



Welcome News

from South Africa

July 2025

CHEERS FOR 10 YEARS GARDEN PARTY 21 JUNE 2025

Organising outdoor events in our country is always risky – the big worry is whether the day will be rainy and windy and wreck everything. Our 10th garden party had blistering sunshine which was very lovely but quite a challenge for us to keep the lovely cakes fresh and for the guests to find adequate shade. Happily, we succeeded with both and our final garden party was a great success.

This year there was lots to buy and some interesting games of chance to enjoy. The takings on the day added up to £.

As in previous years, a number of friends who were unable to attend generously sent donations and this Truly a wonderful figure and furthermore, because everything was donated – the cakes and drinks, the crafts and preserves, the prizes and the entertainment by the lovely Zimbabwean ladies and their children – the money raised is all profit to be used for the education of the 5 young people in South Africa.

Huge thanks to all who gave so generously – whether by meeting the costs of the event or by attending and spending on the stalls and also giving donations in the famous GOLDEN BOX. None of your help is ever taken for granted and you may be sure that the money will be spent wisely and well.



UPDATE NEWS OF OUR FIVE CHILDREN IN SOUTH AFRICA

The very happy news is that at the end of the 2024 school year, 4 of the 5 have achieved sufficiently high marks to progress to the next grade in 2025. You may recall that at this time last year there was much sadness as the 2 boys were really struggling in their new school. Thankfully, all that is in the past and both Phelo and Onelani, as a result of their own determined efforts and the extra tuition that Future Bright Trust has paid for, will move upwards next year. As we anticipated, both Emmy and Inam did well and also move upwards.

Please note that I refer to 4 of the 5! That is because Phelisa, having reached 18 in July has now left school. Even though we knew it was imminent it has still come as a surprise. Her school has not been very helpful in preparing leavers for life after school, so a bit of Future Bright Trust intervention was needed. As a consequence, I am very happy to report that she has this very week started work in the local supermarket. She is so excited...and so nervous! Let us hope that all goes well for her. The special educational needs she has do mean that many tasks we might take in our stride are really challenging for her.

SEPTEMBER HOLIDAY BY THE SEA

In the last newsletter I reported that we were to go to the sea for a week and that during the 7 days, there were to be 7 birthday parties. It was maybe a little ambitious but we did have 6 separate birthday parties, each one with a different theme that had been dreamt up by the birthday girl or boy. What fun! As well as the partying we had numerous visits to the beach as well as a shopping expedition. That was rather special as their home town, Grahamstown, offers very limited shops.

On our way home we stopped off to visit Ryan and Katie who had run in the Comrades Ultra Marathon (88kms) in Pretoria. Having met the children a year ago, they chose for their sponsorship income to go to Future Bright Trust. We – of course – wanted to say a big thank you.



FUNDRAISING IN 2024

It is so good to report that we were successful in raising sufficient money in 2024 to meet all the costs of educating these 5 young people. This included school fees (compulsory even in state schools), uniforms, stationery, school outings, extra lessons (reading tuition for Phelo and Onelani; Afrikaans lessons for Onelani; piano lessons for Phelo, Onelani and Inam; recorder lessons for Phelisa) and speech therapy for Onelani.

As well as paying all these costs we were able to squirrel away money into an investment account in preparation for meeting costs of higher education as and when that is needed in future years.

The main sources of the income have been regular and one-off donations, garden party, sponsored events, Give As You Live shopping scheme and Gift Aid.

It is hard to find adequate words to thank all of you who have helped with this. There are so many of you doing so much in many different ways and the outcome of that is making such a difference for these young people whose lives started off so badly. All of us Trustees and Mama Zelma say a sincere THANK YOU.

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2025

The date for the 2025 Garden Party at Paddock House will be SATURDAY 21 JUNE. We are planning another Afternoon Tea with delicious homemade cakes, lovely things to buy and some very special entertainment provided by a choir of Zimbabwean ladies who take joy in singing together. **Please save the date – your invitation will arrive nearer the time.**

IMPORTANT – PLEASE NOTE!

This will be the 10th garden party and after careful reflection we have decided to make it the last in the present series. We, the organisers and workers, think it time to take a little breather. Not an easy decision because we still need to raise funds to keep supporting the children, but we think many of you will understand... We hope there will be a super attendance to mark this occasion!!

Meanwhile we are busy thinking of ways to keep the money coming in and the plan is to share these thoughts with you in June. Any thoughts you may have will be more than welcome.

HAPPY NEW YEAR – AND MANY THANKS!



Registered charity no: 1159539 For more information see our website www.futurebrighttrust.org.uk or ring Sue Hennessy on 07770 738170 To donate on line www.give.net/20180380

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