



Serenje Orphans Children's Home (SOCH)

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Introduction:

There are a number of activities that took place at SOCH in the year, 2013. SOCH, was primarily established in the year, 2004, running up to date clocking 10 year anniversary with the main aim of empowering the vulnerable children through a caring environment where they receive adequate feeding and basic education in life skills. This aim is being guided by the following objectives:

- To provide loving care to orphaned children from Serenje township.
- To assist in the education of these children.
- To have a particular concern to foster the disadvantaged girl-child.
- To pursue self-sustainability of finances on the longer term as per support by the part of the overseas sponsors and the probable local efforts.

This report summarises how part of these objectives have started being pursued. The activities that have been done and are in progress include establishment of boarding facility, sustainable feeding of orphans, education sponsorship of orphans at primary and partly secondary, skills provision, fitting out orphans with clothes, and finally part of self-sustainable projects.

Establishment of Boarding Facilities

So far the charity has built four spacious dormitories. Two are accommodating girls while the other two accommodate boys. These dormitories have always been kept clean and health. To avoid uncontrollable transmission of disease infections, a sick-bay room has so far been created. The ratio of accommodation on gender is 1 : 1.

Sustainable feeding of Orphans

Following the daily menu guide, children are being fed on balanced diet. This activity has been a continuous one where children are well fed and grow health. There are two staple food that orphans are fed that include Nshima and Rice.



Older girls like eating together (Zambian style)



what about young ones here?? Eat and view??

Education/Skills project

Sponsorship in education has been also an on-going project. Uniforms, fees and school materials such as books, pens and pencils are all being provided for by SOCH. This year, 2013/2014, a number of children are expected to go do boarding high secondary schools because they have passed colourfully. Furthermore, some of the children who are older were taught some skills that included sewing and knitting. They also learned a little of computing.



Education, the future of orphans!!!!

Fitting out Orphans with Clothes

There are a lot of clothes that are being bought by SOCH to outfit all orphans. To cater for 44 children, at least 6 bales of clothes or more have to be bought. To fit them in shoes, all children have to be taken to shoe shops so that sizes fit them. Nevertheless, this year, some shoes have been donated through one of the hard working sponsors when she visited SOCH. The wonderful thing that happens is that older children are given a chance to go and choose the clothes they would like with the guidance of the matron.



Bale



selecting sizes



happy boys in new clothes

Self-Sustainable Projects

The Orphanage has tried two projects that would be self-running. The two projects are fish farming and chicken run. The latter has been more successful. Fish farming has been a challenge because, before the fish mature the fish pond runs out of water because the source reservoir has usually less water in dry season to supply the pond water furrow. Gardening is also done but seasonal due to the same water problem as explained.



Fish, Chicken run and garden projects

Zambian Government and Local People's passion of help initiatives

The department of Social welfare, despite the limited resources which they usually have to help out the needy, they help SOCH in kind and pay visits to the centre. Their visiting moments make orphans very happy and role modelling becomes opportunistic on the occasion. Local people can also have an impact on caring for the local orphans. The pillar (to carry SOCH address) bellow and flower pots were out of the help from the local Serenje passionate woman.



Victim Support unit and Social welfare on site visiting at SOCH

Conclusion and Recommendations

SOCH is very thankful of the help that it receives from overseas and that it has been sustained up to now, in the first ten years down the line. It is also thankful for the government and the local peoples of Serenje for the support here in given to orphans. As management, we would like to recommend the help that all are providing and that if there is any improvement, let it be lifted up. SOCH will be celebrating its 10th year anniversary in July, 2014, and therefore, happy new first of its kind year, 2014!!!!!!

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