

November 2010

## Highlights

- **Over 800 children receiving support in 2010**
- **Focus is on building local community capacity to expand services, to increase the number of children receiving services and to improve overall service quality**

## Background

Orfund Foundation is a Canadian Registered Charity providing relief and support to orphans and vulnerable children (“OVC”) in Botswana, Africa. The majority of these children have been orphaned or made vulnerable as a result of HIV/AIDS. Research has shown that orphans and vulnerable children, compared with other children, face serious problems with malnutrition, poor school attendance, inadequate healthcare and social isolation. They are more apt to suffer health problems and depression and are highly vulnerable to physical and sexual abuse. Many have heavy workloads at home and frequently girls must leave school to care for younger children. These children need support to enable them to realize their potential.

## How Orfund Will Help

Our focus is on local capacity building to enable communities to look after their orphans and vulnerable children. During 2010, we continue to assist in building local human resource capacity through training and mentorship programs like the Flying Mission pre-school teachers training program. In addition we have been busy assisting to train our local partners in general and financial management. This has been undertaken with strong involvement from local businesses and individuals. We will continue to expand our network of contacts and to work closely with the local community to coordinate and build resources.

## 2010 Program Funding Budget

During 2010 program funding is anticipated at approximately Pula 1.0 million or about C\$165,000 which is consistent with 2009. Longer term funding for these programs is required to ensure sustainable development through local capacity building. Your continued support of these programs through your kind donations is critical for continued success.

## Orfund Foundation’s Policy of 0% Donations to Fund Operating Expenses

Orfund Foundation has a policy of not using donations to fund its administrative or other operating expenses. This means that 100% of your donation is used to fund orphan and vulnerable children’s care programs in Botswana. The “no operating expense policy” is possible due to Orfund’s staff all being unpaid volunteers including its Board of Directors, the provision of professional services by various partners on a pro bono basis and the financial support of its Founders.

## How You Can Help

Orfund Foundation relief and support is dependent upon your kind and generous donations.

One time or repeating monthly cash donations may be made to Orfund Foundation through CanadaHelps. Simply go to [www.orfundfoundation.com](http://www.orfundfoundation.com) click on Donate Now and follow the easy instructions. Donations by cheque may be sent to Orfund Foundation, Suite 2 – 1520 West 8th Avenue, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, V6J 4R8.

Also through CanadaHelps, donors may now give to Orfund by donating stocks, bonds, or mutual funds, all online. Simply go to [www.orfundfoundation.com](http://www.orfundfoundation.com) click on Donate Now, then click on How To Give, then click on Donate Securities and follow the easy instructions. The federal budget of May 2, 2006 announced the elimination of capital gains on donations of publicly traded securities and options, making it the most tax efficient means of making a charitable donation.

**Your donations are greatly appreciated.**

## 2010 Program Funding

Orfund currently supports six OVC programs in Botswana as follows:

### **Flying Mission Pre-school Teacher Training (train the trainer); Orfund 2010 funding of Pula 150,000**

This program is carried out in a partnership with Flying Mission ([www.flyingmission.org](http://www.flyingmission.org)). The program goal is to train and accredit pre-school teachers in an effort to provide higher quality early childhood development. Since inception of this program in 2008 approximately 30 teachers have graduated with support from Orfund. This training program is accredited by the Botswana Training Authority. In an effort to make the training more cost efficient Flying Mission recently converted one of its buildings to provide a facility where all courses will now be held.

Our partner Flying Mission is a Botswana non-governmental organization that was established in the early 1980s by locally based medical doctors. It originally commenced as an emergency medical transportation organization, which utilized airplanes to provide services to the sick and injured in remote areas. In 1999 the operations were expanded to include the provision of services to HIV/AIDS sufferers. By 2004 Flying Mission had also opened a non-profit accredited school to train aircraft maintenance engineers. Today Flying Mission operates emergency medical services for the Governments of Botswana and Zambia, the aircraft maintenance engineering training program, an OVC day care centre, various HIV/AIDS awareness programs and the pre-school teachers training program. The medical emergency flight operations in Botswana and Zambia are now commercial operations which provide funding for Flying Mission's charitable operations, including its teacher training program and OVC day care program.

### **Holy Cross Day Care - 75 pre-school children; Orfund 2010 funding of Pula 200,000**

Holy Cross's ([www.holycrosshospice.org](http://www.holycrosshospice.org)) pre-school and after-school programs cater to children aged 3-18 years who are either orphaned or considered vulnerable. In early 2007, Holy Cross Day Care relocated into larger premises in Old Naledi Village. The move was enabled by the Anglican Church, which provided premises and funded the conversion and upgrading of the building to meet Government of Botswana day care regulations. This move is beneficial for the children's development and growth as the new school is well equipped and more spacious.

Today, the program is focused on upgrading services and expanding to enable more children to benefit from the facilities. Holy Cross has two teachers, one assistant teacher and several support staff. The day care provides the children with a pre-school education, psychosocial support through counseling, play therapy, as well as nutritional, healthcare and material support. In addition the day care staff works closely with the caregivers to ensure a holistic support system. Over the past four years, the number of children enrolled in the pre-school has



St Peters – 100 pre-school children; Orfund 2010 funding of Pula 200,000

gradually increased from 15 in 2004 to 75 in 2010. Holy Cross has a large garden facility which is used to provide nutritional support to the children.

St Peters' new day care buildings were completed and occupied in 2008. The local business community provided funding for construction and equipment. As a result of larger, better equipped facilities, the program received Government day care certification in 2008. Also, as a result of the new premises, total enrollment has increased from 60 pre-school children to 100 in 2010. The larger premises and enrollment have driven a significant increase in staff numbers (16 staff members in 2010) as well as the need for better planning and execution of services. During 2008, Gladys Mudereri, a qualified nurse and former local school employee, became the program's head. Gladys has worked hard to establish structures and systems and to embed the program within the local community. Progress is evident with increased support from within the local caregivers' community who volunteer at the centre. The program has also made good progress with local funding and is receiving over 60% of its operating funding, including 100% of its food, from the local community. St Peters has constructed a vegetable garden and has planted fruit trees provided by Barclays Bank to increase internal food production. During 2008 Orfund arranged for two Canadian teachers to volunteer at St Peters.



**Stepping Stones International (SSI) – 70 after school children;  
Orfund 2010 funding of Pula 125,000**

Stepping Stones International ([www.steppingstonesintl.org](http://www.steppingstonesintl.org)) commenced operations in January 2007 providing a holistic after school program. Stepping Stones International's mission is "to empower orphaned youth and vulnerable children to become leaders of the next generation by nurturing their mental, physical and spiritual well being." The vision is "to motivate 75% of the participants to either continue education or obtain employment by the age of 18". Orfund's support commenced in 2007.

SSI has developed an innovative educational and psychosocial support program for youth between the ages of 12-18 in Mochudi, Botswana. The program serves youth who have one or more deceased parents. Many of the program participants are HIV positive. SSI focuses the program on prevention of HIV and AIDS and on other teenage problems through educational activities and by providing care and support to the orphans and their families/caregivers. The program includes: building self-esteem, goal setting/planning, income-generation and job skills, prevention of HIV and AIDS, preventing alcohol/substance abuse, dealing with peer pressure, organic gardening, children's/women's rights and taking care of oneself physically, spiritually and mentally. Since inception SSI has involved the community in the design and implementation of the program. The community involvement has established ownership and a sense of pride in the program as well as, promoted sustainability of the program. The program allows community-based problem solving to ameliorate the hardship orphans and vulnerable children experience and offers them a chance to grow under more normal circumstances.



In its initial phase SSI supported 30 vulnerable or orphaned youth and their families. Through support from the Catholic Church and the U.S. Government's Office of Defense Cooperation, SSI has recently moved to a new larger facility. SSI is now serving 70 youth and their families with outreach to another 1,000 youth through its peer education program. It is expected that the program will expand to about 100 children in 2011.

**Kamogelo – 120 pre-school children;  
Orfund 2010 funding of Pula 200,000**

Kamogelo is a pre-school program operated by the Catholic Church in Mogoditshane, Botswana. Operations commenced in 2003 at Holy Cross Church with around 25 pre-school children. The program was greatly expanded in 2005 with the construction and occupation of the current facility. Funding for the new facility was primarily provided by the U.S. Government and Rotary Club of Gaborone. Today the program provides services to 120 pre-school children and their caregivers.

Orfund's support of Kamogelo commenced in 2005 and includes the construction of a garden facility which partially meets the nutritional needs of the children and also provides them with a learning opportunity.

Kamogelo provides OVC with a stigma-free environment in which they can enjoy easy access to quality services. Project activities are focused primarily on identifying and capitalizing on the strengths and coping strategies of OVC and the communities in which they live. Kamogelo's program is based on the belief that orphans and vulnerable children should be regarded as resources rather than victims. Consequently, all program activities attempt to address the unique and complex needs of OVC and to identify and capitalize on the strengths and coping mechanisms of vulnerable communities.

In an effort to realize this vision, Kamogelo is focused on achieving the following key objectives:

- Improve psychosocial and physical well-being of the project population through the provision of direct services and the fostering of a community environment conducive to their healthy development.
- Increase the capacity of the educational system to identify and respond to the diverse needs of OVC.
- Reduce stigma and raise community awareness of children's needs and rights.
- Support community-based efforts to provide ongoing support to OVC and increase the capacity of caregivers to ensure that the diverse needs of the OVC are well catered for.
- Start income generating activities to ensure that the program will be self sustaining in the long run.
- Provide the children with a quality pre-school education.

The Catholic Church and Rotary Club of Gaborone are both active at the Board and management levels. The Catholic Church is also a major funder providing Pula 200,000 per annum in operating funds.



**Kgothatso - 40 pre-school children;  
Orfund 2010 funding of Pula 200,000**

Kgothatso's day care program commenced operations in 2008 with the completion of its new building. The building was funded through donations raised by the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Botswana. The program is situated on the Church's site in the village of Gabane. The program has the full support of the Village Council, with several Council members sitting on the program's management board, and the local community, with many of the caregivers' active daily at the program. The program is designed to meet the needs of pre-school children in terms of stimulation, nutrition and health. Orfund's involvement with Kgothatso commenced in 2006 with a home-based care program which provided basic services such as nutritional support to OVC. The program has evolved to providing centre-based early childhood development services including pre-school education. During 2010 Kgothatso added a garden facility to provide better nutritional support for the children.

### Putting it all into perspective

Orfund's ultimate goal is to provide orphans and vulnerable children with the tools to realize their full potential. Education is the primary means of achieving this so most of Orfund's efforts are focused on providing pre-school education and supplementing the primary and secondary education of the children. Activities which support and enhance the effectiveness of educational efforts (such as providing basic necessities such as nutrition and health) are seen as the main building blocks. Orfund provides funding for operating expenses such as teachers salaries, training and school supplies. Specifically Orfund in conjunction with its community partners:

1. Assists with the children's education by helping to establish and support community based day care, pre-school and after school programs. The children are provided a properly supervised, safe environment where they have a chance to gain experience and develop skills to cope with the challenges they face.
2. Provides the children with relief from poverty and illness by serving them daily meals, and giving them access to medical services, clothing, blankets, books, and toys. We help them learn to cultivate and maintain vegetable gardens as a source of nutrition.
3. Arranges for trauma counseling and other related counseling services for the children and their caregivers to help them to cope with the difficult circumstances of their lives.
4. Helps protect the welfare of the children by working with governments and other aid organizations to strengthen child welfare, inheritance and property laws.
5. Assists with training teachers and caregivers.

Orfund's relief and support is typically delivered through community-based day care and pre-school centers (not live-in orphanages). These centers meet multiple needs including providing a safe environment, serving daily meals, delivering pre-school care and early childhood development. These centers also provide a place where school aged children can go after regular classes for care and support. The centers also provide support to the children's caregivers through training and support programs and by allowing them time to work or carry out other day to day chores and duties. Orfund works with community-based organizations where it has intimate knowledge and strong relationships through personal contact.

### Our Appreciation

Thanks to everyone who has supported the Foundation since inception. With your ongoing support we will continue to assist communities in providing OVC with the necessary tools to realize their potential. A special thanks to Sue Nielsen for keeping the Foundation operating on a day-to-day basis and to Jeff Bookbinder for his legal work and support. Also thanks to Gregory Ronczewski and Emplus Communications for all the assistance with the website, advertising and newsletters. Thanks to Brenda Bookbinder and Deirdre Campbell for help with advertising, communications and newsletters. Thanks to all our business supporters including Pinnacle International, Rimrock Café, Canadian Home and Country Magazine, Canadian Gardening Magazine, Canadian House and Home Magazine, Vice Magazine, Onestop Media Group and Stikeman Elliott. Finally a very big thanks to Peter Dickson, Doug Johnson and PW for the generous financial support they have provided to the Foundation.

**Donations to Orfund Foundation may be made online at [www.orfundfoundation.com](http://www.orfundfoundation.com) or by mail to: Orfund Foundation, #2 – 1520 West 8th Avenue, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, V6J 4R8**

#### References

- (1) UNAIDS, 2006 Report on the Global AIDS Epidemic and National Donor Forum on Community-Based Child Care (2006)
- (2) UNAIDS/WHO, 2006 Report on the global AIDS epidemic
- (3) UNICEF (2006), 'Africa's Orphaned and Vulnerable Generations: Children Affected by AIDS'
- (4) National Donor Forum on Community-Based Child Care (2006)