



COME ALIVE!

Sew the seeds and watch them grow.....DONATE NOW!

Welcome to our second issue of Come Alive! AFADU would like to thank everyone who wrote in to say how much they enjoyed our newsletter! It's our pleasure to bring you the 2007 edition, as we have so much to tell you!

The AFADU sewing projects are soaring along with the women at LIRHANZO CHILDREN'S VILLAGE now earning a decent income from sewing the local school uniform and other basic garments for the local community. Now the women are taking their business to another level and will be supplying the school uniforms for the other schools in the district, so....

THEY NEED YOUR HELP WITH SEWING GOODS
haberdashery items, fabrics etc.

Email afadu@zoomedia.com.au for a

Going with the FLO – The "power of two" transforms a village

Two pedal sewing machines and two entrepreneurial Congolese women in the remote village of Lotumbe have helped transform an entire community. AFADU supporters joined forces with donors in America to raise funds for the village, located in the middle of the world's second largest rain forest. Lucy Hobgood-Brown, an AFADU supporter who lived in Lotumbe as a child, asked women friends there how she could help. The women asked for pedal sewing machines (there is no electricity), saying that they knew how to sew and that with these tools they aimed to produce hospital uniforms and school uniforms. Nine months later Lucy returned to the village and was amazed at what the "power of two" has created. Thanks to Chantal Bolingo and Antoinette Mapele Bolembu, the sewing machines have been turned into income generating initiatives that benefit the entire community of 80,000. Not only has a sewing school been launched, but its students now create garments that are sold far and wide. The profits are used to fund an experimental garden that produces nutrient-rich seedlings that can start new gardens, as well as a community loan fund and community store. In addition, FLO (an acronym for this grassroots women's organisation) provides insecticide-treated mosquito nets and infant garments for free to the local hospital's maternity ward, and provides health care for marginalised Pygmy women.

Many AFADU volunteers donated sewing fabric and accessories, as well as practical items for FLO's varied initiatives. These were packed over many weekends by energetic volunteers, and the 20-foot container has now arrived in the Democratic Republic of Congo. "Merci mingi" ("thanks very much" in Lotumbe's local dialect!

A healthy dose of love

Pam Harrison, a Northern Territory Registered Nurse spent much time and energy collecting medical supplies and cash donations for her return field trip to Edenvale Ranch's LIRHANZO CHILDREN'S VILLAGE in southern Zimbabwe in July 2006. Her aim to help set up new health facilities at the Chikombedzi Hospital even made headlines in the June 20 issue of Northern Territory News! "AFADU has been collecting medical supplies from many generous sources around Australia and sent the material over via one of the containers that left Sydney ports during the past 12 months", says Pam. Below we see Pam, doing what she does best for one of her charges.



This small mountain of boxes contain just some of the goods gathered and packed by AFADU volunteers, which recently arrived in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Pictured is Clement Mamba on the Universite Protestante au Congo campus in Kinshasa, where the goods are being stored until passage can be arranged to Lotumbe. The goods will then travel 400 km in dugout canoes for more than seven days, paddled by four men.

Also, a BIG UP to AFADU's Patricia Cuciti, former Fashion Technology student of TAFE/NSW Sydney and founder of AFADU sewing projects, for a successful turnout in May 2006 when AFADU and Fashion Group International hosted a funky fundraiser with an African flair, the proceeds of which, almost \$5000, will contribute to the building of a vocational centre for the sewing group, improving the skills and creating livelihoods for orphans and other vulnerable women and children in Africa.



A whole new meaning to fancy dress!





LOVE IN A BOX RETURNED

*I love all the toys and balls that you send
I enjoy the presents very much and like to play with them
God bless you
I will keep the present well
I nearly touched the sky because of your love
I thank God for the time to jot you one saying --Thanks!.....*

Each year AFADU sends hundreds of decorated shoe box sized boxes to Chikombedzi's LIRHANZO CHILDREN'S VILLAGE in Zimbabwe which are full of fun and functional gifts. Schools, corporations and community groups all donate their time to creating as many boxes as possible. Children give love back by sending beautiful handwritten letters of thanks like the one above, along with their photographs and the gifts they chose.

You can help by organising your LOVE IN A BOX campaign for 2007! Please go to www.afadu.com, click on "projects" and look for "Love in a Box"



Precious shoes

Marianne, one of AFADU's faithful supporters, told us an amazing story during a break from loading containers one recent chilly Saturday morning. Everyone agreed that her story needed to be told in Come Alive!

Marianne was very special growing up as the only girl in a family with 3 older brothers. For Marianne's mum, having grown up through the war and the depression, good quality, well-fitting shoes were hard to come by. As a result, when Marianne was a young girl, every year her mum would draw around the shape of her feet and then send the sketch off to London for a new bright shiny pair of "Startrite" shoes.

Marianne's mum kept every pair of those shoes! She couldn't find it in her heart to throw them away. "I actually didn't realise this until one day I told her I was collecting things to send with AFADU to Africa and that, in particular, the little children needed shoes. They all came out of the cupboard, little red shoes sized from tiny to small. Mum 'ummed and ahed' over the decision for days, and then, with great ceremony and a heavy heart, she handed them over and we packed them up. You can imagine our joy and great excitement when a photo came on the internet of a beautiful little African girl, all dressed up in pretty clothes, a huge grin on her face, and the tiny red shoes on her feet. For Mum, at 78, I think it was the best gift. She always used to sing me a song that went '...for the more you give to others, the happier you are...'"



Child sponsorship

Jenny Reading, (an ex-primary school teacher from Sydney) who first visited LIRHANZO CHILDREN'S VILLAGE in 2004, recently returned from her third fieldtrip to Zimbabwe feeling like she had visited her second home. She had wonderful things to report about the progress of the students at the school.

"There is nothing like visiting your second 'home' and hearing your name called excitedly", says Jenny. "The trip to the farm was engaging as I heard all the latest news on the children. Sasani (my sponsor child) had topped grade one at the end of last year and had been given a bicycle that was unpacked from the last container; Sophia was still working hard at school and doing her sponsors proud!"

We now have over 45 children sponsored and we are looking for additional sponsors in 2007, so if you are interested, please click on the "Child Sponsorship" link on our website (www.afadu.com).



Sasani with her new bike – TOP OF HER CLASS!

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Issue II

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Come Alive! Articles

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For more information about articles featured in this issue or to tell us how YOU have made a difference, send us an email, attention Rachel, at

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**"I nearly touched the sky
because of your love"**

Written in a note of thanks from one of our young Love in a Box recipients at Lirhanzo Children's Village



ACN: 107 632 904

All funds go to support children, their carers and the communities in which they live.

All premises, printing, media, legal, transport etc is donated by sponsors so that there are no administrative costs.

All the goods and funds received go directly to the children and community development projects that AFADU supports.

AFRICA FACT...

Did you know that the oldest known indigenous name for the African continent is "Alkebu-lan"? Among its many meanings are: "mother of mankind", "garden of eden" and "land of many blacks". Africa, the current name, was given to the continent by the ancient Greeks and Romans.

A whole lotta knittin' goin' on



Ingrid Unnerstedt, Margaret Angledal, Carole Brauner, Connie Riley, Joan Collings and Sue Hansen are the Whitsunday Ladies! Connie Riley, a member of Zonta (an international service organisation of executives working to advance the status of women) and a Whitsunday resident has organised a group of women to help knit squares for making blankets to send over to LIRHANZO CHILDREN'S VILLAGE as part of AFADU's donation drive. So far, they have had great success with this project. "There are several Zonta girls participating – one even as far away as Sweden – as well as a large number of ladies in the community" We have 23 girls knitting and crocheting. The oldest is 97 and the youngest is a teenager. One shop and 3 other people have donated yarn", says Connie.

And more knitting news from the Teddy Ladies in Turramurra!

Bunty Davies, the diversional hostel therapist at Northaven Retirement Village in Turramurra has donated snowmen knitted by some of the residents there. Ms Davies arranged to have some residents knit the teddies which are then assembled in their craft shop. Anyone wanting to participate in this fun knitting project, you may contact **Bunty Davies c/o Administration, Northaven Retirement Village, 1322 Pacific Highway, Turramurra 2074** or via admin@northaven.org.au.

Our Volunteers Helping Things Happen!



Oren Davidson, checking computers bound for Congo



From our shores



Congo or bust!

Above: Kevin, David and Ian on the day the container doors closed after several packing days with help from many volunteers



To their doors

FOR DETAILS ON HOW YOU CAN BECOME AN AFADU VOLUNTEER, SEE OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.AFADU.COM

DID YOU KNOW...?

In Zimbabwe, the staple food is "sadza", which is ground corn grain and looks a lot like semolina before cooking and mashed potatoes after cooking?

WE ARE SO HAPPY TO REPORT that so far we have sent 5 containers to Zimbabwe and 1 to the Congo. Each container packing day saw a great turnout of volunteers, who even on the greyest Saturday morning, turned up looking forward to a day of good fun while doing something worthwhile.

A HUGE THANK YOU to the ever-benevolent Mike Young, proprietor of John Young (KEVIN HAUGH) Pty Ltd Process Plant Installations in Wetherill Park, who can always be counted on to turn over his workshop on the weekend for container loading. There is always a feeling of team spirit as we know what we send gets to the communities we support. If YOU want to help at our next container loading day, contact us at **www.afadu.com!**

AFADU INVITES YOU!

At present, AFADU is working to create new sub-committees whose purpose is to more effectively expand the activities of AFADU.

The committees will be formed early in 2007 and AFADU supporters will be invited to join. The committees will be as follows:

- Fund-raising – Chair – Julie Routledge (will include child sponsorship)
- Administration – Chair – Mike Young
- Communication and Marketing – Trisha Cuciti
- Heart-to-Heart Projects (includes container, Love in a Box, blankets etc) and
- Volunteer activities – Chair – Ian Routledge
- Development Projects- Chair – Kimberley McClean (*our newest board member!!*)

AFADU is preparing an application for Tax Deductibility status. This application will be submitted to AusAID (the Australian Government Aid Agency) early in the new year. When tax deductibility status is granted all donations will be tax deductible – good news for all financial supporters!

Another reason to celebrate!

Celebrating another project-packed year and the festive season gives AFADU more reason to celebrate! Yes it was a great end of year Christmas party with the musicians from the African band really "rockin' the dance floor" Everyone had a great time!



Left to right, Kirin, Anne-Marie and Trisha



Lucy and friends



Rockin' the dance floor!

I want to make a difference!

Start imagining the difference YOU can make!

- Buy a T-Shirt @ \$30.00
- Buy a "Friendship" Card @ \$1.00
- Buy a Bookmark @ \$1.00
- Sponsor a Child
- Donate or Participate in a project

OR CONTACT US IF YOU HAVE:

- Used eyeglasses;
- Sewing items/fabric
- Leather (for orthopaedic braces)
- TESOL books (Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages)
- School or art supplies (Kindergarten – year 12)
- Manual or electric typewriters, ribbons
- Manual (not electric) sewing machines

NAME _____	DATE _____
TELEPHONE NO. _____	MOBILE _____
EMAIL _____	
POSTAL ADDRESS _____	SUBURB _____



For all enquiries email us at info@afadu.com