APPEAL FOR FUNDS

The Zimbabwe Pensioners Supporter Fund is a registered Section 21 Non Profit Organization that supplies food to more than 1650 pensioners in Zimbabwe. Every 6 weeks more than 20 tons of food is transported in 3 trucks and distributed to 28 homes/organizations. Clothes and basic medicine is also supplied to the pensioners. The supply trip lasts 8 – 10 days and a distance of 11200 kilometres will be travelled by the 3 trucks using more than 2600 litres of fuel. The value of the food and the cost of delivering it to the pensioners in Zimbabwe exceeds R200,000 per trip. The ZPSF relies entirely on donations to carry out this mission.

The pensioners have been left destitute by years of hyper – inflation. Some of the pensioners receive pensions of 40 USD. A few receive NO PENSION at all. Should you wish to support the ZPSF relief efforts the banking details are listed below.

The food hampers serve 2 purposes.
1. They supply much needed food to the pensioner.
2. The pensioner then knows that someone cares about them

**ZIMBABWE PENSIONER SUPPORTER FUND**
FIRST NATIONAL BANK
MALALANE BRANCH
BRANCH CODE 270952
ACCOUNT NUMBER 62239042906
SWIFT CODE FIRNZAJJ

Please fax or e-mail the ZPSF your contact details so that your donation can be acknowledged and a receipt issued.

Kind Regards
Hannes Botha
Director
HISTORY OF THE Z.P.S.F

January 2002 Hannes Botha received an appeal for help from a pensioner in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe. The pensioner had no funds and no food. Hannes bought enough food to fill his ford meteor car, took a week's leave and drove the 1000 kilometres to Bulawayo and delivered food to the pensioner. A few months later he went up to Zimbabwe and supplied the pensioner with food. He was asked to supply a pensioner with food at the Huisvergesig Old Age home in Gwreu. This he did and when he noticed how the other pensioners in the home were staring at him and the box of food he realized that they also needed food. It took Hannes another 8 months to buy enough food to supply 36 pensioners with a food hamper at this home. The pensioners did not know that they would be receiving food and some of them were so overwhelmed that they cried. This is when Hannes realized that there was a crisis facing the pensioners in Zimbabwe. Their pensions were fast becoming worthless as inflation was out of control.

Hannes then started the Zimbabwe Pensioner Supporter Fund as he could no longer carry the cost on his own. December 2003 Hannes bought a 4 ton Toyota Dyna truck as he was supplying more than 100 pensioners with food. As donations were received the ZPSF expanded its relief efforts until it was supplying more than 400 pensioners with food, clothing and basic medicine every 3 months.

July 2007 food disappeared from the shelves in the shops and a decision was made to supply the pensioners with a hamper every month. April 2008 the ZPSF was registered as a Non Profit Organisation and in July 2008 the ZPSF was donated a second-hand 8 ton truck. This made it possible to supply more than 1000 pensioners with a food hamper every month. As the situation in Zimbabwe deteriorated a mobile clinic accompanied our trucks to Zimbabwe and medicine was supplied to the pensioners. January 2009 the ZPSF purchased a new 9 ton truck which has since been upgraded to carry a 14 ton payload.

March 2009 the ZPSF for the first time sent up 3 trucks carrying 22 tons of food that was distributed to more than 1600 pensioners. It was also in March 2009 that the ZPSF store room moved from Hannes’s house to a warehouse in Malalane.

The ZPSF is only supplying 40% of the pensioners that it has targeted. As funds allow the ZPSF relief efforts will be expanded to supply the other 60% with food hampers.

Hannes Botha
Director
By this time I am sure everyone knows that Hannes had to undergo an emergency heart by-pass operation on the 22nd of July. This came as a huge shock and surprise to all of us and threw all our arrangements out of kilter and into a high-speed broadside. I can however report that he is finally on his way to a full recovery provided he behaves and follows the doctor’s orders. The year 2010 has not been an easy one for the Fund and its members.

First came the world wide economic slump, which has affected our income as much as it has everyone else, and placed some constraints on our spending. The result of this is that we may need to revert back to doing the trips every three months or cut out some homes if things do not improve.

Secondly, I needed a knee operation on the 11th of March that effectively sidelined me somewhat, but the work needed to go on and I accompanied the late Norman Nimmo on the long trip in April to show him the route. He was then tragically killed in a motorcar accident on the 3rd of May. One of our stand-in drivers, KC Schuuring was also killed in a motoring accident in May. Now Hannes will be out of the drivers loop until next year so we are under a lot of pressure to keep the wheels turning.

It was decided that we get the Bulawayo trip going as soon as possible and so I set off solo on Monday the 16th leaving Malelane at lunchtime and travelled to Duiwelskloof where I slept over. I left at 04.00 on Tuesday for the border arriving there at 07.45 and after a good crossing I was on my way to Esigodini, King Haven. I arrived there at 17.30 and did the drop off. I then headed for Bulawayo and slept over. I managed to do all the deliveries on Wednesday, which was a huge task.

The next day, Thursday, I departed for Gweru, did Boggies and Huisvergesig and then MUUS in Shurugwi before returning to Gweru for the night. In Gweru we have Attie and Anna Scheepers who do the equivalent of a SOAP ministry and we supply them with the necessary hampers now too. Up early on Friday and off to Zvishavane to deliver the hampers to the D’Ewes family whose ministry also falls into the SOAP mission. Here I was given a hearty meal and sent on my way. I headed for the border, had a good crossing and arrived home safely at 19.30. It was a rather rushed trip as I needed to get back to do the next one.

I spent the weekend at home and left for Malelane early on Monday 23rd picking up a donation of “pre mix” flour from White River Milling en route. We loaded the truck for the longer Harare trip and I spent the night in Malelane. On this trip, I was accompanied by, Les Brits from Mandini, Natal.

It was his first trip and he, as every person before him, had a life changing experience and often disappeared behind the truck to compose himself. To reach out to the oldies in this way is really a blessing that cannot be measured in words. He also shared with the driving as he has the necessary licence and will be applying for his PDP endorsement.

We left Malelane at about 09.30 on Tuesday 24th and slept over in Duiwelskloof. As is the norm by now we left home at 04.00 on Wednesday and headed for the border, which we cleared at 13.45. We then headed for Masvingo arriving there at 17.20. We spent the night with Gerhard and Trudi Burger being treated to a wholesome meal and nice warm bed. Up early we did the deliveries of the hampers throughout the day and recovered as many empties as we could and slept over again.

Up early on Friday 27th we left for Chivhu where we dropped the hampers for the oldies with Mr Albert Kirstein and his wife and took the back road via Nyasura to Mutare. Des Becker and his team were at hand to assist with the distribution of the hampers. The next morning we collected the empties, did some maintenance on the vehicle and slept over again. Des gave “Silver” a much needed drink at his trough, thankyou buddy.

We were on our way again on Sunday morning to serve Rest Haven in Rusape and on to Harare. It was at Rest Haven that one of the ladies told me that the last of her mealie meal was used up that morning and that she would need to scratch around to get money enough to buy some. She was overjoyed to see us and of course take delivery of her 5kg bag. It’s these stories that touch the heartstrings.
We did our customary bulk drop at the Futter home from where they, with SOAP and Homes In Zimbabwe (HIZ) distribute to homes and persons in need. We did the deliveries to Waterfalls Trust and then parked the truck at the Masonic Lodge and spent the night with our hosts, Philip and Claire Gilbert-Green. Using Philips LDV we did the delivery to Malvern trust at Mvurwi. Here we were also told of how the need keeps growing and supplies need to be stretched even more. Our arrival was absolutely timed right. The matron, Mrs Pam Dewis tearfully hugged and thanked us. Bless her heart for her passion with the oldies there. On our return we watered our horse thanks to Tim Forrester and team and went to repack the truck as we had a huge amount of empties falling around in the back.

The next day, Tuesday 31st we drove to Chinhoyi, Sunningdale Trust, then on to Kadoma, Westview Cottages and finally on to Kwekwe where we arrived at around five that afternoon. We spent the night at the Connelly residence being treated as royalty in the company of some of the oldies and the local franchise cricket coaching staff, including one Mr Jason Gillespie, an ex Australian pace bowler who has given the “Proteas” some uphill in the past.

After a good rest, the next morning we did the Lynbrook home in Kwekwe, got some refreshment for “Silver” from Ken Connelly and went on to do Herbert Lee in Redcliff before going on to Bulawayo to do some minor drops of goods not carried on the previous trip.

We spent the next night with Koekie Koekemoer and early the next day, Thursday, two weary travellers left for home at 04.00. We had a good crossing and finally arrived at Duiwelskloof, parked the truck and were home by 17.30, a long thirteen and a half hours on the road. Needless to say, my knee was “eina”.

On these two trips we learnt that a number of the old friends had passed away and also that the frail care section of Mazoe Valley Trust had closed down. None of this is good news. It tears at your heart strings when you get to a home, take out a hamper for Mr and Mrs “So and so” only to be corrected and told that either he or she had passed on a day or two earlier, and you have to change the list and the label on the box.

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It hurts to see those empty eyes looking to you for comfort and encouragement. These dear ones need your prayers as much if not more than we do. In Masvingo we had to bath in an enamel basin as the water was not strong enough to rise up to fill the geyser or even the toilet cistern. In all the time we were there, we had electricity for only about 9 hours, and that mostly between 22.00 hrs and 06.00 hrs. Our hostess got up at 02.30 to prepare food for our forward journey, in spite of our objections. Trudi, you’re a STAR.

Mutare also has it’s share of power cuts and when it comes on, you hear the cheering in the surrounding area. In Bulawayo you are restricted to 400 litres per household per day and the quality is “add two teaspoons of sugar and add some milk, and you have coffee” see attached photo.

We travelled about 6648 Kms and used more than 2100 litres diesel. We served about 29 homes feeding schemes and kitchens catering for more than 1650 people. We carried in the region of 740 boxes, some personally marked, some for kitchens plus extra ones packed and sent by friends and relatives. We moved at least three tons of maize meal and almost two tons of pre mix bread and other flour.

On these trips we delivered a wheel chair and some walking aids as well. Consider that each box weighs about 20 kgs and the bulk varies between 5kgs and 25 kgs a bag each. We managed to move about 22 tons of much needed food to the folk there. Who needs to gym when you can get your exercise in this fashion?

The value of the trip was again around R200, 000:00 all the costs taken into consideration.

Once again I want to thank all our donors, sponsors, supporters and prayer partners for the great job you are all doing. You are awesome and if we have overlooked you in the process of generating notes of thanks, I apologise. I urge you to keep up the good work you are doing, and as I have stated before, without your input the wheels will not turn.
I want to add two quotations in at this point that really motivate me.

“Real integrity is doing the right thing knowing that nobody is going to know whether you did it or not” Oprah Winfrey.

“When I thought I could not go on, I forced myself to keep going. My success is based on persistence, not luck.” Norman Lear”.

For old Thornhillians, and other (Gwelo) Gweru high schools remember the reunion on the 9th October in Pretoria. There will be some fund raising done for the ZPSF so please try to get there. For more info regarding this event please contact Kendel Janson on Cell 0832676908 or email on the following. Thornhill.reunion@gmail.com or kendel@mweb.co.za

Looking forward to seeing some of you there.

Well dear friends, that’s it from me for the time being. Our next trips are scheduled for departure from Malelane around the 12th or 13th October but is subject to change.

Once again, many, many thanks for your kindness and please keep us in your prayers. We have some interest from some drivers; thank you and we will be in touch.

God Bless you all.

Pastor Attie Botha.

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