



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.



Thanks Bianca for lending your talents to help Kenyan women



Bianca Bettley is a creative and compassionate young woman.

Recently, Bianca developed a beautiful catalogue featuring jewellery made by women in self-help groups in the Marurai slum in Nairobi, Kenya.

The self-help groups are run by Dorcas Creation, which is Bright Futures partner group in Kenya. The income from the sale of the womens' jewellery provides a means for them to provide for their families, and gives them both skills and the dignity of paid work.

Not only did Bianca develop the beautiful catalogue, she also got a few friends together to run a stall to sell the jewellery in the foyer of a major city building. Thanks Bianca for using your talents to help.



To obtain a copy of the catalogue or view our beautiful jewellery please email office@brightfutures.com.au or call the Bright Futures office on 8342 4426.



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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JUNE 2015

Begin and help will find you!

Bright Futures Executive Officer, Paul Madden

Earlier this year I was reminded in a simple, yet powerful way, just what it means to take a 'leap of faith' in helping others. I received an email from Rev Ali Ocan, the program coordinator of our partner group in Northern Uganda, in which he conveyed a request from a group of South Sudanese refugees living in exile in a settlement north of Gulu.

I had visited the settlement about two months earlier and found the refugees, a group of about 400, living in terrible conditions. Driven from their homes in South Sudan, they told me that they now lacked food and the mud huts they now lived in led to malaria and other illnesses. Their children could not access schooling. While there we provided what we could in the way of food, blankets and mosquito nets but it was clear that education was a priority for them. They want for their children what we all want for ours – opportunity and a future, and for these, education is a key.

Now back to the email. The request from the refugees was simple enough. They wanted to know if Bright Futures could help by assisting 30 of their children to go to school. I replied with a heavy heart that Bright Futures would love to help but I had no idea where we would find the means to make this happen. We were already fully stretched. The reply from the refugees was both swift and challenging; they said, "help will find you when you have started."

As much as fear and doubt gripped me as I read their challenge, I knew it to be true. On countless occasions in the journey of Bright Futures we have experienced unexpected help as we have taken 'leaps of faith' in helping others. We have known the provision of God through the kindness and generosity of others.

And so, with trepidation, we began. Within a few days we were able to negotiate access to schooling at Lukodi Primary School and help did come, not enough to take the whole journey of supporting the education of these children, but enough to begin. It should not have come as a surprise, but it did. Leaps of faith are like that – you can only discover by jumping!



Teacher and class at Lukodi Primary School, Northern Uganda.

“.. they want for their children what we all want for ours – opportunity and a future ..”



Boys at Lukodi Primary School honing their Aussie Rules skills. (See if you can spot the footy!)



My Gift

Here is my gift to help empower, educate and lift women, children and communities out of poverty: \$_____

Please indicate: India / Pakistan / Uganda / Kenya / or please use where needed most.

I would like to sponsor a child (or ___ children) at \$39/month per child.

Please indicate: Girl / Boy Country: India / Pakistan

I would like to support ___ school class/es at \$100 per month.

Please indicate: India / Pakistan / Uganda / Kenya / or 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 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 \$ _____

Child Sponsorship: I hereby authorise Bright Futures to debit my credit card **\$39 per month for each child sponsored** as indicated on this donation form until I revoke this authority.

School Class Supporter: I hereby authorise Bright Futures to debit my credit card **\$100 per month for each school class sponsored** as indicated 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



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Reflections on a journey of hope

Dear friends of Bright Futures

It is no revelation to say that there are many troubling things happening in our world today.

While most of these crises seem to be outside of our immediate control, Mother Teresa's words below show us the way forward.



'Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love.'

As has been shown so often in Bright Futures' journey, our supporters have the real ability to show great love! Whether it has been in sponsoring children from the quarry areas around Bangalore (India) giving security to boys and girls attending a school in Pakistan, enabling women in the slum area in Nairobi (Kenya) to learn new skills to better provide for their children or in Uganda supporting our partners provide help to impoverished refugees who have settled in their area, great love is shown.

We individually may not be able to directly change the course of human history, but collectively we can change the lives of thousands of children in the four countries in which we are involved.

Every time you make a donation or a sponsorship payment be assured that you are making a difference to at least one person's life. There is nothing more rewarding! So let us continue to 'do small things with great love' and provide families with hope and a bright future.

Roger Bryson

Roger Bryson
Chairman
Bright Futures Child Aid & Development Fund Australia

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Bank Details

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

So many reasons to celebrate and so many reasons to do much, much more!



Steve Howarth training Jonathan Paul Raj in the fine art of cooking sausages.

The Bright Futures 10th Anniversary was marked with three terrific events over the Australia Day Weekend. First was the anniversary dinner, which took the form of a sumptuous India dinner at held at Burnside City Church. It was a night of fantastic food, thanks to Rani and her dedicated team, with brilliant and moving music from pianist and singer Anna Scheepers, whose rendition of Hallelujah left hardly a dry eye in the room. A moving speech from Violet Paul Raj who, together with her husband Rev DK Paul Raj, founded the Bangalore City Mission (Bright Futures first partner group), was a graphic reminder of the impact of the work we share that now touches thousands of men, women and children not only in India, but in Pakistan, Kenya and Uganda also.

On the Sunday a celebration service was held at Ingle Farm Baptist Church. It was a great opportunity to give thanks to God for the many opportunities Bright Futures has to reach out in helping poor communities.

The weekend of celebrations concluded with the now famous (well almost!) Bright Futures Australia Day Breakfast. This event has been held every year since the formation of Bright Futures and, once again, both the sun and the crowd turned out as we celebrated the way Australians best do – with a BBQ held in delightful Tusmore Park. We were touched as Jonathan Paul Raj, Executive Director of the Bangalore City Mission, outlined just how much the partnership with Bright Futures has meant to the communities we have assisted.

There are just so many reasons to celebrate and so many reasons to do much, much more.



Violet Paul Raj speaking at Bright Futures 10th Anniversary Dinner. Simply inspiring!



Appeal hits the streets!



Bright Futures has "hit the streets" with delivery of the fold out brochure (enclosed) to 20,000 homes. We pray that the appeal will inspire, encourage and prompt a desire to give. For Facebook users, you can by "Liking" us and spreading the word. \$2 will be donated for "Like" in June. (up to 500)

www.facebook.com/BRIGHTFUTURES.AUS

Laying foundations for the future

The foundations for the future are being laid in myriad ways at Bangalore City Mission. While the school is undergoing a major rebuild to increase recreation space and classroom areas for the 600 students on site, the foundation that education is creating for the future of students from poor communities is what counts most.



Nandhini

BCM is also supporting education in a nearby quarry village school and providing child care so that parents do not have to take their children on to the dangerous quarry pit floor while they work.

Nandhini (pictured), who was sponsored through Bright Futures, has now completed her schooling and is now qualified for a job in teaching or accountancy.



The foundations go down on the Sinclairs (BCM) School extension.

Our heartfelt thanks go to a Victorian support group committed to education of the poor in India whose generosity has made the school extension possible.

On the road to Loyo Boo



Loyo Boo is one of a number small villages in the Lukodi area in Northern Uganda. Some distance off the main road and down a bush track, it is a place that was devastated by the war that ended in 2006. The extraordinarily resilient villagers are now working to rebuild their lives. They have few means, no running water or power, no access to health services and rely on whatever they can produce from the land to feed themselves and generate income.

The village Rwot Kweri (self help group) is the force for improvement in the village and together with ten other local village groups they work cooperatively to improve the broader area. Bright Futures partners with them in their work.

One of the critical needs was for a clean water source and thanks to a Bright Futures donor a new well was installed. The children of the village, together with hundreds of others from the area, are being assisted by Bright Futures in their schooling aided in maintaining schooling through a nutrition program and teacher support.



Newly installed water pump at Loyo Boo.

Pakistan partners show courage in educating girls

It is hard to believe that educating a girl can be a dangerous thing. Yet, as we know all too well from the powerful story of Malala Yousafzai, it can be very dangerous. Aged just 15, Malala was shot down by the Taliban in Pakistan for standing up for girls' education. Thankfully she lived to tell the world that girls education matters. "One child, one teacher, one pen and one book can change the world ...", she declared before the United Nations in 2013.

Despite the difficulty, Bright Futures partners in Pakistan (CFP) have embraced the challenge of educating girls. They believe that education holds the key to the future for both boys and girls. On a number of occasions in recent months the authorities have asked them to close the school until the danger period passes. And they do, because the safety of the children is a paramount consideration.

The school operated by CFP is a haven from the more dangerous world outside; the world they re-enter each day as they leave the school grounds to go home. Those without homes to go to are accommodated by CFP. There are more than 320 children in the school with classes up to Year 9, and about half of the students are girls. We stand in awe of the efforts of the CFP in bringing hope and opportunity to many children.

Photo: Girls studying under the verandah of the CFP school



When you sponsor a child through Bright Futures at just

\$39

PER MONTH

you are helping not only that child, but many others also, to receive a life transforming education. You are also helping with development projects to help make their communities safer, healthier and stronger, both socially and economically.