



SERVICE PROJECT SHEET
Rotary's Africa Hope
inc. Hope and Homes for Children
Ref: /Int/Hope/Jan 2005
First published by RIBI: pre-1999/2000



Project name:

Rotary's Africa Hope, incorporating Hope and Homes for Children
(Registered Charity 1089490)

Project goal:

To rebuild the lives of orphaned and abandoned children in areas of war or disaster.

Rotary service type:

Fund raising. Provision of service to help distribute School Packs.

Unique selling proposition:

Every child has a right to hope for the future, through a home and a loving family.

Description:

Colonel Mark Cook resigned from the Army in 1993 after 31 years service. Before retiring he was Commander of the British contingent in UNPROFOR in Croatia. He resigned to fulfil his promise to build the Children's Home in Lipik, Croatia and went on to rebuild another children's home in Sarajevo, during the siege.

Since then, the Charity has turned in Eastern Europe towards helping children who suffer, in many cases losing control of their bodies and minds through lack of care, in the vast soulless orphanages. The Charity now helps willing local authorities to close down these Institutions and move children into small family homes and foster homes where they receive loving care. The most important ingredient in a child's life is love. In order to give this back to children who have lost their parents, the Charity tries to recreate as nearly as possible a natural, family-type environment for these children within their local communities. Projects are currently underway in Bosnia, Albania, Kosovo, Romania, Ukraine, Moldova, Belarus, Croatia and Transdnistria.

In Africa, the Charity is currently working in Sierra Leone, Sudan and Eritrea, providing family homes for some 900 children. They concentrate on providing war-orphaned children, who have often witnessed the death of their families, with small family homes, foster care and support for extended families who take in these children.

Rotary's Africa Hope:

(First published by RIBI: 2004/2005)

The Aim

To support at least 1,000 families over three years, with an individual club target of £1,000 to support one family.

In 1994 in Rwanda an estimated one million people were killed in 100 days. By the end of 2001 there were 613,000 orphans under 15 in Rwanda, of which 43% were orphans of the developing AIDS epidemic (UNAIDS/UNICEF report) South Africa has the fastest growing AIDS epidemic in the world. In 2001 there were 662,000 orphans of AIDS in South Africa (UNAIDS/UNICEF report). By 2010 there will probably be 1.5 million AIDS orphans in South Africa; that is one in three children (UNAIDS report on the global HIV/AIDS epidemic 2002).

Because of AIDS, by 2015, almost 12% of the population will be children who have been orphaned. Every day in South Africa 8,000 people are dying of HIV/AIDS related illness.

The project

The impact of support will be spread over three years, starting in the Hope and Homes for Children (HHC) tenth anniversary year in 2004, Rotary International's Centenary in 2005 and completing in 2006/7. The reason for this spread is both a reflection of the likely time frame of support coming in and to ensure that the huge boost to these countries is manageable and sustainable.

The appeal will provide financial and personal support for the poorest and most vulnerable family groups (mainly households headed by a child under 18 or a frail grandparent), caring for children orphaned by genocide and/or AIDS. It will identify those most in need and contribute to the prevention of disintegration of these family groups and ensure that the children continue to grow up in a family within their community. It will provide financial support (for a three-year period in Rwanda, two years for South Africa), combined with intensive social work support and aim to assist each family unit to become financially viable and sustainable. Assistance will be given to family groups to meet basic needs, to access sanitation, health care and education and to establish or stabilise small sustainable enterprises.

Personalities supporting project:

- Lord Carrington
- Martin Bell
- Lord Ashdown of Norton-Sub-Hamden
- Donald McKinnon, Commonwealth General Secretary
- Kristin Scott-Thomas

Benefits to club:

An opportunity to contribute to the future.

Contact for further information:

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or any member of the RIBI International Service Committee, or your District International Service Chairman.

Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland has adopted this statement of policy for its work with children, the elderly, the vulnerable and those with disability. The needs and rights of the child, the elderly, the vulnerable and persons with disability take priority. It is the duty of every Rotarian to safeguard to the best of his or her ability, the welfare of and prevent the physical, sexual or emotional abuse and neglect of all children, the elderly, persons with disability or otherwise vulnerable persons with whom they come into contact in their Rotarian duties. Rotarians should refer to the detailed "RIBI Protection Policy" when planning events and activities.