

Mabale+ giving hope and support to children in Zimbabwe through education

Bishop Gilpin Primary School in London's SW19 has been supporting a rural school in Zimbabwe, Mabale Primary, since 2009. Facilitated by Kate Oppenheim in the UK and Painted Dog Conservation (PDC) in Zimbabwe, Bishop Gilpin pupils and their families have been providing educational equipment, clothing, and the funds for essential services, including connection to the electricity supply and building materials.

While Mabale and its community benefit from this continued support, many other poor children in the region can't attend school regularly because their families can't afford the school fees.

From as little as £30-a-year you can ensure a child is given the opportunity to attend school full-time, providing them with an education and hope for a better future.

Hwange National Park and surrounding areas - which encompasses 26 schools - to protect the highly endangered African Painted Dog, this conservation group will use its local networks and knowledge to identify children for support. It is PDC's philosophy to educate, support and offer employment and life-enhancing opportunities to the local people. Community engagement is its ethos: to encourage and empower local communities within the region to protect and value their natural environment and, of course, the Painted Dog.

The costs

£30 a year will pay a child's primary school fees for one year, or £100 a year for a secondary year pupil. £45 a year will pay for a primary child school's fees and buy them the school uniform, books, and other educational equipment they may need, £140 a year for full secondary school support. Any surplus funds created, due to changes in exchange rates and other cost savings, will be used to additional support children's educational needs in the region.

How to pay

All support will be requested in advance, and all sponsor families are asked to commit to at least one full school year. Choose from: a one-off annual payment or monthly direct debit. Just £5 a month will support two primary school children.

The mechanics

In the UK, Kate Oppenheim co-ordinates Mabale+, while in Zimbabwe, Painted Dog Conservation identifies the children for sponsorship from within its region.



'We would like the children from this sponsorship to go on to meaningful employment in conservation, or at least develop a positive attitude towards wildlife, conservation and the Painted Dog. This will translate into positive actions and activity from them within their community, bringing benefit and opportunities to their local environment and enhancing their life chances.'

Peter Blinston, managing director of Painted Dog Conservation

The children...

Choice Ncube is a Grade 3 pupil at Lupote Primary School. She lives with her grandparents, after being abandoned by her parents. She is the eldest of two children in the family.



Privilige Sibanda (left) is a 'Grade 3' pupil at Ndangababi Primary School. She lives with her grandparents after being abandoned by her parents. She is the youngest of two children.

Carren Dube (right) is a 'Grade 3' pupil, aged 9, at the Sir Roy Welensky Primary school. She lives with her mother, who is unable to find regular work.



Learnmore Sibanda (awaiting picture) is a boy in Form 4 at Nechilibi High School and has shown great interest in the nature conservation of nature and dogs in particular. He is the chairperson of the Conservation Club.



Faith Nkomazana is a 'Form 1' pupil at Dampa Secondary living with her unemployed father and mother. An intelligent girl, she has been active in the Painted Dog Conservation's Clubs and has been involved in the Climate Change debate, during COP17 in Durban.

If you'd like to support one of these, or any of the other children needing support, please email: kate@gabbani.co.uk.