

The Children's Voice Book Drive, Zimbabwe – 2,007 books received.

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Project Profile

Beneficiaries

3,000 students

Books received

2,007 books

Coordinator

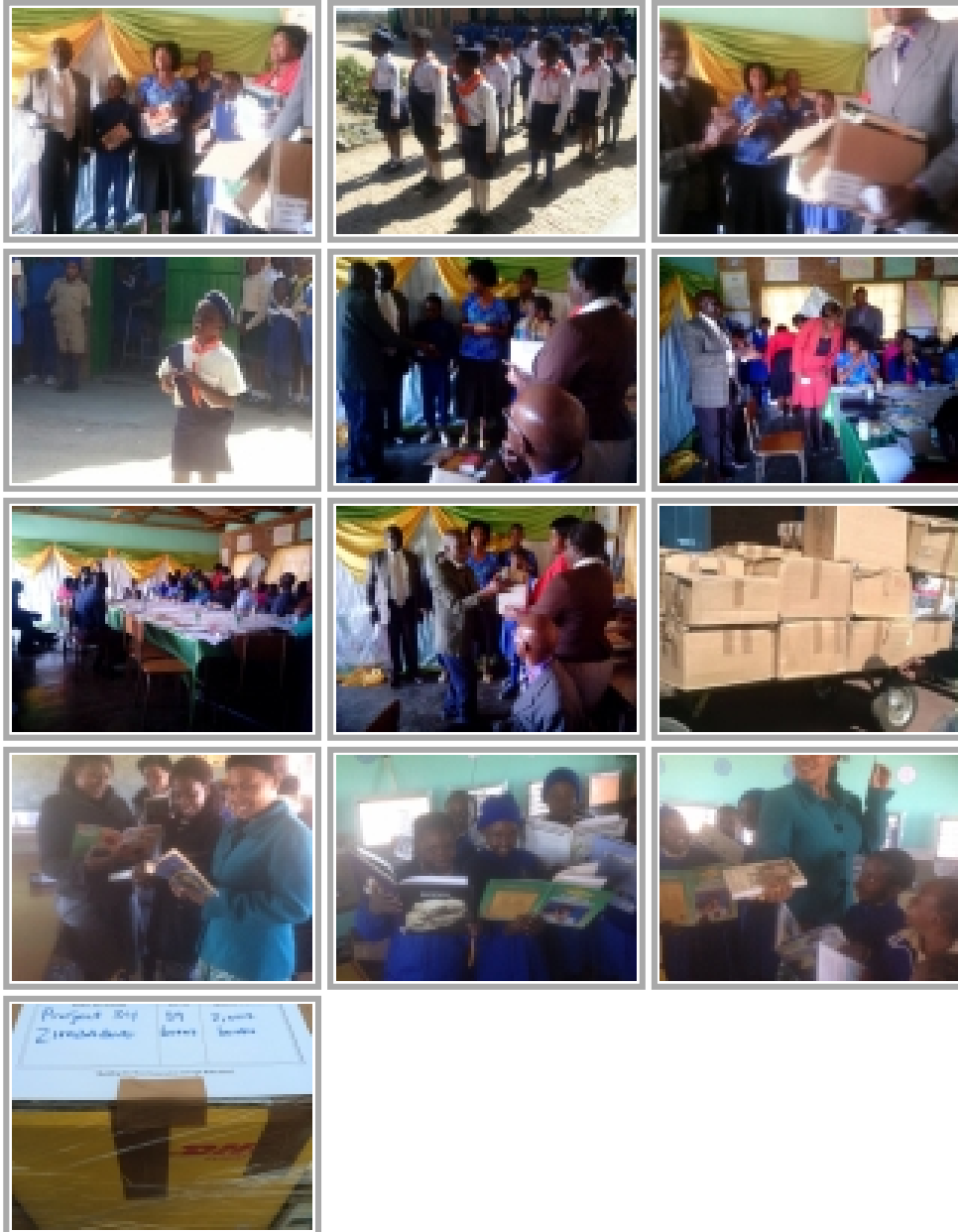
Collin Nyabadza

Sponsor

Children's Voice

Project Details

Photos



Report

Introduction

In 2014 I, Collin Nyabadza the Executive Director and Founder of the Collin Nyabadza Children's Voice Charitable Trust, approached Books To Africa, UK for help with books. After a series of discussions with Precious Sango of BTA, her organisation agreed to donate a total of 2007 books to us. We therefore went on to process all the modalities required before we could receive the books.

Logistics

We were then informed that we had to provide our shipping costs of sending the books from the UK to Harare. A page for our project that would help us in fundraising for the shipping was then set up. I however approached another UK based charity, the Strathspey Charitable Trust for help. They agreed to help us and paid the full amount of £1 054 directly to BTA so that we could have our books shipped to Harare, Zimbabwe. As soon as the money had been paid, the books were then shipped to Harare where they arrived just after Christmas.

As soon as the books arrived in Harare, they had to be cleared. This however turned out to be a big nightmare as we found ourselves being tossed from one office to another. For starters, we approached the Zimbabwe Revenue Authority (ZIMRA) who then advised us that for them to clear the books we needed to have a letter from the Ministry of Education stating that the books would be donated to the schools and not sold. However, problems started when the Ministry of Education informed us that for them to give us that letter we had to provide them with a list of all the titles of books in the consignment. We tried to

reason with them that the BTA staff do this sort of work on a volunteer basis and thus do not have the personnel to compile all the titles of books they send out, and thus it would not be possible for us to get that list. We went back and forth several times as they could not budge. After a long time negotiating with them, they finally budged and gave us the letter which we took to ZIMRA and the books were quickly cleared. Our board chairperson and our partner in whose name the books were sent worked diligently to have the books cleared. We paid an amount of USD265. Since we are an organisation still in our infancy stage we had to dig deep and raise that amount for our books to be released. After that we had to have the books shipped to Bulawayo, which is Zimbabwe's second largest city, where our headquarters are located. They were transported by rail which is much cheaper, at a cost of USD73.

Impact

Our team then worked diligently to have a colourful handover event. It was held at Umguza Primary School which was one of the receiving schools. For their part they received 600 books. It was such a colourful event that attracted media house, both the print and digital. Other people present were the children, parents, teachers of the Umguza Primary School and that of the other receiving schools. Ministry of Education officials were also present. The children presented some poems, dram and songs thanking Books To Africa and our organisation for the support. Our organisation was presented by our Marketing Officer, Ms. Sibonokuhle Ndlovu who worked tirelessly in helping bring the books from Harare to Bulawayo and also in organizing the handover event, our Sports Development Officer, Mr. Cosmas Zulu who gave a speech on behalf of our

organisation and our Donor Relations Officer, Mr. Malaki Ndlovu who is a seasoned development worker and is also a school head. The board chairperson took some books which will be handed over to one Somvubu Secondary School. The local MP wanted another event in his constituency and put it on hold as he said that he is still tied up with other commitments but will do so once he gets free.

Conclusion

On behalf of my organisation and on my own behalf I wish to express my sincere thanks to you and your team for the marvellous donation and support. It was a pleasure working with on this project. Your donation of books will certainly go a long way in helping the children in our rural schools of Zimbabwe learn and love reading. May the Lord continue making you a beacon of hope and inspiration to all African children.

Author

Collin Nyabadza