



The Bright Futures child sponsorship program 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.



Christmas gifts from Kenya that give dignity and hope

If you are looking for that last minute "something" this Christmas then look no further than the beautiful handmade jewellery made by women in the self-help groups in the Maururi slum in Nairobi, Kenya through our partner group Dorcas Creation. You will not only find bracelets, necklaces & other items to delight, but you will give the dignity of paid work to women who really need it so they can educate and feed their children. Call **Paul on 0411 740 549** to arrange to see these terrific handcrafted items.



Secondary school opens at Gulu Vocational College campus

In response to the urgent need for secondary schooling for children from the Lukodi region, project partners, the Bishop Onono Onweng Foundation and Bright Futures have established the Gulu Christian School on the site of Gulu Vocational College. Under the leadership of project coordinator Rev Ali Ocan, and aided by Australian educator Paul Duff, the school has first focused on helping the children to first catch up on their studies. Currently, only around 10% of children in the Lukodi area reach secondary school with 50% of children dropping out of primary school between years 5 & 6.



Pic: Students at the newly formed Gulu Christian Comprehensive School



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 and as a partner of World Relief Australia 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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"Kindness is the language the blind can see and the deaf can hear."

Mark Twain

A Better World for Kids

Bright Futures was founded in the simple, some might say naïve, belief that it is possible to create a better world for children. The inspiration for its formation, however, was not in Australia but in India. During a visit to India in 2004, Barbara and Paul Madden were moved and inspired as they saw the incredible work of the Bangalore City Mission (BCM), founded by Rev DK Paul Raj and his amazing wife Violet, in providing schooling and opportunities for the children of quarry labourers in the impoverished rock quarry villages on the outskirts of Bangalore.

Starting in 1989, Paul and Violet had moved to the quarry area and started a small school in the front room of their one bedroom home. By 2004 the school had grown to about 60 students (*it now has ten times that number*) and they were also reaching out with help to surrounding communities. Much was being done - much more was needed. United in a desire to do more, it was agreed that a support organisation would be formed in Australia to help advance the work. And so, Bright Futures was born on Australia Day 2005.

Since that time the support of Bright Futures has expanded far and wide with projects now also in Pakistan, Uganda and Kenya. The scope of the work includes education, vocational training, agricultural projects, self-help & savings groups, medical camps, micro-enterprise and much more.

It is very much a case of 'from little things big things grow' with thousands of lives being impacted every day by Bright Futures and its development partners.



The first meeting of Bright Futures – Australia Day 2005

A MARATHON EFFORT TO AID PAKISTAN EDUCATION



Pic: Abbey and Kath at the finish line.

When friends and work mates Abbey Wissell and Kath Chalmers decided to run a marathon they never imagined that their efforts would not only get them extremely fit but would also help fund a school classroom in Pakistan.

Kath and Abbey, Customs Officers at Adelaide International Airport, said they had always wanted to run a marathon and it had been on their "bucket list" for some time. When they saw the Adelaide Marathon advertised they committed.

Concerned by the lack of educational opportunity for girls in places like Pakistan, Kath and Abby set about fundraising. This included baking tasty treats for sale at work, innovative guessing games with lolly jars and being sponsored for their run.

Abbey and Kath finished their brilliant run in 4 hours and 51 minutes and in doing so raised \$1,750. Fantastic effort ladies, your help is making a big difference.

My Christmas Gift

- I would like to make a donation of \$ _____
Please indicate: India / Pakistan / Uganda / Please use where needed most.
- I would like to sponsor a child (or _____ children) at \$38/month per child.
Please indicate: Girl / Boy Country: India / Pakistan / Uganda
- I would like to help support a school class (or _____ classes) at \$100 per month.
Please indicate: India / Pakistan / Uganda

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 _____ P/C _____
 P: _____ E: _____

Bright Futures Overseas Aid Fund, 1 Collingrove Ave., Broadview SA 5083
 ABN 94 377 547 867 P: 08 8342 4426 www.brightfutures.com.au
 A partner agency of World Relief Australia - www.wra.org.au

Payment Options: (Please indicate preferences below)

Credit Card: Visa Mastercard

No: _____/_____/_____/_____

Expiry: ____/____ Cardholder: _____

Signature: _____

Donation/s as indicated \$ _____ (once only)

Child Education Sponsorship: I hereby authorise Bright Futures to debit my credit card \$38 per month for each child sponsored as indicated on this donation form until I revoke this authority in writing.

School Class Supporter: I hereby authorise Bright Futures to debit my credit card \$100 per month for each school class sponsored as indicated on this donation form until I revoke this authority in writing.

Cheque: Payable to Bright Futures Overseas Aid Fund
 Direct Debit: Please email office@brightfutures.com.au or phone office – 08 8342 4426 - to request relevant forms.

DONATIONS OVER \$2 TAX DEDUCTIBLE CCP2073



BRIGHT FUTURES "10th ANNIVERSARY" AUSTRALIA DAY BREAKFAST

When: 9.00 – 10.30am, Monday, 26 January 2015

Where: Tusmore Park – enter from Stirling Street, Tusmore and look for the crowd.

Come and help us celebrate and enjoy a FREE COOKED BREAKFAST and great company.

Bring your family - bring your friends – no need to RSVP – bring something to sit on and don't forget to slip, slop, slap!

Reflections on a Journey of Hope

Bright Futures is fast approaching its 10th birthday and it's a great time to reflect on the journey.



Roger Bryson, Chair

On that Australia Day morning in 2005, the sole focus of the breakfast meeting was to create the means to enable the Bangalore City Mission to expand its assistance to underprivileged people, particularly those caught in an inter-generational cycle of quarry life and work.

Then in 2009 we were introduced to the village of Youngsonabad in Pakistan and the work being done by the Christian Fellowship of Pakistan (CFP) led by Pastor Nathaniel Barkat and his family. The school, the childrens' home and farm soon became part of our heart and history. During the devastating Pakistan floods of 2010 & 2012 we were able to be active partners with CFP as they led an inspirational rescue and support mission for those affected.

In 2010 we entered a partnership with the Bishop Onono Oweng Foundation (BOOF) in Northern Uganda, an area devastated by civil war. In providing seed, a mill, clean water facilities and education support, we have been privileged to witness people rising out of the tragedies of their past. Recently we have been able to provide mosquito nets and blankets to refugees fleeing persecution in South Sudan and taking refuge in Uganda.

And just when we were feeling settled with our three overseas partners, in 2012, we were introduced to Jane Thuo, the driving force behind Dorcas Creation, a small but highly motivated organisation caring for women and children in a major slum in Nairobi, Kenya.

All of these opportunities have only been possible through the generosity of supporters of Bright Futures. The resources we provide are multiplied many times over by our partners who are making significant contributions in their countries.

As we look back on the last 10 years we delight in the role that Bright Futures has been able to play in the lives of tens of thousands of people in four different parts of the world. This has only been possible by the generosity of many and the repeated evidence of the goodness of God. We face with anticipation what the next decade will bring!

Roger Bryson

The Bright Futures Team

BF Board Directors

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

BF Executive Officer

Paul Madden*

BF Finance Officer

Deb Mugford

Auditors: BDO

BF Project Group

Mudie Howarth
Barbara Madden
Kym Lear
Andy Farmer
Linda Baverstock
Deb Mugford
John Day
Eleanor Day
Phil Bunyon
Kelly Bunyon

*Plus Board members & EO as indicated beside.

Bank Details

Baptist Financial Services
Acc: Bright Futures
Overseas Aid Fund
BSB: 704-922

A small boy, a big dream and the power of education

Fifty years ago, a small boy, "DK", was looking after his father's sheep in a village in Tamil Nadu, India when a passing Canadian missionary couple stopped to talk. The boy was holding a book and trying to read. On being offered the sweets he told them, "I do not want the candies, I want to be able to read this book."

The boy was from the lowest caste and no one in his ancestry had ever been educated. Taken by surprise the couple went with the boy to his father's hut and asked if they could provide him with an education. Later the couple arranged for him to go to boarding school.

The boy was Dr DK Paul Raj, who together with his wife Violet, (both pictured above while in Australia in 2000) founded the Bangalore City Mission (BCM) through which 1,000's of needy children have now been educated. The BCM school, named Sinclair's High School in honour of the Canadian couple, is a beacon of hope for the poor and a place of opportunity. Sadly, Dr Paul Raj died in 2004, however, his legacy lives on with ever increasing reach and effect.



"As a child from a very poor background, Dad understood the power of education to break the cycle of poverty in his own life and he wanted that for others."

Jonathan Paul Raj, Director,
Bangalore City Mission



Bright Futures team members, John & Eleanor Day, pictured with BCM graduating Year 10 class during a recent visit to Bangalore.

Clean Water Flows at Onyayo B



This small community of 32 households now has a clean water source for the first time. A bore, water pump and water protection area were constructed earlier in the year and this has clearly been of great benefit to the village which is quite remote and has, like all villages in the area, circular mud brick housing with thatched roof.

There is no power, medical assistance or other supports for the families in this community. Two children from the village are being assisted with secondary scholarships at the new Gulu Christian Comprehensive School. The loans program has been successful but there is a need to diversify crops and acquire stock, particularly oxen and goats.



The village water source before installation of pump.



YEARS ON A JOURNEY OF HOPE

The fields are alive ... with the sound of bees!

It is hard to believe that the fields surrounding Lukodi are now alive with thriving crops and the sound of bees. Only a decade ago these were the barren killing fields of Joseph Kony and the LRA and the scene of a terrible massacre. The war having ended, the people of Lukodi have returned to rebuild their lives.

They have worked the land by hand and with oxen and now there are thriving crops of maize, beans, sorghum, sesame, peanuts, cassava, banana, oranges and also bee hives.

Bright Futures is honoured to partner with the 450 members of DiCwinyi group in Lukodi as, embracing their motto "Take heart and move forward", they restore their land & their lives.



A proud Lukodi farmer & her crop.

The flowers of all the tomorrows are in the seeds of today.

Indian Proverb

The very best gift you can give a needy child this Christmas is

At Bright Futures we intuitively know what research confirms, namely, that the best gift you can offer a child to lift them out of poverty is a great education.

At Bright Futures we are absolutely committed to giving children the opportunity for an education that will transform their lives. **At \$38 per month** you can join us in that quest by sponsoring a child and creating a future. Please do it now.

South Sudan Refugees

On a recent visit to a refugee settlement near Gulu in Uganda where hundreds of refugees from South Sudan are living in exile, Bright Futures Executive Officer, Paul Madden and Bishop Nelson Onono Onweng from BOOF spoke with the crowd assembled under the mango trees. Thanks to generous support from Business Lighthouse and other donations through recent visitor Paul Duff, urgently needed mosquito nets, blankets and 1.35 tonnes of corn were distributed. A further 300 mosquito nets are urgently needed (\$10 each).

Rev Nuar, an elderly man and the refugees pastoral leader, spoke to the group likening their needs to the three legs of the stand on which they place their pots over the fire. If any legs are missing the pot will fall into the fire. He said without food (the first leg) they had to live like animals; without medical care (the second leg) they face disease and death; but the third "the most important key for life" is education for the children. The next to speak was Bishop Nelson who urged the refugees to not lose hope so that they might return to their homeland in time. Bishop Nelson spoke, in particular, of the risks of malaria to pregnant women, children and the elderly and these were the first to be issued with blankets and nets.

Pic: Bright Futures EO, Paul Madden with refugees at settlement.

