy meals and are in a position to pass on the knowledge they have attained.
- x. The goal is for the locals to take on board With Love Foundation initiatives, and spearhead them in their communities.

General Information

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Year of Incorporation: 2012