



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.



## Kenya: Dorcas Creation raises hopes, help and opportunities



*Pic: Ladies from the Dorcas Creation group in Nairobi learning to make sanitary packs.*

A Bright Futures team comprising Barbara Madden, Mudie Howarth, Janette Medlock & Ruth Dickinson from Days for Girls recently went to Kenya to be with our newest development partner, Dorcas Creation. They went to share with the leaders of the 20 self-help groups which form Dorcas Creation in teaching & learning new skills for use in making goods for sale.

Based in Nairobi, Dorcas Creation is Kenyan non-profit organisation affiliated with Trinity Fellowship Ministries. It started with the aim of reaching out to women living in the Marurai slums. These women face enormous financial, health and social challenges. Dorcas Creation embarked on a holistic approach in response to their social, spiritual and economic needs and to date there has been noticeable improvement in the circumstances and wellbeing of over 200 women.

Along with the support provided is a growing micro-enterprise program aimed at helping women develop skills that will enable them to make and sell goods to generate income. The women sell some goods locally and the beautiful dress jewellery they make is sold in Australia through Bright Futures. During the visit the Bright Futures team provided training in the making of reusable sanitary pads. The availability of the pads is critical in removing a common barrier to school attendance for girls. At Bright Futures we are honoured to be partnering with Dorcas Creation because their work is truly life transforming.



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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## Educating girls to empower

The statistics about girls' education in the developing world speak for themselves. Sadly though, the girls often cannot. They are often rendered voiceless through limited access to education and cultural norms that see them as being of limited value.

The focus of Bright Futures and its development partners in providing opportunities for women and girls to be educated is born of a belief that they are people of value, worthy of love and opportunity, and that education provides their best hope of finding a path from oppression and poverty.

Every day, thousands of girls and women are supported through Bright Futures projects focused on improving their education, health and economic prospects. The work of Bright Futures stretches from quarry villages and slums in India, to a rural village in Pakistan, to a war affected community in Northern Uganda and deep into the slums in Nairobi, Kenya.

The hardship and suffering in each of these places is immense and for women and girls who have little power or standing it is doubly so. Yet it is in these places you will find women & girls who are fiercely determined to learn and to make a better life for themselves and their family. In this Bright Futures newsletter you will read some of their stories. We hope you will be inspired, as we are, by their courage and feel prompted to join in helping them find the education & help they so desperately need.



*"One child, one teacher, one pen and one book can change the world. Education is the only solution. Education first."*

Malala Yousafzai's speech to the United Nations 2013



## TOP TEN FACTS ABOUT EDUCATION FOR GIRLS

1. Globally, 65 million girls are not in school.
2. There are 31 million girls of primary school age not in school. Seventeen million of these girls will probably never attend school in their lifetime.
3. Of the 123 million young people between the ages of 15 and 24 who cannot read or write, 61 percent of them are women.
4. There are 33 million fewer girls than boys in primary school.
5. Girls with eight years of education are four times less likely to marry as children.
6. A girl with an extra year of education can earn 20 percent more as an adult.
7. A child born to a mother who can read and write is 50 percent more likely to survive past the age of 5.
8. Educated mothers are more than twice as likely to send their children to school.
9. Half of the children who are not in school live in conflict-ridden countries. Girls make up 55 percent of this total.
10. In 2012, there were 3,600 documented attacks on education, including violence, torture and intimidation against children and teachers, resulting in death or serious injuries, the shelling and bombing of schools and the recruitment of school-age children by armed groups.

\*Sources include UNESCO Institute of Statistics, Education First, National Academies Press, the World Bank, UNICEF, EFA Global Monitoring Report and United Nations Statistics Division.

## My gift to help educate women and girls

I would like to sponsor a **child** (or \_\_\_\_\_ children) at \$35 per month per child.  
Please indicate: Girl / Boy Country: India / Pakistan / Uganda

I would like to sponsor a **school class** (or \_\_\_\_\_ classes) at \$100 per month.  
Please indicate: India / Pakistan / Uganda

I would like to provide a **new classroom for students** in Pakistan - \$3,250.

I would like to make a **donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_**  
Please indicate: India / Pakistan / Uganda / Please use where needed most.

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 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: \_\_\_\_\_

**Child Sponsorship:** I hereby authorise Bright Futures to debit my credit card \$35 per month for each child sponsored as indicated on this donation form until I revoke this authority in writing.

**School Class Sponsorship:** 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.

**Donation/s as indicated \$ \_\_\_\_\_** (once only)

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



When: 7.30 – 10pm, Friday, 15 August 2014

Where: SACOSS Building, 47 King William Rd, Unley (near Young Street) – enter from rear.

What: BYO Drinks and supper - \$10 per person  
Quiz Night – Fashion Parade – African Handicrafts and much more

Why: Fundraiser - Bright Futures education projects.  
Call 8342 4426 or email office to book.

## It's all happening!

Popular cricket commentator, pigeon breeder and former Australian Cricket captain Bill Lawry is fond of saying during the heat of battle at the Boxing Day Test, *"It's all happening here at the MCG!"*



Roger Bryson, Chair

Bright Futures may not be at the MCG but it is all happening here also. Here are just a few highlights.

The move of Bright Futures from an association to a company limited by guarantee is now complete, and with World Relief Australia representation on the Board, we look forward to the strengthening of our capacity to assist those in need.

Over the past six months Bright Futures has also been progressing through the steps in applying for ACFID (Australian Council For International Development) accreditation. Bright Futures considers this to be an important step in ensuring our development work meets the highest standards to the benefit of all we are endeavouring to help. Special thanks go to Belinda Pratten, Sarah Spiker & Paul Madden for their hard work on the application.

In another exciting development, our Uganda project partner, Rev Ali Ocan and Bright Futures Coordinator, David Woodroofe, have been exploring how best to foster and develop further schooling opportunities in the needy area of Northern Uganda. We are anticipating that a Bright Futures supporter and a school principal with international experience, Paul Duff, will soon be visiting that region.

As you will read in this newsletter, the challenge of providing a life transforming education for adults and children in need is before us. However, there is much to celebrate in all that is being achieved and we can confidently anticipate all that lies ahead. Thank you for partnering with us in this exciting endeavour.

ROGER BRYSON  
Chair

### Bright Futures Board & Projects Team

**BF Board Directors**

- Roger Bryson, Chair \*
- Philip Good, Treasurer
- 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 Management**

- David Woodroofe
- Mudie Howarth
- Barbara Madden
- Kym Lear
- Andy Farmer
- Linda Baverstock
- David Woodroofe
- Paul Duff

\*Plus Board members as indicated beside.

**Bank Details**

- Baptist Financial Services
- Acc: Bright Futures
- Overseas Aid Fund
- BSB: 704-922
- Acc: 10000998



## Pakistan: Girl Power - More Classrooms Please!

Dr Lynton Stacey, Bright Futures Program Coordinator - Pakistan

A sudden jump in the number of girls attending the school in Youngsonabad, Pakistan has occurred following the establishment of a new Year 9 class, with 33 girls in a class of 50 students and. This has been ground breaking for the school and for the village, reports Pastor Nathaniel Barkat, head of Bright Futures partner, the Christian Fellowship of Pakistan (CFP).

This has been brought about by the addition of two new teachers. A skilled science teacher started evening classes and the students were inspired by the teaching they received. They could now understand what they were supposed to be learning. News quickly spread through the village and surrounding area, so more and more started attending the classes. After the results of the final exams, the demand for enrolment increased.

CFP decided to introduce a Year 9 class, and eventually will start a year 10 class. Besides the Science teacher, they have obtained the services of an Arts teacher. Currently 315 children are enrolled in the school. The rise in demand, given the challenges girls face in receiving an education in Pakistan, is thrilling. It does however bring some welcome challenges, principally classroom accommodation. Three additional classrooms are required and the cost for these is about \$3,250 each. So that we can support this exciting development, we are seeking additional donations for Pakistan. Please join with us in making room for more girls. It will transform their communities and their lives.

A heartfelt message of thanks to all who make the work of Bright Futures possible.



There are simply not enough languages to adequately express how much we value your support, encouragement and prayers but here are a few attempts at saying "Thank You".



## Uganda: Focus Moves to Education

David Woodroofe, Bright Futures Program Coordinator – Uganda

Bishop Nelson Onweng Onono, a former teacher and founder of Bright Futures development partner in Northern Uganda, knows the power of education in liberating people from poverty. In 1991, the Bishop started the Gulu Community Vocational School (GCVS) which currently has 250 students learning skills such as bricklaying, concreting, motor mechanics, carpentry, tailoring, metal work and agriculture. Many graduates have started businesses, employing others and moving on in their lives.

Poor quality of education is a serious problem in the Lukodi region where Bright Futures operates in partnership with the Bishop's foundation (BOOF) and the Di Cwinyi community cooperative comprising 450 members in 11 self-help groups. A high school dropout rate is driven by students not mastering basic numeracy and literacy skills. Children leave school for child marriage or labour as a way of living. The child mother is simply following in the footsteps of her mother. Project Coordinator, Rev Ali Ocan, declares, "Educate the girl and transform the society".

Thanks to Bright Futures supporters, Daryl and Cheryl Driver and their family, there are now a total of 30 young people being supported in secondary education in Gulu and at Lukome Secondary School. The support has also enabled physical improvements and a nutrition program to commence at Lukodi Primary School. While the wounds of the two decade civil war that ravaged this community still remain, the people are moving forward with great courage and women are taking the lead.



## Girls Helping Girls



Naomi Knott (pic) is a young woman who cares for others. Recently, as part of her school Personal Learning Program, Naomi embarked on a project to raise funds to help Bright Futures by selling beautifully crocheted and brightly coloured butterflies, dragon flies and crosses. Thanks so much Naomi. The funds you raise will help other girls get a great education.

## India: School Brilliance Award

Paul Madden, Bright Futures Executive Officer & India Program Coordinator

In 1990, Paul & Violet Raj, the founders of Bright Futures development partner, the Bangalore City Mission (BCM), started a little school in the front room of their tiny home near a major granite quarry on the fringes of Bangalore. They could never have imagined the amazing contribution their sacrifice would make to the education and emancipation of women and girls.

Every day, Violet would go into the quarry trying to convince quarry workers to let their children come to school. It was hard going, the workers did not understand the value of education and child labour was commonplace. Violet knew that education was the only way for these children to escape grinding poverty and she was relentless in her endeavours.

By 1992 there were eight children at the school and Violet used her savings to purchase a quarter acre plot nearby to start a school. By 2004 numbers had grown to around 60 children and bit by bit buildings were added. Slowly children from the quarries and poor villages nearby began to come to the school, known as Sinclairs High School. Before long it was overflowing. Today there are 600 children in the school with hundreds more being supported by BCM in a government school at nearby Hosur Quarry.

Thousands of children have received a great foundational education at Sinclairs and scores have gone on to pre-University and University. Many now hold degrees and good jobs with a vast number being girls. Violet's earnest prayers have been answered with many children, and their families, being lifted out of poverty. Recently, at the India School Brilliance Awards, this little school which had such a humble beginning was a "Top 5 Finalist" out of 700 schools in the community outreach category. How brilliant is that!



## Lukodi: Remembrance of those killed in 2004 massacre

On 19 May 2014 the people of Lukodi gathered at the memorial that stands in the centre of the village to remember those who died in the terrible attack on the displacement camp on the same day ten years earlier.

Lukodi, the area in which Bright Futures and its development partner are now active, had been the site of a displacement camp under Ugandan Army protection when rebels attacked killing more than 50 people who were taking refuge at the camp. The loss of so many loved ones remains.

