

Friends of Nabushome School



July 2014

Dear Friends and Supporters of Nabushome School,

There have been further developments at Nabushome that I would like to inform you about.

1. New well at Nabushome

Great joy among our friends at Nabushome!

As already reported on a number of occasions, water consumption at our school has risen since 2013. This was unavoidable and the logical consequence of various important decisions we had taken for the welfare of the children and the further development of the school.

- The construction and operation of the shower building inevitably results in more water being used. As you know, every child now has the opportunity to shower once a week.
- The school garden, developed with a lot of hard work by the villagers themselves, naturally also requires water for the crops to thrive. The vegetables harvested from the garden help feed the children and are a valuable addition to their daily lunch. Our aim is to advance the self-sufficiency and independence of the school, at least as far as food is concerned. The already resolved and communicated reductions in our financial support for meals (reduction of 25% as from 1 January 2015) will free up funds that we can use for other urgently needed improvements at the school. Over the years, the lion's share of our financial support has gone on meals.

As already mentioned in previous reports, the school will not be able to do without a second well. Helping make the required water available is the logical consequence of the two aforementioned projects, without which they would not be viable.

In the past few months, we were fortunate to receive some additional donations, enabling us to give our friends the go-ahead for the necessary work. Some of our members, for example, collected money by asking for donations to our initiative instead of birthday presents. So instead of gifts that might have just ended up collecting dust, the guests gave something

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really meaningful, and both givers and receivers had a feeling of doing something good - a “win-win” situation. Incidentally, each donor also received receipts for submission to the tax office, as the donations are tax deductible. Thank you very much again to all involved. You can see from the photos in this report what we are doing with the money.

How are we proceeding?

Quotes were obtained from three firms in Bulawayo and carefully examined. After further negotiations, in which the price was reduced by around 10%, one of the firms was commissioned with the work. We chose the firm in question because it has already successfully carried out several comparable projects near Nabushome.

The work began with initial investigations and measurements at Nabushome to find out the probable depth of the water underground. Once the exact location for the well had been fixed, the extensive drilling work began.

Everything went beautifully. As predicted by the experts, large reserves of water were found at a depth of between 30 and 60 metres.

The work has now been successfully concluded. The well has been provided with a massive bush pump, which allows the water to be extracted manually.

The water first flows into a catch basin, from which it is transported (via PVC pipes) to various other water tanks in the school garden. These tanks are spread throughout the garden, which can then be irrigated without a great deal of effort.

Now that this work has been completed, more attention will be devoted to the further development of the garden, in which more fruit trees have since been planted.

We are delighted that another decisive step forward has been taken with this project.

Sincere thanks to all sponsors and members who, through their various initiatives, have contributed to the financing of the irrigation project, the total costs of which amount to US\$ 8,500 (equivalent to around €6,300).

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The drilling work has begun.



The drilling work is finished. All that is visible at this stage is the end of the 60-metre drill pipe, covered by a protective cap.

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The next step: A thinner pipe is screwed together, piece by piece, until it has reached a depth of 60 metres. It is through this second pipe that the water will be extracted.



The work is almost finished. The bush pump has been provisionally fitted.

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The first water is extracted! The drilling firm has done a great job.



A mason builds a channel to a catch basin, from which the water is to be transported to various places in the school garden.

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The well can be seen in the background, with the channel leading to the first catch basin in the foreground. PVC pipes distribute the water from here to tanks in the school garden.



The first catch basin has passed its seven-day test - it is watertight!

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2. Further school building planned for Nabushome

For many years our school, a “primary school”, had seven grades. A few years ago, the government of Zimbabwe decided to introduce an eighth grade. In Nabushome, it was possible to meet the need for extra classrooms by converting the administration building to house a school class.

Two years ago came the next change: the ninth grade was introduced throughout the country. Since then, the school has coped using all sorts of makeshift solutions. Mostly, one class is taught outdoors, which is naturally not an acceptable situation on a permanent basis, especially in bad weather or in the winter months.

During our last visit, the head teacher approached as about remedying this situation. So far, we have not made any commitment towards the school.

Now, after completion of the projects previously decided on or begun (most recently, the completion of the school garden with its own irrigation), we are in a position to think seriously about erecting an additional school building.

To provide a basis for our considerations, I will shortly be asking the head teacher of Nabushome - as with previous projects - to let us have details of the probable cost of a new school building. This will certainly take some time. There will again be the costs of materials plus transport and for one or two professional builders. We can safely assume that no costs will be incurred for a large part of the work, because the parents and villagers will help free of charge.

I hope that you are agreeable to this plan and would ask you to start thinking now about possible “special campaigns” that we could launch. We could, for example, have another “brick collection” (as we did for the construction of the shower building). Any ideas or activities are welcome. And every contribution counts. **Please contact me if you have any questions or suggestions. Every idea is worth considering.**

Incidentally, we already have a good foundation for the financing. A fund-raising effort on the occasion of the recent World Cup final (in connection with the new school building) yielded around €3,200. Every person who took part stipulated an amount he or she was prepared to pay for each German goal scored. Although Germany only needed one goal to win the final, the above-mentioned amount was raised. Many thanks to all the football fans with a big heart for Nabushome!

Unfortunately, I could only reach some of you by e-mail about this idea, which came to me fairly late (actually, too late), namely on Friday afternoon prior to the final on Sunday. Then my server went on strike and finally - when the computer started working again - I could only contact the relatively small number of you whom I hoped would look at your company BlackBerry's at the weekend. As I said, however, we still managed to raise a substantial amount.

If you click on the following link, you can see a (regrettably) somewhat out-of-date satellite picture of Nabushome (source: Google maps). The children are taught in the five large buildings. One of these five buildings also contains the administration rooms.

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The teachers live in the three smaller buildings at the south end of the school site.

What the image does not include is the school garden (which is now located behind the three buildings on the right) or the shower building, which had not yet been constructed at the time the photo was taken.

On the right, you can see the narrow road running from south to north which leads to the school. This road was built many years ago to provide access to a now disused mine. You can also see little settlements everywhere, consisting of only a few dwellings (often typical African “rondavels”).

<https://www.google.de/maps/place/WKI+Hwange+Town+Airport/@-18.5376769,27.0693133,322m/data=!3m1!1e3!4m2!3m1!1s0x194efde737674125:0x6e1956107bd3f1fc>

3. Twenty years of ties with Nabushome School

It is hard to believe: at the end of this year, it will be the twentieth anniversary of our first visit to Nabushome. It was Tuesday, 1 November 1994, when a rainy day with low temperatures during our first African holiday at Hwange Safari Lodge in Zimbabwe rather dampened our enthusiasm for any activities. The previous day had been quite hot. We therefore eventually decided to go on a village tour, which the Lodge organised at a pinch. Two hours later, we were sitting in a small bus with our own driver, and off we went.

First we were taken to a small settlement with perhaps six rondavels - a typical African village - where we were given a very friendly reception and told in detail about life in this small village community.

When we were sitting in our vehicle again a good two hours later and preparing to return to the Lodge, the driver asked us if we were interested in seeing an African school. We naturally answered yes, and a few minutes later we left the road on a track that ended on the school site. The welcome we received (we were only the second group of visitors that year, and it was the beginning of November!) was even warmer than in the little village. That was the start of our relationship with Nabushome, which steadily evolved over the years. To provide a reasonable basis for further development, we founded our charity as you know it today on 15 September 1998.

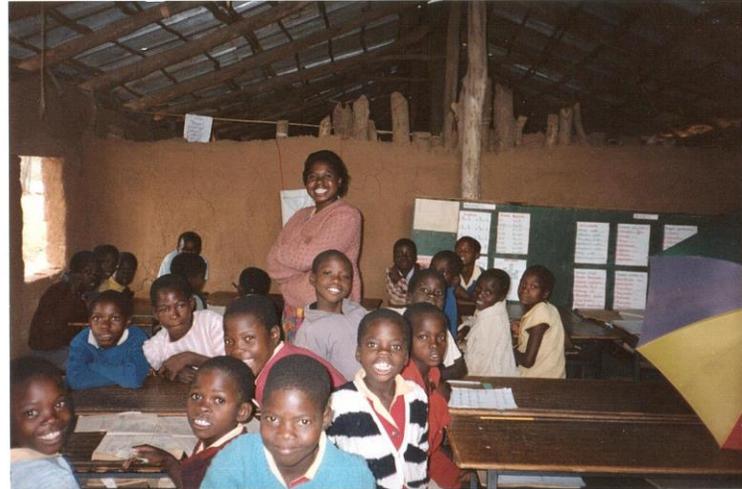
Here are two photos taken on 1 November 1994:

The picture on the left shows our small group of visitors with the then head teacher in front of the first school building at Nabushome. Take a look at the construction and building materials ...

The photo on the right was taken inside the same building.

The building ceased to exist many years ago. It became increasingly dilapidated and was ultimately replaced by a bigger and more stable building, financed by our society.

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That's all the news for now.

Cordial thanks for all your financial support - in some cases over many years - for our many projects in Nabushome and Nechilibi.

As you can see, Nabushome is growing and thriving, and all thanks to your help!

If you would like to promote our cause, please refer people to our website at www.foerderer-der-nabushome-school.de. This contains more or less everything those interested need to know about us. Our many short videos, which can be viewed at www.youtube.com under the heading "Nabushome", give a good idea of the situation "live on the spot".

Thanks again for your support and trust.

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I look forward to hearing from you.

With African best wishes,

Sincerely,

Paul Ziehl