

# Nyachuru Secondary School, Howard, Zimbabwe



IN TRUST



have many Canadian well-wishers, thanks in large part to Dr. Paul Thistle, a Canadian doctor who has worked at the hospital for many years.

Every year since 2006 we have provided agricultural inputs for school's 35 hectares of land. The students, teachers and parents provided all the labour. In 2008, during a period of hyperinflation and food shortages, the school produced enough food to feed all the students and staff for five days a week during the entire school year. Unlike most government run schools Nyachuru remained open for the full school year.

In addition ZimArt-in-Trust pays school fees and uniforms for five orphans, who were selected by the community as motivated students who were most in need of support. Our commitment is to continue to pay for school fees and uniforms for the remainder of their schooling. The students' commitment is to take full advantage of their schooling.

**Z**imArt first heard about the HIV/AIDS Club at the Nyachuru Secondary School through Peterborough Collegiate in Peterborough, Ontario. Students from the Collegiate have been involved in a letter exchange program with students at the Nyachuru Secondary School for the past several years.

ZimArt first visited Nyachuru in November 2006 to deliver letters from the Peterborough students. We were able to find out more about the HIV/AIDS Club and the excellent work they have accomplished. The school was built in 2001 to serve the local rural community, who could not afford to attend the private school at Howard Mission. Of the 312 registered students 56 have lost both parents, 87 have lost one parent and a further 34 come from single-parent homes. The Club, which produced its first newsletter in 2006, has been chosen, by its peers, as the HIV/AIDS information centre for 23 other schools in the region.

The school keeps meticulous records which they share openly with interested visitors. Both the school and the nearby Howard Mission Hospital

In 2008 ZimArt-in-Trust provided all the materials to repair an existing chicken run and purchased 2,000 chicks, feed and medication. The chickens were slaughtered and sold to outlets in Harare with some being kept back for the orphan feeding program. We purchased a freezer so that the birds could be stored safely and transported frozen. Unfortunately inflation eroded income to the point where it could not be sustained.

In 2010 we installed a drip irrigation system and water tank so that the school could start a vegetable garden for year-round produce. All of these activities are integrated into the curriculum.

In 2010 we bought the materials and inputs needed to start a fish breeding project. The fish ponds are now complete and in 2011 the school lunch program will include fish.

Nyachuru has been very successful in securing funding from a number of sources in 2010. A new staff house has been built, a science lab is in progress, courtesy of a Zimbabwean cell phone company, and the US Embassy has funded a maize grinding project.

Given the funds the school has garnered, ZimArt-in-Trust has decided to continue to support the school annually through providing all agricultural inputs for the lunch program, but to select another more needy project for more substantive support.

*(top) Since 2006, ZimArt-in-Trust has provided all the agricultural inputs needed to grow sufficient food for all the students and staff to have lunch on every school day, throughout the year.*

*(bottom) The fish ponds, funded by ZimArt-in-Trust, are now ready to be stocked with fish. This will be an incoming generating project for the school.*

