



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 or support a project through Bright Futures you help build the capacity of an entire community.



'UNITING DYNAMIC WOMEN'



Deb Hosking, Project Ambassador



With an unwavering commitment to lifting women & families out of poverty, the 'Uniting Dynamic Women' (UDW) project unites women in Australia in supporting vocational & business skills training & mentoring for women in the slums of Nairobi, Kenya, in quarry villages in India and beyond.

UDW is open to all women and girls and is based around a \$25 per month (\$300 pa) contribution (tax deductible) and this covers the cost of training for up to four women each year.



During the pandemic some women trained through the project have been able to generate income to provide for themselves and their families by making protective face masks.

OUR GOAL

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.

OUR STRATEGY

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.

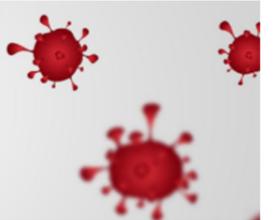
Newsletter

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JUNE 2020

CHOOSING LOVE OVER FEAR



The question, "But who is my neighbour?" sparks one of the best-known stories in history. In response Jesus tells the story of a traveller on the road from Jerusalem to Jericho who is attacked by thieves and left half-dead by the roadside. First a priest and then a Levite come by, but both avoid the man. Finally, a Samaritan happens upon the traveller. Samaritans were widely despised at the time yet it was the Samaritan who stops, shows kindness and helps the injured man.

I have heard this story explained many times and it usually focuses on what the priest, the Levite and Samaritan did or didn't do. But on one occasion the speaker asked, "but what did the man left half-dead by the side of the road do?" I had no clue. The speaker stunned me with the answer. He said, "The beaten man revealed the character of those passing by."

During this pandemic the character of our partners in India, Kenya, Pakistan and Uganda has been truly revealed. Putting aside their own fears and needs they have mobilised to distribute food and assistance to thousands and thousands of individuals and families facing starvation. **They have chosen love over fear.**

Here too, we have seen much generosity from donors and this has enabled our frontline partners to supply hundreds of thousands of meals plus soaps, protective equipment and much more.

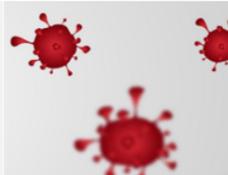
In choosing love over fear we stop asking ourselves, "What will happen to me if I stop to help?" and instead we ask ourselves, "What will happen to them if I don't?"

Paul

Paul Madden
Executive Officer



CHOOSING LOVE OVER FEAR



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www.brightfutures.com.au



Bright Futures Australia 2020

- I would like to make a donation of \$_____ to help provide relief and assist recovery for people affected by the Covid-19 pandemic.
- I would like to make a regular monthly donation of \$_____ in support of:
 - Womens' Empowerment - KENYA / INDIA (Uniting Dynamic Women project)
 - Schooling for children - INDIA / KENYA / UGANDA / PAKISTAN
 - Medical Care & Birthing Services - UGANDA
- 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: _____

Bright Futures Australia - Overseas Aid Fund, PO Box 3071 Rundle Mall SA 5000
 Phone: 08 7225 7175 Email: office@brightfutures.com.au
 ABN 76 803 488 074 www.brightfutures.com.au

Payment Options:

Credit Card: Visa Mastercard

No: _____ / _____ / _____

Expiry: ___/___ Cardholder _____

Signature: _____

EFT: Acct Name: Bright Futures Australia – Overseas Aid Fund
 Westpac Bank: BSB: 035-002 Account: 392 116

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.

Online: Go to www.brightfutures.com.au – online donation link

DONATIONS OVER \$2 TAX DEDUCTIBLE

Moving on from relief to recovery



With much of the world still very much in the grip of the Covid-19 pandemic, and with many countries beginning to emerge from lockdowns despite growing numbers of infections, the question of how we plot a path to recovery is a very important one. For those who live in countries, like those in which Bright Futures works with its partners, limited resources and fragile health systems make finding a path forward all the more challenging.

Since late March, together with our partners in India, Kenya, Uganda and Pakistan, we have been focused on helping the vast number of people affected by lockdowns. In these communities, where most people are day labourers who are now without work, the lockdowns brought with them desperation, uncertainty and the threat of starvation as they struggled to feed their families. Our partners, enabled by the generosity of donors, leapt into action providing food provisions to thousands of households through the lockdowns. This work continues.

But now we must also turn our attention to the recovery phase and a long-term approach to help communities to deal with the impact of coronavirus which may be felt for many months. The Board's Covid-19 Working Group is working with our partners to create a path forward. In each project area the approach will be different. In rural areas in Uganda and Pakistan the focus will be on food production and ensuring partners can maintain health and education projects so essential in those communities. In India and Kenya the focus will be directed toward sustaining important vocational training, womens' empowerment, community development and education projects. The skills and knowledge acquired through these projects will be more important than ever to help community members in tough economic and social environments.

I want to thank you for your kindness and support which has helped so many to survive. The generosity of Bright Futures supporters is always so remarkable and demonstrates to our partners that we are all just that: partners and friends supporting each other around the world. As we move to the next stage we will be working to help people move beyond surviving and on to thriving.

Sarah

Sarah Spiker
Board Chair

In this time of crisis ...

CHOOSING LOVE
OVER FEAR



INDIA



When the pandemic first broke Jonathan Paul Raj, the leader of Bright Futures partner, Bangalore City Mission (BCM) put out a call for those among his teachers and staff who would be willing to assist with food distribution to the thousands facing starvation. Everyone volunteered! Working with permissions from government and at their request, Bangalore City Mission mobilised at large scale to distribute food in marginalised communities of migrants and day labourers which were suffering greatly. Distributions also began from the BCM school under a voucher system to manage demand and ensure safety. Thousands of households have been provided with the means to survive the lockdowns thanks to the efforts of the BCM team and donors. To view a short video of BCM at work on the frontline go to:

<https://youtu.be/1Gjcxj--c1k>



PAKISTAN

In the rural village of Youngsonabad, Bright Futures partner, Christian Fellowship of Pakistan (CFP) works mainly with households of subsistence farmers. At the best of times the families in this community struggle to find the means to provide for themselves day to day. The Covid-19 crisis has added a whole new layer to their distress. The CFP team have been working in the community to identify those at grave risk and have supported hundreds of households through food provision over the past month.



UGANDA

In Northern Uganda where Bright Futures partner group (BOOF) operates the Lukodi Health and Maternity Centre, the focus has been very much on preparation for dealing with any outbreaks. Necessary personal protective equipment has been purchased and the needs of mothers giving birth at the centre are very much front of mind.



Project leader, Opiro Onono reports, "Gulu regional hospital has 67 confirmed cases of Covid-19, most being truck drivers from neighbouring countries and a few are their contacts.

We haven't had infection in the local community. However, we are worried about our neighbour South Sudan and hope that they get the infection under control before it spills over the border."

KENYA

Jane Thuo, the leader of Bright Futures partner in Kenya reports, "We are grateful to Bright Futures who have kept Dorcas Creation going and especially the food basket program that has been a support to over 5000 people.

To date 1,416 families in Marurui slum have been assisted with food. Health workers and pastors, together with the Dorcas Creation team have been on the frontline in contact tracing of the very needy cases in the community."



To view a short video on the way that Dorcas Creation has been assisting the community go to the following link:

<https://youtu.be/59PyR3A2fVU>

.... and in other news!

While the pandemic has absorbed much attention of late, there has been plenty happening both locally and in the project areas. Here are just a few snippets.

Pakistan Visit

In mid-March, prior to travel restrictions kicking in, Board Member Lynton Stacey and EO Paul Madden were delighted to visit Youngsonabad for meetings with partner group, Christian Fellowship of Pakistan (CFP). It was terrific to meet with leader, Nathaniel Barkat, and his team to explore plans for the future.

Office on the Move

In late April we decided to move from the office/shop in DaCosta Arcade and begin looking for a more suitable and larger space in the CBD to re-establish later in the year. The phone, email and other office contacts remain the same and for this short period our team will join everyone else in working from home!

Farewell Aunty!

The recent death of one of Bright Futures first volunteers and keen supporter, Betty Madden, aged 90, was marked in a very special way by students at Sindairs School run by Bright Futures partner, Bangalore City Mission (BCM). The students, who have been learning online during lockdown, stood in their homes to observe two minutes silence (pictured below) to honour 'Aunty' Betty who was much loved by the BCM team.



Students with heads bowed to honour Aunty Betty



Betty at Tiny Tots, Bangalore City Mission

Bright Futures Board & Projects Team

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Lee Haakmeester
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