



Bright Futures operates in a "whole of community" development context aimed at alleviating poverty and improving quality of life in a sustainable way.

When you sponsor a child through Bright Futures you help build the capacity of an entire community.



Bag a Christmas Gift at the Bright Futures Micro-Store

The Bright Futures shop in DaCosta Arcade may be a very small shop but it is filled with big hearted gifts. Some gifts are handmade by women in Bright Futures self-help groups in India and Africa, while others are from terrific groups doing good works in other places.

Our gifts all have one thing in common. In buying one for a friend or loved one, you will also be giving a hand up to women overseas. So why not bag a very special Christmas gift!



At this time we think especially of our partners working in troubled places. We think in particular of our partner in Pakistan where there has been recent uprisings and pray for safety and peace.



Bright Futures Child Aid & Development Fund Australia is an Australian based Christian aid and development agency committed to providing a simple, direct and effective means for Australians to contribute to the sustainable alleviation of poverty.

Bright Futures works in partnership with established development agencies in developing countries in providing vital education and development programs which address the causes of poverty and offer the prospect of a better life.

Newsletter

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DECEMBER 2018

'UNITING DYNAMIC WOMEN' TO FIGHT POVERTY

It is a heartbreaking fact that worldwide tens of millions of women, many of whom have the sole caring responsibility for children, live in devastating poverty. And so it is in many of the villages and poor communities where Bright Futures works with its partners.

In those places, Bright Futures partners work to empower women through vocational and business training and through the creation of savings and self-help groups. As a result, thousands of women have been able to gain work or start small businesses to support themselves and their families. While much is done, the need is vast.

Bright Futures recently launched a plan to increase the number of women helped by creating the 'Uniting Dynamic Women' Empowerment Circle. Launched at the home of project ambassador, Deb Hosking, the Circle connects women in Australia in providing life changing training, mentoring and support for women in dire poverty abroad. Initially the focus will be on growing the highly effective program run by our Kenyan partner, Dorcas Creation. Based in the vast Marurui slum, the program has already assisted more than 1,500 women.



Pic: Jane received training and support from Dorcas Creation to establish a vegetable stall. She has now educated her children and has purchased land to build a home.



"There is no trust more sacred than the one the world holds with children. There is no duty more important than ensuring that their rights are respected, that their lives are free from fear and want and that they can grow up in peace."

Kofi Annan



Pic: Deb Hosking speaking at the launch of 'Uniting Dynamic Women'

"I saw in Jane's face (pictured top right corner of page) pride, strength and confidence, and straightaway I said, 'Yes! Absolutely!' ... I want to be a part of this program to empower women."

In launching the program, ambassador Deb Hosking reflected, "So much good comes of women uniting to help one another. I became involved in 'Uniting Dynamic Women' because I could see what a huge difference we can make in creating a pathway out of poverty. These brave and resilient women, who have endured more hardship and pain than we can possibly imagine, just need an opportunity and that's what we can offer by standing with them. In empowering them we too are empowered. We cease being spectators and instead become contributors to a kinder world."

On average, it costs \$25 a month to support a woman through the program with most participating for 3-4 months depending on the training and support needed. As Deb says, "A regular donation of \$25 per month will help up to four women each year, and the impact on them and their families is life changing. Will you join us?"

My Christmas Gift to Empower Women & Children

- I would like to make a donation of \$_____
- Please indicate: INDIA / PAKISTAN / UGANDA / KENYA / or please use where needed most.*
- I would like to make a **regular monthly** donation of \$_____ in support of:
- Please indicate* Womens' Empowerment Projects - KENYA / INDIA
- Schooling for children - INDIA / KENYA / UGANDA / PAKISTAN
- Medical Care - UGANDA / INDIA / PAKISTAN
- I would like to sponsor a child (or ___ children) at \$42 per month per child.
- Please indicate: Girl / Boy*

Name: _____

Address: _____

P/C _____

P: _____ E: _____

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Payment Options:

Credit Card: Visa Mastercard

No: _____/_____/_____/_____

Expiry: ___/___ Cardholder _____

Signature: _____

Cheque: Pay to Bright Futures Australia - Overseas Aid Fund

Direct Debit: Please email office@brightfutures.com.au or phone office – 08 7225 7175 – to arrange.

Donate Online: Go to www.brightfutures.com.au

DONATIONS OVER \$2 TAX DEDUCTIBLE



BRIGHT FUTURES TWILIGHT FAMILY PICNIC

When: 5.00pm-7.00pm, Sunday, 10 March 2019

Where: Tusmore Park (*enter from Stirling Street*) & keep a lookout for the crowd

What to bring: BYO food & drink and enjoy a picnic in Tusmore Park with others who also share your passion to help people in poverty through Bright Futures.

The Year in Review

While Bright Futures is officially known as a child aid and development fund, stories regularly come from our overseas partners indicating that we are more accurately a 'family aid' organisation. While we know that in most countries help given to any one family member can benefit the wider family, the following stories from Uganda, Kenya, Pakistan and India show that when we support one person the ripple effect goes out to those around them.

In the rural village of Lukodi in northern Uganda, our partner, the Bishop Onono Onweng Foundation has overseen the construction of a special purpose maternity building that stands alongside the existing Health Centre. As well as providing the best care possible for a newborn's arrival, it also provides a pre and post-natal service to the mothers. The new facility is continuing the outstanding medical work for both mothers and babies to an ever-growing region.

In the Marurui slum on the outskirts of Nairobi in Kenya, Jane Thuo and her team at Dorcas Creation has recently welcomed the 1500th woman into their programs of care-groups, micro-banking, small loan provision and business development. But the repercussion of women's lives being empowered and dramatically improved is that a significant number of impoverished men are recognising their own need and asking for help to develop a similar program for them.

In Youngsan Abad, a remote rural village in western Pakistan, more than 200 children are provided with healthcare and education, as well as a home when necessary. One of the significant factors in this situation is that around half the school children are girls which provides an important model to village families of the value of educating both sons and daughters.

In the suburb of Chelekere in Bangalore, every school day sees Bangalore City Mission (BCM) buses bringing hundreds of children from the poorest outlying areas of this huge city to the BCM school. There they receive a high-standard education that will equip them for a lifetime of successful and meaningful work. Stories flow in of former students securing well-paid work which allows them to provide better homes for their families.

For several years Bright Futures has been working diligently in preparation to lodge an application for accreditation under the Australian non-Government Cooperation Program. The commitment to work towards this high-level accreditation is born of a desire to enlarge the resources available and to work as effectively as we can with our four overseas partners in alleviating poverty and by so doing providing hope for many peoples' future.

Through the compassionate generosity of Bright Futures' donors and supporters the 'child aid' that is provided often extends to all members of families and out into their communities.

Roger Bryson

ROGER BRYSON
Chair – Bright Futures



Roger Bryson

All Roads Lead to Pre-University

Who would have thought? The tiny school that started in the front room of the home of Bangalore City Mission (BCM) founders, Paul & Violet Raj, is now extending its reach to Pre-University (PUC) level. Following years of diligent work by the BCM team, approval has been received from the relevant government authorities to establish a PUC (Years 11 & 12 equivalent) to be known as Sinclairs Womens' Christian College. The college will be based in facilities within the BCM Sinclairs School building.

This is an important step forward, as it will enable many young women from poor circumstances who have been assisted in their education through the Bright Futures/BCM project to progress in their studies. Many are blocked from continuing their education due to the high cost of fees in private PUCs. To date the Bright Futures/BCM partnership has supported many young people in this transition but with increasing numbers coming through this has become quite difficult. The progression of many students from poor communities into higher education is a cause for great celebration, but we are committed to providing opportunities for many more children who would otherwise not have such an opportunity.

BCM supports schooling for more than 1,000 children each day both at the main school and Tiny Tots campus, and through funding teachers at a village government school and provision of an early childhood centre at the Hosur quarry. As BCM Executive Director, Jonathan Paul says, "Education is the key to development, it creates an even playing field and opens a door to a brighter future." The BCM team were rightly proud and delighted when Google recently ranked BCM Sinclairs High School first among 300 schools in its district.



Students in the new science lab

And in other news

CHILD PROTECTION

At Bright Futures we are serious about keeping children safe. And as a member of ACFID (Australian Council for International Development) and a signatory to the ACFID Code of Conduct we seek to ensure, whether here or in our projects overseas, that every care is taken to keep children safe from harm. Our Child Protection Policy can be found at: www.brightfutures.com.au

REACH

Over the next month Bright Futures is upgrading to a new online secure giving platform called REACH. Most people will not notice any change, but if you do have any concerns, please call Deb at the Bright Futures office on (08) 7225 7175.

READY, SET, GO! BRIGHT FUTURES 'PARADISE' WALK

Here's one for the diary! On the public holiday Monday, 10 June 2019 starting at 10am, the Bright Futures 'Paradise' Walk will take you along Linear Park from Paradise Interchange to the city. It will be a fundraiser to support Bright Futures education & empowerment projects. More details later!



A Place for New Life to Flourish



Workers put the finishing touches on the new maternity building at Lukodi Health Centre

It is hard to comprehend that only 14 years ago, on the night of 19 May 2004, in the very village in which the Lukodi Health Centre stands, 51 people were murdered when rebels attacked the displacement camp. In this place of such tragedy, it is a point of celebration that a building that celebrates birth has been built with support of donors to Bright Futures and the Road to Gulu Project.

The new facility, operated by Bright Futures partner, the Bishop Onono Onweng Foundation, will provide much needed pre-natal, post-natal and birthing services in this area where the infant mortality and maternal death rates have been traditionally high. We are also excited by the arrival this month of a new solar-direct vaccine fridge that will make it possible to store and supply life-saving vaccines. This will be very beneficial in protecting newborns. It is thrilling to know that in this place where death and suffering have been so widespread there is now a place to preserve and celebrate life.



Not many people would be excited by a photo of a box on the back of a truck but we are. It's the new vaccine fridge on its way to the Lukodi Health Centre. Its not just a box, it's a lifesaver!

Thanks Roger & Welcome Sarah!



New Bright Futures Chair – Sarah Spiker

After 14 years, founding Chair and guiding hand of Bright Futures, Roger Bryson has decided it is time for change. Roger may be stepping aside but he is by no means stepping away. Roger is assuming the role of Deputy Chair and will continue to Chair the Project Support Team. We are so grateful for the leadership Roger has provided that has helped us to where we are today.

We are thrilled to announce that Sarah Spiker has been appointed as the new Chair. Sarah has had a long involvement with Bright Futures, more than 12 years in all, having served as Executive Officer for two years and on the Board for nearly a decade. Sarah has significant management and development experience, holding a Masters degree in International Development and is currently the Project Operations Manager for CottonOn Foundation through which she is responsible for development projects overseas. In stepping into the role Sarah says,

"I am honoured and humbled by this opportunity. Each of our partners are having an important impact in their communities ... and we can be a huge support for them by continuing to grow our community of supporters in Australia. I am proud that we are growing in a way that maintains quality, safety and sustainability and liberates people from poverty."

Bright Futures Board & Projects Team

BF Board Directors

Sarah Spiker, Chair
Roger Bryson, Deputy Chair
Philip Good
Lee Haakmeester
Carl Ginger
Dr Don Van Cooten
Fred Chilton
Dr Lynton Stacey

BF Executive Officer

Paul Madden - M 0411 740549

BF Finance & Admin & Officer

Deb Mugford

Bank Details

Bright Futures Australia – Overseas
Aid Fund
Westpac: BSB: 035-002 Acc: 392116

BF Projects Team

Mudie Howarth Kym Lear
Barbara Madden Andy Farmer
Deb Mugford Kelly Bunyon
John Day Eleanor Day
Phil Bunyon Vikki Booth
Thandi Mandigora Brian Harris
Roger Bryson Lynton Stacey
Lee Haakmeester Glenys Bennett
Gary Martin Judy Howie
David Bennett Paul Madden

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