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Bright Futures is an Australian based Christian aid and development agency committed to providing a transparent 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 in providing vital education and development programs which address the causes of poverty and offer the prospect of a better life.



Creating a pathway out of poverty



Pakistan: In Australia the property buying mantra is – location, location, location! In development too there is something of a mantra which says - educate girls, educate girls, educate girls! For each additional year of education a girl in the developing world receives there are huge benefits in income, health, family size and life prospects. And the benefit is generational. That's why in Youngson Abad in Pakistan, where we partner with Christian Fellowship of Pakistan (CFP), the focus is so strongly on educating and empowering girls. In establishing a new vocational centre adjacent to the CFP school we hope skill many girls for a safe and bright future.

My gift to give hope this Christmas

- Please receive my gift of \$_____ to help children, families and communities living in poverty.
- I would like to make a regular monthly donation of \$_____ *Please indicate preferred area:*
 - Please use where most needed
 - Womens' Empowerment - KENYA / INDIA (*Uniting Dynamic Women project*)
 - Childrens' Education - INDIA /KENYA/ UGANDA/ PAKISTAN
 - Medical Care & Birthing Services - UGANDA
- I would like to sponsor a child (or ___ children) at \$42 per month each. Please indicate: Girl / Boy

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

Bright Futures Australia - Overseas Aid Fund, PO Box 3071 Rundle Mall SA 5000



Payment Options:

Credit Card: Visa Mastercard
 No: _____ / _____ / _____
 Expiry: ____/____
 Cardholder _____
 Signature: _____

EFT: 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 call office – 08 7225 7175 – to arrange.

Online: Go to www.brightfutures.com.au - donation link

DONATIONS OVER \$2 TAX DEDUCTIBLE



When waves of despair give way to hope



"Hope is being able
 to see that there is
 light despite all
 of the darkness."

Bishop Desmond Tutu

Angeline Sheeba (pictured above) was only six years old when, on 26 December 2004, a tsunami struck her home place of Kanyakumari on the southern tip of India. Many thousands died, Sheeba's father among them. In speaking about this time in her life Sheeba, now 24, tells how she and her dad, with whom she was very close, spent Christmas eve cleaning the street before heading off to Church at 3am on Christmas morning.

Sheeba says: "On the morning of 26th, the day of the tsunami, my dad went to work at Kanyakumari Beach. He was selling food and vegetables. When the tsunami came he was taken into the sea. We never found his body and we couldn't have a funeral. For many years I felt that he was just lost and that one day he would return."

As it was for many who had lost family members and livelihoods, Sheeba's mother sought help to care for her children. She arranged for Sheeba to be cared for by the Paul Raj family (founders of Bright Futures partner Bangalore City Mission) where Sheeba has been wonderfully supported on her journey to adulthood. She says, "It was wonderful to have a family who stood up for me." Sheeba was able to maintain contact with her mum throughout.

Like many of her friends, Bright Futures' sponsorship assisted Sheeba to complete her education and she is now in training as an advisor for a major international Assurance company. She is a young woman with big dreams and a heart open to the needs of others.

Sheeba says: "I love to bake and someday I hope to have a café where I can help more people. I also want to establish an old age home where older people can be cared for."

From breaking stone to smashing poverty



"Hope comes from us having a belief deep down that the world is good, that people are kind and that what we need exists around us."

Sarah Spiker,
Chair, Bright Futures



India: While our partners at Bangalore City Mission (BCM) have been heroic in responding to the pandemic which gripped India, resulting in a terrible loss of life, BCM has never lost focus on its core development work. BCM Director, Jonathan Paul reports, "During Covid we have been providing much needed rations, medicines, masks, hygiene kits and arranging vaccinations for the vulnerable. We have reached more than 50,000 people living in desperate conditions. Our core pillars continue to be education, womens' empowerment, childcare, healthcare and community development. Covid did affect our programs but within a couple of months we were back on track. Moving forward it will not be easy, but with the support of our partners we will continue to help people break free of poverty."

Vital vaccinations for mothers & babies



Vaccinations are vital for newborns in this part of Uganda where many still die of preventable disease. At Lukodi Health Centre where we partner with the Bishop Onweng Onono Foundation, mothers and babies patiently await vaccinations and the lifesaving benefits they bring. The development of a paediatric unit in 2022 will further enhance this important work.

Want to know more about Bright Futures?

If you would like to know more about Bright Futures or would like a speaker to share the Bright Futures story with a group call

Paul Madden, Executive Officer, M: 0411 740549

or call or email Deb at the Bright Futures Office on P: 08 7225 7175

E: office@brightfutures.com.au

Bright Futures big plans for 2022!

Yes, we have big plans for 2022! Together with our partners we have plans to:

- ✓ Expand the Lukodi Health Centre in Uganda to incorporate a paediatric unit.
- ✓ Begin construction of the new Womens Empowerment Centre in Nairobi, Kenya
- ✓ Establish a Vocational Training Centre in Youngson Abad, Pakistan
- ✓ Support extended reach of education in Bangalore, India

Period Poverty Awareness



Girls celebrating being girls & appreciating the provision of sanitary towels following mentorship and training.

Kenya: Poverty comes in many forms, as Jane Thuo, Director of partner group Dorcas Creation in Kenya explains: "Accessibility to sanitary towels, by girls in the slums in which we work in Nairobi is challenging. It results in interruption of schooling and often causes young women to drop out of education altogether. We look to minimise period poverty in the slums by ensuring girls can stay in school. We are trusting God to enable us to embark in the production of quality reusable sanitary towels and create awareness on period poverty." This program is just one of the many empowerment programs run by Dorcas Creation reaching 1,000 women each year. Bright Futures 'Uniting Dynamic Women' team is a wonderful enabler of these life changing programs.



Bright Futures Annual 'Picnic in the Park' – All Welcome

When: 5.00pm-7.00pm, Sunday, 13 March 2022

Where: Tusmore Park (enter from Stirling Street)

What to bring: BYO food & drink and enjoy a picnic in Tusmore Park with others who also share your passion to help people in need.



Sandy Running Festival 2022

Saturday, 9 April 2022



Larissa in action! Winner of 35km challenge.

Building on the success of the 2021 event, which raised \$23,000 for vital health services for mothers and babies in Northern Uganda & South Sudan, the Sandy Running Festival is back!

Offering four distance options, (5km, 10km, 35km & 68km) the event is ideal for runners and walkers of all ages and abilities. For further details go to:

www.sandyrunningfestival.com.au



"We desire to be able to welcome Jesus at Christmas time, not in a cold manger of our heart, but in a heart full of love and humility ... so warm with love for one another."

Mother Teresa