

with LOVE •
foundation

April & May Report 2013

WITHLOVE SOUP KITCHEN REPORT

With Love Soup Kitchen is a weekly pilot project based in Mbare. We have 230 beneficiaries now officially registered through the local council. Registration took place at the local Mbare city council hall and we have been using the register to account for those who benefit from the Soup Kitchen. Food packs, a healthy wholesome soup and planned workshops are some of the benefits, which the Mbare recipients receive from our Soup Kitchen

ACTIVITIES

We would like to thank **Bakers Inn** for stepping in and sponsoring bread to our weekly soup kitchen. Their support and commitment to helping With Love Foundation and our community is sincerely appreciated.



Café Nush also gave the children a rare treat comprising of vanilla and red velvet cupcakes.



Kuumba Foundation Trust

Kuumba Trust held a parenting workshop on 14 May 2013. Those in attendance were women aged between 19 and 70 years of age. The few younger women had young children with them. All are not working, some have no accommodation, some are married, cohabiting, widowed, or single. And nearly all of the older ones are looking after their deceased children's children. Their communication within their families is characterized by fear, force, verbal abuse, and beating. They are in need of practical counselling on communication, discipline and nurturing.

Speakers were not aloof but made it a point to dialogue with the women as they arrived and assisted them with registration and completion of the parenting questionnaire. The women felt at ease and were very sociable. **Pastor Muhamba's** topic was Communication Breakdown and **Liz Sherekete's** Communication Blockages. Compassion and concern was shown by both speakers and biblical principals were practically applied in their presentations; they responded adequately to questions and were assisted by **Rev Kawadza**. Both presentations emphasized the need to make time to listen and talk with children, identified thieves of time that should be for them (tv, cell phones, etc.) Parents were encouraged to love, forgive, befriend their children and provide a wholesome environment like going to church with them. Parents were told that words kill and that they need to be examples / models and to teach by example what children should do. Shona summaries of their main points were distributed at the end of the workshop.

The Arts

During the course of April and May we have had full attendance of all the 18 kids selected to this programme. The children have a vivid interest in what they are doing and can complete various stages of creating curios on their own. **Stanley**, the wood sculptor training the children is well respected and liked by the children and the interaction between him and the children is like that one would expect in an older brother. The children are served with sandwiches and freezits at the end of the Arts workshop. We have children who are not in the class taking an interest in the class but because of a limited number of chisels we can only have a limited number participating. We have moved the time of the workshop from 12 to 1.30 to allow time for some of the children who attend school. We are getting ready to take out first batch of curios to RTG where they will be sold and funds are to put those children who are not attending school back in school first



Chessmasters

Anu Heritage Trust had been to teach the children how to play chess. The children need to understand how to play conventional chess before the cultural element is added to the chess game. The main challenge is conflicting schedules with the facilitator **Farirayi** from Anu Heritage Trust who has an engagement on Thursday afternoons. This is in the process of being resolved as he is looking for another facilitator within his team.

Dee Kaw Zee Livelihoods Training

The Livelihoods **Dee Kaw Zee** programme started on the 25th of April to train women in the art of beadmaking. This has been a resounding success and the women are enthused and very keen. The facilitator of this workshop **Takudzwa Chitsike** is a professional beadmaker and has kindly donated her time and resources to this project. So far the women have made in excess of 60 pairs of earrings and bracelets. Seeing their finished product and getting to take some earrings home has been a key factor. The workshop is only able to train 5 women at a time due to materials only being sufficient for the 5. The women are now learning the skill of marketing in the second mark as we know business is not just about producing goods but also about being able to sell the wares.



Plastics Recycling

We started an income generating Plastics collection programme where all beneficiaries were encouraged to collect plastic from their household and surrounding areas for recycling. The process has been hindered by not having enough space to store the collected plastic and also miscommunication with the recyclers. As this is our first month we trust that issues are to be ironed out and perfected as time goes by. The plastic is to be collected on a month to month basis brought to the soup kitchen for weighing then taken to the recyclers where payment is to be issued out to the individuals who have collected plastic based on their contribution. This is an easy way to not only help our environment but also make an extra dollar for the household.

RESULTS, LEARNING AND REFINEMENT

Using the With love Soup Kitchen as our entry point into the community we have managed to establish other programmes which will enable the Mbare community and any other community to develop empowerment networks and to obtain livelihood sustenance skills training. These initiatives include the arts and culture project, community garden, livelihoods training and an after school club which is not currently running yet. For this initiative we require the assistance of educational teachers who will give any vital assistance to the young ones. It is our intention to also provide the basic educational materials such as books and computers to support them in their learning course.

With the aid of funding most of With Love initiatives would be up and running and our biggest goal is not only to focus on Mbare but other areas in Zimbabwe where people are in dire living circumstances.

For more information and to find out how you can assist, please contact Chenaimoyo on 0736971414 or chenaimoyo@withlove.co.zw