



Friends of Nabushome School – An African friendship

Nabushome

Nabushome lies in western Zimbabwe in southern Africa. It is made up of several small settlements located to the north of the main road from Victoria Falls to Bulawayo. The individual settlements are headed by seven chiefs (village elders).

It is around 80 km to the nearest town (Hwange), where there is a small hospital. The distance to Victoria Falls is around 180 km and to Bulawayo (second biggest city in Zimbabwe) around 270 km.

Nabushome Primary School – Our second home

- The school was founded by the local people in 1980, the year Zimbabwe became officially independent. Lessons were held outdoors or in primitive, dilapidated buildings.
- The school is a typical primary school, with a total of nine classes today.
- School is not compulsory in Zimbabwe – children attend lessons voluntarily, but do so regularly. Some children walk for two hours to get to school.
- At present, there are around 310–320 pupils at Nabushome, or an average of 35 children per class.
- The school has a total of nine teachers, who live in four small houses on the school premises because their home towns are so far away. Seven teachers are paid by the state of Zimbabwe, whilst the other two are paid by our charity.
- The school charges very low school fees but even so, most parents cannot afford them. Their children are nevertheless still allowed to attend lessons.
- The school is run by the School Development Committee, made up of teachers and parent representatives. The members are selected in regularly held elections.

Förderer der Nabushome School e.V. (Friends of Nabushome School)

- We first visited the school on 1 November 1994 during a holiday trip; initially, our support consisted of collections among family, friends and colleagues.
- Our society was formed on 3 June 1998 as a registered charity. We are subject to audits by the Landshut tax authorities and are allowed to issue donation receipts for tax deduction purposes.
- The society has grown steadily over the years. Today, we have more than 130 supporters, of whom a good 100 donate on a regular basis (direct debit).
- Each supporter/member can decide how much they want to give.

What happens to the donations?

We transfer the donations for Nabushome School to the school – no government offices or public authorities are involved! Every bank transfer is coordinated in detail beforehand. We know exactly what the money will be used for. We receive invoices as vouchers for all our expenditure. The donations are not reduced by administrative or travel expenses. Every euro goes 100% to the school.

The most important major projects we have undertaken so far:

- Construction of four school buildings, each with two classrooms
- Construction of a shower block
- Construction of toilet facilities for the children
- Construction of a combined kitchen and dining-room block
- Provision of electricity for the school
- Provision of drinking water for the school (two wells, 80 and 60 metres deep)
- Creation of a large, fenced-in school garden and installation of a solar-powered pump for irrigation
- Purchase and operation of a school vehicle (pick-up)
- Free hot lunches for the children and teachers each school day
- Purchase of school books, writing materials, school furniture, etc.
- Purchase of over 300 pairs of shoes for the children
- Purchase of winter clothing for over 300 children
- Sewing project to make clothes for the children and teachers
- Provision of important medication
- Sponsor programme for Nechilibi Secondary School
- As from 2018, payment of two teachers' salaries



This is what it looked like at Nabushome School when we first visited it on 1 November 1994.



This is what it looks like today.

Future plans

Empowerment through knowledge and investment in education remain the focus of our activities. We are continuing the feeding programme (free lunches). Thanks to the school garden, we have been able to reduce our financial support for this programme by 75% as from January 2018. The funds that have been freed up are being used for the further improvement and expansion of Nabushome School. The medium-term goal is for the garden to be used even more intensively, enabling us to reduce financial support further. The key objective is to encourage and enhance self-sufficiency.

Additional information

Chairman	Paul Ziehl
Vice-Chairman	Stefan Ziehl
Secretary	Antony Kemp
Treasurer	Inge Ziehl
Cash auditors	Andreas and Christa Retzer
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Internet videos: www.youtube.com (search term: Nabushome)

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