

ZMP supports Heather Chimhoga Orphan Care (HCOC) in twenty-one villages in rural Zimbabwe.

Please see **zimpartnership.org** for more information and past newsletters.

There are so many good things happening at Heather Chimhoga Orphan Care Center in rural Zimbabwe. In this newsletter, we want to share some of them. None of these events would have been possible if it had not been for you, the steadfast and faithful friends and donors to Zimbabwe Mission Partnership!



Two ZMP Board members, Deanna and Jackie, traveled to HCOC this past May. Both of them have been there many times, and they and several others on the ZMP Board travel there periodically to meet with the HCOC staff, review projects, and participate in visits to the schools, feeding centers, and individual children's homes. They travel there at their own expense and are truly eyes and ears for the rest of the Board. We are grateful that they are willing to be involved in this way.

In her book, <u>Hope For Zimbabwe Orphans</u>, HCOC founder Roberta Pippitt reports that in the late 1990's when she and her husband Ralph first began the mission there, it was not part of the culture to look after or help anyone in the community who was not a family member. This bothered Roberta, and she and Ralph tried to demonstrate Jesus' call to "love one another". Following are two recent examples that show how the community is starting to change, help, and care for each other, especially the most vulnerable children.



In the first example, HCOC helped facilitate a community meeting at one of the farthest of the grade schools in the area and the only one that does not have a feeding center. Some members of the community had come to HCOC and said they wanted to build and finance a feeding center at this school because there are children there who do not know where their next meal is coming from. "What was heartwarming and unique about this meeting

of over 30 community members, including the Village Heads, is that they asked HCOC for nothing and instead talked for nearly 2 hours on how they can pool community resources to make this happen... we hope they will truly own this project! Seeing HCOC staff in action uniting and empowering the community was also very exciting."

The second example comes from Julia Henderson, Moderator of the ZMP Board:

"Recently we received the attached photo from the HCOC staff. Students from Cheunje High School and their Building subject teacher reconstructed and renvoated a Child Headed Household in Dandara village. They are a family of three girls ages 16, 13, and 11. The community assisted with molding the bricks. This was a great opportunity for young people to assist other young people. The HCOC staff works hard to make sure the community is a part of the work of caring for these children. I think all the points of connection and contributions came together in a beautiful way."

