



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.



## Bright Futures Online Shop

Click in and 'bag' a bargain!

<https://bright-futures-child-aid-development-fund.myshopify.com>

If buying ethically matters to you, then the Bright Futures Online Store is a great place to start. We have a range of bags, facemasks, purses and jewellery made by women in social enterprises around the world. When you purchase a beautiful gift for yourself or for someone you love, you also provide the dignity of paid work at fair rates for women who just need a hand up. To make a purchase, just pop online (link above) or call Deb at Bright Futures – P: (08) 7225 7175 or email: [office@brightfutures.com.au](mailto:office@brightfutures.com.au)



African Cotton Masks \$8

Bags & baskets from \$26.95



## 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 Approach

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

Bright Futures Child Aid & Development Fund Australia  
 PO Box 3071, Rundle Mall, SA 5000  
 Phone: 08 7225 7175  
 Executive Officer, Paul Madden M: 0411 740 549  
 ABN 76 803 488 074  
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DECEMBER 2020

## Growing strong in the broken places

**"The world breaks everyone and afterward many are strong at the broken places."**

In the quote above Ernest Hemingway draws on the notion that when a bone is broken, the point at which it heals becomes the strongest point.

This year the communities in which we work with our partners in India, Kenya, Uganda and Pakistan have been broken in so many ways. Dislocation, unemployment, poverty, anxiety, separation, starvation and even death – we have seen it all! Yet, we have also seen our partners rise to the challenge in amazing ways.

First it was marshalling their staff and resources to provide food distributions to assist over 100,000 adults and children facing starvation. Then it was looking beyond the crisis to building the capacity of families and communities through urban farming, economic empowerment (vocational & business skills) and deep community engagement. They are helping create foundations for communities to thrive.

There has been such awful pain in the breaking, but the healing has started and afterward, we will be strong at the broken places. Thank you for the vital part that you have played in making this possible.

*Paul*

**Paul Madden**  
Executive Officer



Urban Farming



Economic Empowerment



Community Engagement

## Growing strong in the broken places

- Please receive my gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to help children and families affected by the Covid-19 pandemic to recover and grow strong again.
- 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](mailto:office@brightfutures.com.au)  
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Bright Futures Australia 2020000

### 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](mailto:office@brightfutures.com.au) or phone office – 08 7225 7175 – to arrange.

**Online:** Go to [www.brightfutures.com.au](http://www.brightfutures.com.au) – online donation link

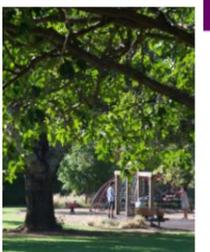
**DONATIONS OVER \$2 TAX DEDUCTIBLE**

## BRIGHT FUTURES ANNUAL 'TWILIGHT' PICNIC

**When:** 5.00pm-7.00pm, Sunday, 7 March 2021

**Where:** Beautiful Tusmore Park – enter from Stirling Street & keep a lookout for the Bright Futures crowd

**What to bring:** BYO food & drink and enjoy a picnic in Tusmore Park with others who share your passion to see people lifted out of poverty and receive a Bright Futures update.



# Chair's Report The Year in Review



Sarah Spiker

The past year has been unlike any other.

It is easy to feel that COVID-19 has been the only noteworthy part of the past year, but upon reflection I am pleased that is not the case. In the months before we entered a pandemic we started the year with some great events like Uniting Dynamic Women and the Bright Futures annual picnic and we finished the year with record fundraising for Bright Futures projects and a long list of new activities initiated by our partners overseas. For me, without a doubt, the pandemic has changed things, but through the uncertainty I was able to see very clearly what is important in life; slowing down and finding joy in our everyday lives, connecting with the people we care about even if that was not in person, showing kindness for others and the importance of helping those in need. And we have been able to do so much of this through Bright Futures this year.

Our partners in India, Pakistan, Uganda and Kenya have shown their ingenuity by supporting new groups of people in their communities who were left even more vulnerable because of COVID. But we also saw partners continue to run their existing programs in new and creative ways. BCM has taken school online, Dorcas have helped people establish urban farms for those who had lost their jobs, BOOF maintained safe birthing facilities during lockdowns for pregnant women in Uganda, and teachers supported home learning for children in Pakistan during school closures.

It wasn't just overseas in our projects that we witnessed creative change; our supporters and friends of Bright Futures in Australia did this too. We saw fantastic virtual events like Seeds Uniting 'Christmas In July' dinner and the Inspiring Teens group who collaborated with women in Mararui slums in Kenya to produce face masks to raise funds. For a year of great disruption, it has certainly been one that has resulted in creativity, connection and kindness. Our Bright Futures community has shown just how resilient we are.

Thank you to everyone who has continued to support as sponsors, volunteers, donors and advocates for this work. You have shown great kindness, love and generosity in one of the toughest years. And that makes it a remarkable time to be part of Bright Futures.

*Sarah*

Sarah Spiker, Chair



## Kenya: Nawiri Mama *(Flourishing Mother)*

Thanks to support from the Australian High Commission in Kenya and Bright Futures 'Uniting Dynamic Women' network, our partner Dorcas Creation launched the Nawiri Mama program earlier this year to provide training and support for mothers of children with disabilities. The program is unique in that it combines two aspects. In the first a skilled therapist teaches mothers basic therapy skills they can apply to help improve their disabled child's physical and cognitive capacity.



**'My name is Felista.** I am a mother of two. My first born is 12 years old. My second born is six. The second born has a disability. He has cerebral palsy. It got to a point where I did not know how to help myself. A friend told me of a place where they would go for therapy (Dorcas Creation). When I went therapy was done for my child. My child couldn't stand up but now he can stand up and can also say the word mum. I was very happy. I am so grateful for that therapy and I'm praying good things for you.

*\*Photo and story shared with Felista's consent.*

The second involves Dorcas Creation providing children with developmental activities while their mothers receive vocational and business skills training. While Covid-19 interrupted the program for many months it has now resumed. Here is the story of one of the mothers.



## India: Lohith's message from the heart ...

*(Lohith is a student sponsored through Bright Futures)*

*Dear Sponsor ... I am keeping well and I hope the same with you and your family. Due to the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic our family is facing a financial crisis. I am also not able to see my friends or go out. I feel lonely at certain times.*



*My family is trying to overcome the financial crisis by obtaining loans from the bank. The school has also helped us by giving us groceries. The online platform on which our school conducts classes is beneficial for my education even in tough times ... I hope this Christmas brings happiness to your family. I thank you for all the support you have given towards my education.*

*Yours lovingly, Lohith.*

*\*Photo and story shared with consent*

## Pakistan: School Returns and Building Upgrading Begins

Teachers and children at the school operated by our partner, Christian Fellowship of Pakistan (CFP), face many challenges due to security concerns. Armed guards, razor wire on school walls and passing through metal detectors are all part of their daily experience.



The pandemic has added yet another layer of anxiety. We are thrilled that school has resumed and important upgrading has started.



The upgrading work has been made possible thanks to the generosity of Bright Futures donors. The school is once again a place of learning and a hive of activity. The recovery has started and with it there is renewed hope.

## Uganda: Mothers & Babies



During the pandemic our partners in Northern Uganda (BOOF) have put much of their focus on keeping mothers and babies safe and well. In recent weeks the team at the Maternity & Birthing Unit at Lukodi Health Centre have been providing TB vaccinations and the response from mothers has been very strong with many walking long distances to have their babies vaccinated (pictured above). Additionally, many families received mosquito nets as a vital way of preventing malaria.



**'UNITING DYNAMIC WOMEN'**

Sharing our lives to help fight global poverty!

**It will happen eventually!!** Despite our very best efforts, last minute changes in Covid-19 restrictions resulted in us having to cancel our 'Uniting Dynamic Women' event for the third time this year! Not to be defeated, we will try again in the new year.

Bright Futures Uniting Dynamic Women (UDW) network is open to all women and girls and is based around a tax deductible contribution of \$25 per month (\$300 pa) which covers the cost of providing vocational & business skills training & mentoring for women in the slums of Nairobi, Kenya, in quarry villages in India.

The UDW network unites women in Australia in empowering women in impoverished circumstances overseas by helping lift them out of poverty. If you would like to know more, or would like to get involved please contact the Bright Futures office on 7225 7175 or email: [office@brightfutures.com.au](mailto:office@brightfutures.com.au)

**Deb Hosking**

UDW Network Ambassador

*To sponsor a child is to help create a future ... for the child and for their whole community!*

To find out more please contact the Bright Futures office on (08) 7225 7175  
Email: [office@brightfutures.com.au](mailto:office@brightfutures.com.au)



## Bright Futures Board & Projects Team

**BF Board Directors**  
Sarah Spiker, Chair  
Roger Bryson, Deputy Chair  
Philip Good  
Lee Haakmeester  
Carl Ginger  
Dr Don Van Cooten  
Fred Chilton  
Lynton Stacey

**BF Staff Team**  
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M 0411 740549  
Deb Mugford - Community Engagement  
Judy Howie - Communications

**Bank Details**  
Bright Futures Australia – Overseas  
Aid Fund  
Westpac: BSB: 035-002 Acc: 392116

**BF Projects Team**  
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Fabio Boniardi  
Judy Howie  
Tiziana D'Angelo

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