

ADONIS MUSATI PROJECT

Providing humanitarian assistance for refugees

Newsletter #3 June 2009

Dear AMP friends and volunteers

A big thank you for all your heart-warming efforts over the last few weeks. The growing number of needs feels like Mount Everest at times but thanks to so many generous and loving people like you we have been able to do the following during May 2009:

- Donated sewing machines and fabric, cotton etc to 6 families that will now be able to sustain themselves (see attached for names and numbers of ladies so you can get stuff made!)
- Set up a barber with furniture and equipment to start a business
- Supplied a carpenter with basic tools to be able to get work
- Equipped several craftsmen/artists with materials to get started as well as marketed and sold some of their wares for them
- Placed 15 vulnerable and homeless refugees in accommodation for a month
- Distributed over 120 food and clothing packs to desperate families
- Typed up over 120 C.V.'s to assist people with finding jobs
- Distributed thousands of sandwiches, bottles of water and pieces of fruit to refugees queuing outside Home Affairs at Nyanga
- Given out thousands of information brochures to help direct new refugees to where they can get assistance

Thanks to all the wonderful people who assisted with the 3 very successful fundraisers we have had during May, including Tugwell Hall and the American exchange programme, Sarah Tuft in the UK, and the dynamic VIMBA team. With this money we have so far been able to pay for shelter for 15 people and are looking to accommodate many more in the week ahead. We have also bought 36 warm coats from Coats for Africa and a roll of polar fleece (which we cut into blankets) and which we have already distributed to the refugees living outside under the bridge. (Thanks to Foodbank we were able to supply food to them as well on a weekly basis.) We are awaiting a donation of blankets from UCT which we will also distribute in the next week.

Many homeless & vulnerable refugees come to us for help, shelter, food

and clothes as well as moral support. It is our goal to help them to get back on their feet as soon as possible. This is easier said than done, but if the community continues to support us we can continue to assist them one by one.

During the last 2 weeks at our "distribution centre /temporary office" (kindly given to us to use free of charge by Salty Print) we have seen a flood of women, small babies and children. Many of them are not well and are not getting proper medical care. In addition we have had many other sick people, some in the advanced stages of AIDS saying they are not getting the right help. We are faced with a huge complexity of needs both physical and emotional. We appeal to anyone who has medical or counselling expertise and would like to give us an hour or 2 of their time each month to contact us.

I am going to list some of the needs and hope you can keep passing this on to friends and family so we can try and get some of them met.

SHELTER

We have over 40 refugees sleeping outside who desperately need shelter during the cold Winter months ahead- please look out and ask around for **anyone who has accommodation we can rent** -we are paying between R150 and R300 per person per month

MEDICAL

We have a large number of very sick refugees including babies and children who come to us for help. Some are epileptic, some can no longer see properly and some are dying from cancer or have full blown AIDS. We need **basic medication and vitamins as well as volunteers** who would be willing to give lifts to some of the people to get them to the right hospitals or medical specialists. Even occasional help will be welcome.

MATERIALS/TOOLS

We need various materials and tools to give people a basic foundation to start a business and sustain themselves:

- 1.Sewing machines
- 2.wire and beads and long nose pliers
- 3.paint, brushes and boards/paper
- 4.fabric
- 5.wool
- 6.grinder and drill
- 7.electric "shaver", combs, scissors gel and spirits for barbers

INDIVIDUAL NEEDS

- 1.David, age 37, is sleeping under bridge and needs shelter & work to support his wife & children in Zimbabwe

2.Olinda, age 25, has a three year old girl in Zimbabwe, is seven months pregnant, and has nothing for her baby or girl – would like to find domestic work

3.Anesu, age 20, has a two year old child and needs work to support her. She cooks very well and just needs some basic catering equipment

4.Ken has a wife and child (2) in Zimbabwe. He is highly skilled and would like equipment to start own business: Barbershop or shoe repair

5.Phineas age 31 has a four year old child and needs painting materials to produce work

6.Bridget, age 24, is in desperate need of dental care (worked for Zimbabwean Red Cross and Oxfam) and is also epileptic

7.Lloyd, age 31, has training in horticulture and computers (great English/well educated) and would like someone to sponsor transport to Eastern Cape to find a job in farming (is currently sleeping outside, is planning to get married in December). He needs removal of stitches also -has been in South Africa for two weeks

8.Agnes, age 29, is in urgent need of transport to a sponsor in the northern suburbs who will test her eyes and fit her with glasses. She also has knowledge of computers. She has spent many years working as a PA and receptionist and would like a donated computer so she can start a business

9.Petronella Chinyani, age 55, has three grand kids (12, 8 and 2 years of age) she is supporting in Cape Town. She needs more knitting materials and a market to sell her knitted caps and beautiful embroidered tablecloths and seat covers, and would like orders for any knitting please!! (0783896982)

10.Angelina, age 39, is a Zimbabwean widow with 4 girls in Zimbabwe and would like to take a class in dress-making or find a job as a domestic worker

11.Christopher, age 57 a Zimbabwean, has been here four months with four kids (21,17,13,11) in Zimbabwe. He is an experienced receptionist looking for work

12.Leon, age 22, is sleeping under the bridge with no papers, can fix cars, "revive" cars, knows mechanics, and desperately needs shelter

13."P" is a mom with 4 small children. She is HIV positive and desperately needs shelter

