



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.



Whether a child in poverty lives on the edges of a rock quarry in Bangalore, India; or in an urban slum in Nairobi, Kenya; or even a rural village in Pakistan or Northern Uganda, an important key to their future is education.

At Bright Futures, education is central to what we do. For children the focus is on a good foundational education while for adults the focus is on literacy and vocational training.

When you sponsor a child, or support a school class, you help CREATE A FUTURE.



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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DECEMBER 2015

When eight becomes 800!

Bright Futures Executive Officer,
Paul Madden



BCM Director Jonathan Paul Raj & Bright Futures Executive Officer, Paul Madden

When I first visited the Bangalore City Mission (BCM) in 1992, it was early in its life. Founders, Rev DK Paul Raj and his wife Violet had moved with their young family to the edge of the city and built a small home.

Nearby were vast quarries in which men, women and children broke stone by hand to earn a living. So alarmed were Paul and Violet about the plight of the children that they started a school in the front room of their home. They knew that education was the key to the children escaping poverty.

On my first visit there were eight children but before long, driven by need, the numbers grew ... 50 ... 100 ... 300 ... 600 and more. The school building also grew from necessity.

Now a major extension is underway. But it's not about the building, it's about always make room for more where there is great need. As BCM Director, Jonathan Paul Raj puts it,

"every child, no matter what their circumstance, deserves the opportunities that education brings".

Thousands of children have been assisted with a great education. Many more are awaiting their opportunity.



Going Up: BCM School Extension Rises



"Start by doing what is necessary; then do what is possible; and suddenly you will be doing the impossible."

St Francis of Assisi



Be an angel and buy one! Just \$10. Call or email the Bright Futures office to place your order.

'DRY LAND SPRINGS'



Pic: John & Eleanor Day speaking at the launch of "Dry Land Springs".

When earlier this year John and Eleanor Day spent several weeks helping out at Bangalore City Mission (BCM) they were inspired by what they saw. They really wanted to help, but the question was how?

They had an idea and talked to their mates Steve Packer and Adam Camporeale, talented film-makers at Passel Media in Adelaide, and before long Steve and Adam were on a plane to Bangalore to make a movie about BCM, free of charge!

Entitled, 'Dry Land Springs', this mini-doco (9 mins) brilliantly captures the story and spirit of BCM and its work. To see it and be inspired too, go to:

<https://vimeo.com/141852521>

Thanks to the kindness of Nicholas Pyne and Macquarie Equities, the film was launched in the Macquarie Boardroom, prompting both generosity and help. Our sincere thanks go to all involved.

My Christmas Gift

I would like to make a donation of \$_____

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 help support a school class (or ___ classes) at \$100 per month.

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

P/C _____

P: _____ E: _____

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Payment Options: (Please indicate preferences below)

Credit Card: Visa Mastercard

No: _____/_____/_____

Expiry: ___/___ Cardholder _____

Signature: _____

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

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 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.

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

DONATIONS OVER \$2 TAX DEDUCTIBLE CCP2073



BRIGHT FUTURES ANNUAL AUSTRALIA DAY BREAKFAST

When: 9.00 – 10.30am, Australia Day, Tuesday, 26 January 2016

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

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! **EVERYONE IS WELCOME!**

Compassion, generosity, enterprise & faith

(Abridged Annual General Meeting Report)

As we reflect on the eleventh year in the life of Bright Futures, four words come to mind. They are compassion, generosity, enterprise and faith. In their own right, each of these attributes is an important life factor, but combined together, they form a powerful force for change!



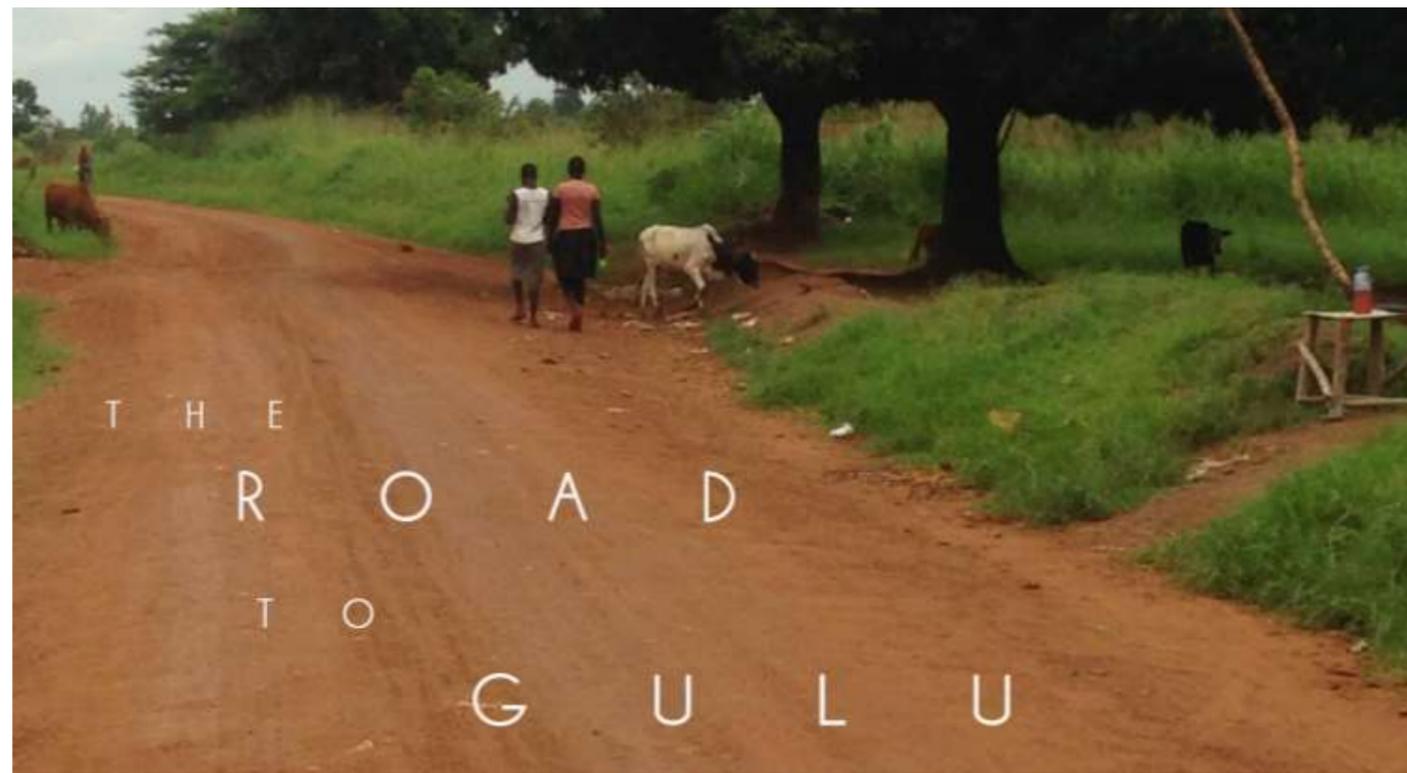
Similarly, the role played by each individual connected to Bright Futures is significant, whether it be as a donor, sponsor, volunteer or Board member. The combination of each contribution is, again, a powerful force for change! Consider some of the exciting events that have taken place in the last 12 months.

- We celebrated our 10th birthday by highlighting all that has been achieved by linking many generous Aussies with four wonderful partner organisations in Bangalore (India), Youngsabad (Pakistan), Lukodi and Gulu (Uganda) and Nairobi (Kenya). Never in our dreams did we ever consider that so much would be achieved to assist those in poverty.
- Bright Futures was accepted into full membership of the Australian Council for Overseas Aid and after an exhaustive process approved with DGR1 tax status under the Australian Government Overseas Aid Gift Deduction Scheme.
- We received our first Development Assistance Grant through the Australian High Commission, and thanks to this grant and the generosity of donors, Bright Futures and its Ugandan development partner will establish a desperately needed medical clinic in Lukodi. Bright Futures Board member, Dr Lynton Stacey, will soon be travelling to Lukodi for the opening ceremony and to assist with the establishment.
- Generous support also enabled our partner, the Christian Fellowship of Pakistan (CFP) to purchase land to increase agricultural program to improve nutrition for children at the CFP school and provide a place for vocational training. Education of girls in Pakistan is critically important and we are thrilled that nearly half of the children at the school are girls!
- With the support of World Relief Australia and ServeTrust (a philanthropic organisation in Victoria), the Bangalore City Mission has embarked on its biggest building project in its 25 year history to enable over 800 children from the poorest backgrounds to receive a life-changing education.
- In Nairobi, Kenya, Bright Futures has supported the development of the women's empowerment and vocational training programs operated by our partner, Dorcas Creation, in a slum area on the outskirts of the city.
- Bright Futures supporters also provided assistance to Sudanese refugees living in Northern Uganda which has enabled 35 students to access schooling at the Gulu Comprehensive Christian School and at Lukodi Primary School. Assistance has also included life-essential items such as mosquito nets, blankets and corn.

Compassion, generosity, enterprise and faith - together making an enormous difference in the lives of thousands of people in other parts of the world and providing sheer joy and a sense of deep satisfaction to all those in Australia who have been part of these life changing efforts! Thank you to all those involved.

Roger Bryson

Roger Bryson, Chair
Bright Futures Child Aid & Development Fund Australia



In Northern Uganda there is a red earth road that winds through maize fields from the village of Patiko, where Ugandans were sold as slaves in the 1800's, to the village of Lukodi and beyond. The people of Lukodi have endured two decades of terror in which Joseph Kony and the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) abducted, raped, murdered and pillaged through Northern Uganda. With the displacement of 1.8 million Acholi people and abduction of 38,000 children to serve as child soldiers and sex slaves, there is not a village or family in the region that is unaffected. On 19 May 2004, in a murderous attack on the displacement camp at Lukodi, the LRA killed nearly 50 people. Following successful peace talks in Juba in 2008, the people of Lukodi and the wider region have returned to resettle their land.

Over the past five years, Bright Futures, in partnership with the Driver family and Ugandan development partners, the Bishop Onono Foundation, has been active in Lukodi, working with the community to improve agricultural output, nutrition, school based education and water quality. While gains have been made there is still much to do.

Road to Gulu Project

Spurred by a recent volunteering visit to Lukodi, Angela Driver and Gillian Cottrell launched the "Road to Gulu Project" as a means of supporting improved outcomes in education and health. The project was recently launched at a Gala Event in Melbourne where the large crowd was treated to African food, amazing African drummers, beautiful music, an auction and much more. More than \$20,000 was raised on the night. Special thanks to Angela and Gillian, event sponsor Driver Buslines and the volunteers who made it possible.



Lukodi Health Centre

Thanks to a Development Assistance Program grant from the Australian High Commission, and the help of donors, work has begun on the establishment of a health clinic in Lukodi. Access to healthcare is a huge issue in this area where villagers have limited access to transport, subsistence incomes and face life threatening disease. The Lukodi Health Centre will open in January 2016 and will provide help to thousands.

Lunch program yields big results

In a bid to improve attendance and results at Lukodi Primary School a lunch program was introduced in 2014. Prior to the program over 50% of students dropped out of school between years five and six. Many walked home for lunch but did not return, staying to help their parents in the field. The impact of the program has been significant with progression from years five to six increasing to 90%. Bright Futures donors fund the posho (cornbread) and beans while parents provide firewood and cook the lunch. Others to benefit include refugee children from Sudan who are being supported at the school by Bright Futures.



Pic: Lukodi students line for lunch as Paul Madden and Sarah Minns discuss the impact of the lunch program.



May the miracle of His birth be as real and wonderful in your lives today as it was on that very first Christmas.



OPENING SOON – VOLUNTEERS WANTED

The Bright Futures Charity Shop will soon to be up and running at 1 Collingrove Avenue, Broadview. The shop will provide an important outlet for jewellery and handicrafts made by women in self-help groups supported by Bright Futures in India, Uganda and Kenya.



Products for sale will be supplemented by quality donated clothing and items and online sales. To inquire about products or volunteering please contact Paul on 0411 740549 or email: office@brightfutures.com.au

Savings Groups Empower & Amaze



When well known Adelaide accountant, David Minns (right) recently visited a women's savings group in Kenya run by Bright Futures partner, Dorcas Creation, he was amazed by the sophistication of these self-managed "mini-banks" and the power of women saving together to transform their lives. The women, mostly from the vast Marauri slum in Nairobi, were achieving their goals together. Many took loans to start a small business, some bought land and others paid for their children's' education or medical expenses. Whatever their individual goals, their commitment to one another was both evident and empowering. They are reshaping their futures.

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 - M 0411 740549

BF Admin & Officer

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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 as indicated.

Bank Details

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Overseas Aid Fund
Westpac
BSB: 035-002
Acc: 392116

Auditors: BDO