



Serenje Orphans Children's Home (SOCH)

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Introduction

Having operated for 12 years since 2004, as the opening year of the SOCH, there are a number of activities that are mushrooming while others are in consolidation phase. So far the orphanage has had an impact on the lives of a maximum number of 68 orphans and vulnerable children. Out of these orphans, others were weaned on the way, others dropped out on the way while others were reincorporated to their potential guardians. The orphanage boarding home facility only has the capacity of 44 orphans. The weaned orphans are said to have graduated successfully when they reach grade 12 and go to college, pass to a boarding secondary school after good performance, get into any routine job or employment or grown up to an adult. These conditions show that an orphan is no longer vulnerable but has been rescued from childhood life dangers.

To achieve the support to these orphans, the orphanage undertakes such activities as illustrated bellow;

Children's Education Sponsorship

It is compulsory and mandatory that all children at SOCH go to school. This year, children's performance in schools has not been satisfactory, except a few of them. To help the slow learners and have the orphans improve their understanding and performance, there are part-time lessons taking place at SOCH. The tutorials are meant to help orphans with English, Mathematics and Science. All orphans are participating in this program.



Lessons being conducted in the Library at SOCH for English and Mathematics improvement

Feeding and Accommodation

As a home of orphans, activities such as feeding, accommodation and recreation activities have never ceased at SOCH. Children are fed well, clothed well and sleep on clean facilities in good environment.



Dormitory and Dinning rooms at SOCH

Supplementary Activities

SOCH runs a garden and chicken rearing to supplement on the diet of orphans. The garden supplies vegetables for orphans and part of it is being sold to maintain the capital. The garden still faces challenges of seasonal water supply during this period although efforts are being made to make sure SOCH has some water. The chicken run supplies meat to orphans and some chicken is sold to continue with the capital item.



Self Sustainability of SOCH

SOCH has not yet started a reliable income generating activity that can sustain it in-case there is a challenge faced by sponsors to fundraise more money as time goes. For this reason, there is a construction of the Guest House that is meant for fundraising for the

sustainability of the Orphanage. This Guest house is remaining with works that require approximately ZMW to finish tiles, paint it, supply and fix furniture and register it to operate as a business. Any support therefore towards this is very welcome through our sponsors or contacts on first page of this report. Currently available resources are for fence and partly of tiles. Fence construction has now started.



Benefits from Guest House

The guest house will have the following impact to SOCH and the community in Serenje

1. Create employment for adult Orphans and vulnerable people.
2. Provide accommodation to Serenje visitors
3. Provide workshop venue for the public
4. Create a Job on training to newly graduated people such as graduates in home management, hotel management, Receptionists, Information Technology in use of Projector, Catering as well as communication skills.
5. It will eventually fund SOCH activities for sustainability with all moneys raised.

Other Important Activities

There are routine medical checkups for orphans to make sure all orphans health status record is up to date. SOCH, through the help of Children's First Foundation (C.F.F.) is also able to help rehabilitate some physical disabilities of orphans. So far two children have been under the help of C.F.F. in Australia where surgery takes place to reduce their disabilities.

SOCH Facility Monitoring

There are always un-arranged irregular visits from the Ministry of Youth and Gender which happen to catch SOCH unaware and to check on what the orphanage standards are and if at all there are problems the orphanage is facing. The feedback given has been that SOCH is doing fine.



Monitors from Provincial Office visit SOCH

Conclusion

In general, SOCH has had such activities to make sure the vulnerability of the orphans in Serenje district is reduced. When children grow up to the age of 16 and 18, they are termed to become adults and therefore be able to be re-integrated in their guardians or relatives families. To make this graduation easy, children visit their guardians home on regular basis to maintain the link with their guardians. All other information can be accessed on the website; www.serenjeorphansappeal.com

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