

PROPOSAL : HOME for Orphan Girls with Mobility Impairments in MADAGASCAR

Organisation: THE DODWELL TRUST, MADAGASCAR. British Registered Charity No 1030334

Partner: ResponsABLE assistance, not for profit organization that assists disabled people world wide.

Project: Building a Home for physically impaired girls in Ampefy, Madagascar.

AIM: In response to the current critical level of homeless and physically impaired girls in Madagascar, we seek funds to build a Girl's Home, in order to turn orphans and street-girls aged 10-16 years with mobility impairments into healthy and educated youngsters capable of becoming teachers for schools and leaders for community initiatives, promoting the growth of equality, equal opportunity, and spreading capacity in revenue-generating activities.

Organisation Background and Aims: The Dodwell Trust was set up in 1994 to help the people of Madagascar in the fields of education, community projects, radio for health, rights-issues and development. Our goal is to enable the Malagasy to learn new behaviours in order to reduce poverty by :

- improving the capacity of individuals and groups to achieve leverage and generate revenue
- improvement to family health and reduction of contagious diseases

We aim to achieve these goals both directly, through addressing relevant issues in our projects and our radio programmes, and indirectly through building up the capacity of our collaborators and partners.

Recent Achievements:

- We are now finishing the 2-year construction of a Learning Centre (7 rooms) to hold training courses and after-school activities, as well as special tuition for disadvantaged pupils, skills courses for young people, and teacher training. This Learning Centre is neighbouring the plot of land donated for the Girl's Home, giving direct access to studies and skills training.
- During last two years we also held a series of school teacher training workshops throughout the country, and we placed two volunteer trainers to work in the Ministry of Education.
- Creation of a further 700 family radio-listener groups in disadvantaged villages, which increases our total number of groups to 3000 (radios supplied by Rotary Clubs and by UNICEF). While giving wind-up/ solar radios to the groups, we trained them to listen and discuss themes of our radio programmes, and to send their feedback by mail. This project keeps us working in close collaboration with the communities.
- Some 130 groups have created community associations for revenue-generating projects, and our radio programmes continue to give advice about micro credit, marketing, and sharing of lessons learned as well as health issues and coping with disabilities.
- In our use of radio to disseminate information, our main radio serials this 2-year period were:
 - a) Production of 24 half-hour radio programmes for children's health and nutrition. The series was financed by JSI/Hewlett Packard, and broadcast by National Radio and 40 rural FM stations.
 - b) 12 radio programmes for non-sighted and partially sighted people
 - c) 24 programmes about HIV awareness (World Bank).

These radio activities put us in a unique position of collaborating with many poverty-related initiatives by government and NGO's, continually improving our understanding of the issues in order to educate the population, working with Malagasy experts and villagers to enhance the capacity for positive change at both national and local levels.

Our range of activities are like building blocks that are strongly linked together, each strengthening the others. We follow a policy of equal opportunity for all.

Why it's so important to help deeply disadvantaged Malagasy girls to grow to become capable and beneficial leaders of development :- half the population is under 15 years old. The already huge number of homeless and orphaned children sleep rough, and the many with physical impairments are extremely vulnerable. They sleep completely dressed, rolled in a ragged blanket under the stalls of the market, against a wall, under a tree. At dawn, they have to move and start once more to beg and forage in rubbish dumps for food.

The few existing children's homes and orphanages are full. In Madagascar there is no Oxfam, no Save the Children, no Action Aid. This leaves no hope for many.

But if we can build the Home, whose girls will take part in training and skills opportunities for young people at our Learning Centre at Ampefy, this is worth sharing. This training includes computer skills, English, job skills, teacher skills, conservation projects and sports activities

How can the next generation cope with escalating poverty without the capacity to tackle the problems neither at the root nor at the surface? Being already among the world ten poorest nations, with 70 % of the population struggling to survive on less than US\$1 a day, there are alarming numbers of street children and the girls with mobility impairments are the first to be exploited.

The project

To build a 16-bed Girl's Home on our land beside our Learning Centre at Ampefy, Madagascar, to give stability and care to homeless girls with mobility impairments, and to educate and improve their ability to generate revenue and become valued members of the community, taking active part in the fight against poverty.

The Home would start with 16-bed capacity, with available land to increase the home to 20-beds in the future. The girls would be selected through street-kids organisations and orphanages. Aged 10-16, they will attend local school for secondary education and will take part in all relevant trainings at the Learning Centre (teacher training, computer skills, English, job skills, leadership skills, and sports). These skills are transferable, and as children leave the home they in turn mentor and teach others. Physiotherapy will be practiced and appropriate adaptations made, to suit individuals.

After one year the running costs of the Home including wages of one matron-cook, part time physio and nursing, food and school fees will be covered by past donors of The Dodwell Trust (to be approached), and during the first year we will seek sponsors for the children's expenses at £200 per year per girl.

Always pioneering, the skills learned by our girls will create ripples in pond spreading new capacity. Each one who becomes a teacher will improve the progress of hundreds of pupils, and each positive opinion-leader has influence on countless lives, with unlimited beneficiaries.

How we would spend £ 18,000. This is a Stand Alone project not linked to other budgets

Building dormitory in 3 sections + common room	£ 2800
Matron-cook bungalow	1900
Installation of electric wiring, sockets and lights; manual water pump, well, pipes; toilets and basic wash block with correct facilities	1800
Tables, chairs, beds, cupboards;	1100
Mobility equipment	1200
Fridge, cooking gaz, utensils	400
Food (0.33p/day per child) school fees and clothes	2400
(sponsorship of children to be set up during first year for future costs)	
Project and building coordinator plus building plans	1200
Computer x2 for Admin and girl's practise	1200
Matron-cook first year salary	1000
Part-time Carers x 4	2400
Part-time nurses / physio x 2	600
Total: £	18.000

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