



Reg Charity No 1112949

ZANE: Zimbabwe A National Emergency

3,442 children
have received
treatment for clubfoot
as a result of your
generosity

Your
donations fund
the provision of food
for 535 pensioners
living in care
homes

ZANE is
providing food
and medicine for
580 war veterans
and widows

ZIMBABWE



Christmas 2018 Newsletter

Thank you

The patience, strength and resolve of Zimbabwe have been tested over the last year like never before.

Rewind 12 months and one will recall the jubilant scenes witnessed across Zimbabwe. The police, army, young and the old united in celebration, full of hope for the future. Just eight short months later, the scenes on the streets of Zimbabwe were very different – joy was replaced with fear; jubilation with disbelief.

With no endorsement from the Western world regarding free and fair elections, Zimbabwe struggles under the weight of huge debt, famine, failing infrastructure, unemployment and mass poverty.

At the time of writing, a large-scale economic crisis looms, inflation is rising and government debt is out of control. The recently imposed 2% tax on electronic transfers is hitting the poorest the hardest. Fuel is in short supply and food prices have risen by as much as 200%. However, the biggest catastrophe now facing Zimbabwe is the lack of access to medicine. Pharmacies are currently only accepting US dollars, at highly inflated prices. In a country that has run out of US dollars, this is hugely problematic.

The crisis is putting enormous pressure on ZANE, with pensioners in desperate need of life-saving medication struggling to find the additional funds required for their daily treatments. With the situation worsening day by day, our team in

Zimbabwe is being required to make tough decisions.

So you can see that ZANE's work really is more crucial than ever. Hunger, untreated illnesses, loneliness and despondency cripple the people of Zimbabwe. ZANE offers a lifeline, a shining light in the darkest of times.

It is you, ZANE's loyal and generous supporters, who provide this shining light; who repeatedly let the most destitute people in Zimbabwe know that they have not been forgotten.

On the following pages, you will read about how you have helped transform the lives of some of these people. Please feel proud of the difference you are making. Thank you for caring.

Tom Benyon OBE

My Earth angel

Edith, 79, worked as a kitchen manager at a private game park until she retired to care for her husband. His untreated diabetes had led to blindness. For two years, she received a small pension and health cover but this stopped unexpectedly when the company could no longer afford to cover the cost.



After her husband died, Edith moved to a tiny cottage in a retirement complex. She was dealt a further cruel blow when her daughter died as a result of breast cancer.

The years that followed were extremely hard as Edith wrestled with grief and extreme poverty. She looks back at this period of her life and struggles to comprehend how she managed to survive: *“I didn’t go to the shops for 18 months. I had no money. My neighbour provided me with food. I barely left the house. I often thought about committing suicide.”*

Thankfully before it reached that point, ZANE was able to intervene. Too proud and unsure of where to turn, Edith had kept the extent of her situation well hidden from all but her neighbour. When the neighbour heard about ZANE, she immediately made contact and we were able to step in and help, providing food and getting Edith’s health under control. ***“You are my Earth angels; you have saved my life.”***



ZANE’s work in Zimbabwe provides an essential lifeline of support for those who cannot help themselves. It is a wonderful charity and the money goes where it’s needed.

Lord Hastings of Scarisbrick CBE
Chairman, ZANE Council of Reference

The ghost of 2008...

Long queues outside banks have been a familiar sight in Zimbabwe for over a year.

However, in a very unwelcome flashback to 2008, this is the scene outside supermarkets across Zimbabwe in October 2018. The introduction of a 2% tax on electronic transfers and uncertainty surrounding the future of bond notes led to rising prices and panic buying. Costs for everyday essentials rose by as much as 200% in the space of a few days. In a recent three-week period, the cost of rice rose from \$2.40 to \$7.90; toothpaste from \$1.29 to \$3; a tin of vegetables from \$2 to \$5; and a jar of coffee from \$12 to \$23.

In some supermarkets, price labels have been removed – you await the surprise cost at the

checkout. Basics have become luxuries and daily essentials are becoming as elusive as banknotes. It is a truly frightening situation for those already living on the breadline and a very unwelcome reminder of the desperate scenes of 10 years ago.

A member of the ZANE team in Zimbabwe summed up the situation. *“All semblance of normality has gone. Three months since the election, the wheels in Zimbabwe are falling off. The nightmare combination of no banknotes, no fuel, no medicine and a growing list of food and toiletries that aren’t available has left us wasting our days in bank, food or fuel queues, hunting for necessities, and doing outrageous calculations just to work out how to survive.”*

Costs for everyday essentials rose by as much as 200% in the space of a few days



Some names in this newsletter have been changed for security reasons



Farewell to old friends

ZANE beneficiaries often become friends of the team in Zimbabwe, particularly those we have been assisting for many years. One of the great tragedies of the job is saying goodbye. However, knowing we were able to make their final years comfortable and secure is a huge blessing.

ZANE recently said goodbye to Anne, 95. An orphan from Durban, Anne met her husband just after the Second World War. They had managed to save a little money, borrowed more and bought some rough land. They spent their working lives carving a farm from the wilderness.

Life had been immensely hard. There was no electric light or running water, and Anne bathed her children in a large pan in front of the fire. However, the family was happy enough and just about scraped a living.

Then came the farm invasions and the family – and the farm workers – lost everything they had spent their lives building. Anne's husband never recovered from the ordeal and died 10 years ago.

ZANE assisted Anne, contributing towards her medical costs.

Earlier this year, Anne suffered a bad break to her leg. The day nurse who was taking care of Anne at home was helping her back to her room following some time spent in the garden. She wheeled Anne's wheelchair down a ramp but momentarily turned her back to close a door and did not apply the brakes. The wheelchair went off at speed down the ramp and tipped onto the ground. Anne's right knee took the impact of hitting the ground and she fractured her right femur above the knee. Too weak to withstand an operation, she was in plaster from the top of her leg to just above her ankle.

Anne was so concerned that the nurse would get into trouble for her mistake that she attempted to cover up the error, insisting that she had tried to get out of the wheelchair to walk. Her daughter told us, "This was so typical of Mum – truly selfless and always concerned about others."

Anne recovered well from her injury but sadly died a short while ago. Her kindness, as illustrated in the story above, grace and deep gratitude were a lesson to us all, and the ZANE team will miss her greatly.

Thank you to our regular supporters

Regular donations provide the backbone to ZANE's work. Knowing we have the commitment of regular funds enables us to plan ahead and budget efficiently. ZANE's work is long-term. The situation in Zimbabwe is worsening and we have a waiting list of people in desperate need.

When you set up a regular donation to ZANE, you become part of that long-term commitment to keep the most vulnerable people in Zimbabwe safe and alive.

For example, a regular gift of \$25 a month, under normal circumstances, will pay for the diabetic medicine for a pensioner for an entire year. Thank you to all our regular donors; you are helping us ensure a better future for the poorest people.

A gift for the future

ZANE has been fortunate to benefit from a number of legacies in recent years. They have enabled us to provide life-saving aid to some of the most destitute people in Zimbabwe.

By leaving a gift to ZANE in your will, you'll help us continue to save lives in Zimbabwe.

It's easy to remember us in your will. When making or updating your will, you just need to let your solicitor know your intentions. There is no obligation to inform us and you can change your mind at any time.

The joy of learning

Our education programme is going from strength to strength with five pop-up classes running in a high density suburb of Zimbabwe.

Funding has been secured for a sixth class, due to open early next year. ZANE would like to express its thanks to the Zoe Carss Education Trust for funding this project. Sixty children aged from six to 12 attend the classes. They are from extremely poor families, and without this opportunity, the children would still be roaming the streets rather than learning and gaining skills for later life.

We teach basic numeracy and literacy. In addition, the children learn through storytelling, song, dance, Bible study and physical activity. Nutrition and hygiene are also taught. The children gain farming skills, with each child allocated a small plot to grow maize for their families.

Five children have made such good progress in the last 18 months that they will soon move on to full-time school, with the fees paid by ZANE. This will pave the way for a new intake of students, adding to the sustainability of this project.

The extent to which the children have grown in confidence and ability is remarkable. We are very grateful to the small team in Zimbabwe who run this programme with such love and dedication. Credit must also be given to the teaching mentors, all graduates of ZANE's creative therapy programme.

Thanks to two local football teams in the seaside town of Whitstable, the classes received football kits. The children wear them with pride for their inter-class football matches.

340 impoverished women and children receive a nutritional food supplement every day



60 children who have never attended school are now learning to read and write

The joy they display in teaching the children is wonderful to observe. Thanks to them, these children feel loved, safe and listened to.

Sadly, the majority of the children attending the classes are severely malnourished. In addition to the food supplement currently provided, ZANE is hoping to supply each child with a cooked meal during the school day from early next year. If you know of an organisation that might be able to fund the provision of food, please do get in touch.





\$420
covers the
cost of the entire
clubfoot treatment
for one child

Clubfoot programme

The ZANE-funded clubfoot programme continues to transform the lives of children with the condition.

Thanks to your generosity, 3,442 children have now been treated and will live a life free from disability. This year, ZANE was able to part-fund a pilot study into treating older children with recurrent clubfoot. This is not common but early intervention is crucial in correcting the reoccurrence. The five children pictured above had reoccurrence of some of their clubfoot signs and symptoms. They underwent six weeks of manipulation and casting, followed by surgery. The surgeries were successfully completed and the children will remain in plaster for another few weeks.

Thanks to ZANE, the children's medication and transport costs were also covered. Without these funds, the children would not have been able to afford the bus fares to undergo treatment.

As a direct result of your donations, 3,442 children have received clubfoot treatment

Virtual cycling

Frimley Parish completed a virtual cycling odyssey for ZANE at St Peter's Church, Frimley. The aim was to cycle the equivalent distance from Victoria Falls to Beit Bridge via Bulawayo, Harare and Kariba within two weeks on exercise bikes. Three bicycles were available for cyclists to test their legs over the Harvest Festival.

The mileage covered each day was plotted on a route map of Zimbabwe. In total, members of the congregation covered 1,400km (870 miles) and raised over \$2,500. Many thanks to all at Frimley Parish for this innovative fundraiser.

Hiking for ZANE

Congratulations and thank you to Mike Passaportis who hiked the entire Appalachian Trail from Georgia to Maine – the "thru-hike" as it is known.

Mike trekked for over four months and covered 2,190 miles to raise funds for ZANE's work. Thank you, Mike.

Old legs

In April this year, four Zimbabweans with a combined age of 243 cycled 2,300 km (1,430 miles) from Harare to Cape Town. The Old Legs Tour raised an astonishing \$95,000 for ZANE to help destitute pensioners in Zimbabwe. Tour captain Eric de Jong wrote an often hilarious account of their adventure on his daily blog. We would like to thank Eric, Bruce, Neal and Dave for their tremendous effort. Astonishingly, they haven't been put off cycling and in 2019, plan to cycle from Harare to Mount Kilimanjaro, once again raising funds for ZANE.

Thank you to the Old Legs team on behalf of everyone at ZANE.



You can follow their adventure at www.oldlegstour.co.zw

The Pennine Way

Many thanks to James Bastin who walked 267 miles along the Pennine Way to raise funds for ZANE. He raised a brilliant \$6,500 for our clubfoot correction programme. James has an incredible track record of completing epic challenges for charity, all the more remarkable as he was hit by a taxi when he was 19, leaving him visually impaired.



The Smart Family

If ever an example of the ongoing injustice in Zimbabwe were required, one need look no further than the Smart Family.

Their farm has been in the family for over 80 years, successfully producing tobacco and employing over 100 workers. In addition, the Smarts built a school for the local community, including their farm workers' children – attended by 250 students.

Soon after the land invasions began in 2000, Rob and Jenny Smart came to an agreement with the government, offering 90% of their land in return for retaining 10%, some 700 hectares. No compensation was paid for the land they gave up but they were assured they would be left alone to farm the remaining land. For 15 years, the deal was honoured.

However, in 2016, Rob and Jenny received a letter from a local prominent bishop notifying them that he was taking over some of the remaining land, including the homesteads. Months of intimidation and threats followed with the police doing little to assist. During this period, Rob and his grown-up son were arrested and forced to sleep on cold concrete in a small cell. In May 2017, the situation came to a head when a large number of armed invaders arrived on the farm.

Rob, Jenny, their two children and two grandchildren fled into the local hills. Shots were fired at Rob's car (as seen in the picture). The hysterical grandchildren had no time to take any of their loved

toys; the fear must have been unbearable.



From the hills where they were hiding, the Smarts heard numerous further gun shots. They later heard of the prolonged torture inflicted on many of the farm workers; even elderly women were not spared.

The Smarts managed to sneak back to their home later that evening only to find their possessions destroyed or stolen. The children's toys had been taken. Many of the farm animals had died and the family's pet cats could not be found. ***“Everything had been destroyed, I couldn't believe my eyes,” Jenny told us through tears.***

The local community rallied round, and Rob and Jenny moved into a local retirement home. The children and grandchildren moved to stay with friends 100 km away. ZANE stepped in to assist as soon as we heard of the Smarts' plight. We were able to ensure Rob and Jenny's daughter received her life-saving epilepsy medication and Rob the drugs he needed for prostate cancer.

“ZANE has been a godsend. The love and support we have received from the local community has been a great relief. I don't know what we would have done without this support.”

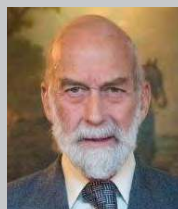
Eight months later, following intervention from the president, the Smarts returned to their farm. No longer able to farm tobacco due to the destruction and theft of all equipment, the family is now focusing on horticultural crops. Rob and his son remain determined to keep the farm in the family and get it productive again.



They have assurance that the land is theirs but still live in fear of the invaders returning. The grandchildren have received counselling through the local church and Jenny remains haunted by the memories of the invasion.

Alongside the local community, ZANE will continue to assist the Smart family as long as they need us. Their courage and dignity is an inspiration to us all.

In 2017, ZANE supplied over 30,000 bananas to destitute people in Zimbabwe



I have supported ZANE for many years as they do excellent work amongst the vulnerable in Zimbabwe.
HRH Prince Michael of Kent GCVO

Your donations enable ZANE to provide nutritional meals for 535 elderly people living in residential homes

A special reunion

Through its partnership with the Royal Commonwealth Ex-Services League, ZANE provides aid to over 580 veterans and their widows. These veterans served the Crown in often forgotten wars. We are able to provide them with food and medical aid to bring some comfort in the evening of their lives.

ZANE distributes grants to over 580 war veterans and their widows

ZANE was recently able to reunite two former soldiers who hadn't seen each other for over 40 years. Amon served in the army from 1964 to 1982, leaving service as a captain. He is 73, retired and lives in rural areas. He has no army pension and suffers considerable poverty. ZANE was recently able to fund essential dental work for Amon.



Michael served from 1967 to 1989, leaving service as a colour sergeant. At 72, he still works as a security guard as he has a number of orphaned grandchildren to support.

These two men had not seen each other since the late 1960s but recently met up again when ZANE organised a small tea party to bring some veterans together. It was an emotional moment for these men, and for those of us witnessing it.

The aid we are able to provide to these veterans is vital and so appreciated. Yet, occasions like this are just as important. It reminds the veterans that they are not forgotten, and gives them the opportunity to share stories and memories.



I have seen a little bit of ZANE's work on the ground and

from what I have seen it is very, very impressive. . . ZANE is one of those lovely organisations that make a little bit of money go a long, long way. ZANE is a good cause and the money is properly and well spent.

John Simpson CBE

World Affairs Editor of the BBC



I am deeply impressed with the work of ZANE; one of those charities

that make a little money go a long way.

Baroness Royall of Blaisdon

Former Labour leader of the House of Lords

Please help the people of Zimbabwe continue to get vital aid and support

3 ways to give:

- **Donate online** – <http://zaneaustralia.org.au/donate/>
- **Call us:** +61 (0) 473 113 483
- **Or return this form to:**

ZANE Australia, Unit 4, 50-52 Cypress Crescent, Leopold, VIC 3224

Preferred use of gift: Trustees' Discretion , Pensioner Work , Impoverished Communities , Clubfoot

I would like to donate:

- A single gift of \$ _____
- A monthly gift of \$ _____

My details:

Title _____ Initials _____ Surname _____
Address _____
Postcode _____ Tel _____ Mobile: _____
Email _____

How did you first hear about ZANE Australia? _____

I would like to donate by:

- Cheque
- Credit card Visa Mastercard
- Card Expiry / Cardholder's name _____
- Card number: 3-digit Verification number:
- Online Direct Deposit to:

ZANE Australia Limited, BSB: 032023, Account: 305217 Payment Reference: your name _____

CHRISTMAS18



ACN 613 802 574



Thank you for your support.

In 2017, you helped us provide 150,000 eggs to destitute elderly people. Eggs are an excellent source of protein for the elderly people we support.

RESPECTING YOUR DATA

We like to keep you updated with ZANE's work and will keep your details so we can contact you in the future about our activities and how you can support us. ZANE will never share your details with any third party. If you would rather not hear from ZANE in the future or would like to hear from us less, please do get in touch to let us know. You can do this by:

- calling 0473 113 483
- emailing zaneaustralialimited@gmail.com
- writing to us at: Unit 4, 50-52 Cypress Crescent Leopold, VIC 3224

Further information on how we use and protect your personal information, together with details of your legal rights in relation to it, can be found on our Privacy Policy. You can view this at: www.zane-zimbabweanationalemergency.com/policies.asp

Reasons to support ZANE

1. **ZANE** provides aid, comfort and support to 1,800 impoverished pensioners with nowhere else to turn. Only those genuinely in need of assistance receive it.
2. Donors can choose which area of **ZANE**'s work they wish to support.
3. **ZANE** was recently the Telegraph Group Overseas Charity of the year.
4. **ZANE** is looking after over 580 aged and frail veterans and their widows. These people fought for the Crown in the Second World War, Malaya, Korea and Aden. Despite their loyal service to the UK, the overwhelming majority are living with insufficient food and limited healthcare.
5. **ZANE** runs education programmes in the high-density areas assisting women and children living in extreme poverty.
6. **ZANE** funded the first clubfoot correction programme in Zimbabwe. Eleven treatment centres have been established and over 3,440 children have received treatment to date.
7. **ZANE** funds the provision of prosthetic limbs for victims of landmine explosions and treatment for people with hearing loss.
8. **ZANE**'s funds are subject to rigorous audits and **ZANE** is proud that since its foundation it has never lost money to collapsed banks, middlemen or corruption.
9. An independent consultancy reviewed **ZANE** and the report stated:
"The charity thrives on its responsiveness, flexibility and lack of bureaucracy. Operationally, ZANE is frugal, focused and effective in delivering aid to the needy."



Zimbabwe A National Emergency

ZANE Australia, Unit 4, 50 - 52 Cypress Crescent, Leopold, VIC 3224
Tel: +61 (0) 473 113 483 email: zaneaustralialimited@gmail.com
www.zaneaustralia.org.au



ACN 613 802 574

3 ways to give:

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 - **Call us:** +61 (0) 473 113 483
- **Or return the form on previous page to:**
ZANE Australia, Unit 4, 50-52 Cypress Crescent, Leopold, VIC 3224

ZANE will not pass on your details to third parties.
If a specified project is fully funded, donations will be used where most needed.