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Home of Hope

is a centre for the homeless children and youth. A centre where we receive and give shelter to the homeless that are found on the streets of Lusaka. It has a dual purpose:

1. A rehabilitation centre where we offer a new home and a new start for the children.
2. It is a "half-way home" where we intend to re-integrate the children back in their families, back to their "real" homes and main stream society.

The centre was founded in 1998 by the Catholic Women's League of Lusaka at the request of the then Archbishop of Lusaka. R.R. Medardo Mazombwe. The project was put in their hands in order to respond to the growing numbers of "street children" in Lusaka. They are in charge of advocacy, sourcing funds, developing infrastructure and taking care of the running costs. From its inception the Catholic Parish of Good Shepherd was involved in its establishment, development and running of it as it was within the boundaries of the parish. The first basic structures were built within the property of St. Lawrence Community Centre which is part of the Good Shepherd Parish which, in turn, is in the hands of The Missionaries of Africa.

Visit us



St. Lawrence HOME of HOPE



Restoring hope in children

Our goal...

... is to rescue children from the vicious circle of homelessness (street-drugs-abuse-crime), rehabilitate them and their families and to re-integrate them back into their home environment (when and if possible).

How do we do it?

We **insert ourselves** into subculture of homeless children;

We **visit** them to identify them, befriend and remove them from the streets;

We **provide** all necessary emergency assistance to children and youth living on the streets;

Prevent „new comers” from getting used to life on the streets;

Prevent abuse and engagement in criminal activities of children on the street;

We **trace their families** and engage in the rehabilitation process with the relatives of the children;

We **reunite** the children with their immediate or extended family;

Ensure lasting reintegration of children rescued from the street into main stream society by providing opportunities for education and skills training.

The reality is...

...that there are and always will be children and young people who for various reasons feel either pushed out of their family homes, feel uncomfortable to stay there or run away from home to avoid responsibility and consequences of their wrongdoings. The great majority of children found on the street come from broken homes; families where one or both parents are abusive, negligent, emotionally withdrawn or not present at all. These children end up in the streets because, as they see it, there is nowhere else to go.

During the first few days from their arrival on the street, they are still scared and genuinely looking for help. Soon afterwards these children get accustomed and even addicted to street life! They find sources of money and survive independently from their parents. However they almost immediately come in contact with the world of drugs and sex and are initiated into various criminal activities.

There are also many „Good Samaritans” who, moved by pity and compassion, provide children on the street with money, clothes and food. Unfortunately this „false charity” keeps children longer on the street and attracts new ones to street life.

The Outreach Program...

...aims at identifying and removing from the street all „new comers” within a few days from their arrival there.

To achieve this we visit youth and children on the streets frequently.

Avoiding by all means any actions that would create “dependency syndrome” and contribute to children feeling “comfortable” on the street, or attract other children to street life (handouts in cash or kind, organizing games and/or parties) we strictly limit our activities on the streets to the help oriented friendly dialog, first aid interventions and emergencies management (detention by Police, traffic accidents, serious illnesses, death, etc.).



Family tracing...

... starts either before admission of a child into the facility or shortly afterwards.

The child's honest consent to provide Outreach Team officers with information about his origin and family background is a condition for his admission to the facility. As long as a child remains an anonymous person the possibilities to assist him with meaningful and lasting help are severely limited.

Both parties (child and his family) are contributors to the crisis situation (child living on the street) and have to actively participate in rehabilitation process in view of future successful reintegration.

Residential care...

... is offered to any child under the age of 14, who is genuine about his intentions to stop his life on the street. In our facility child is provided with a set of new clothes and adequate shelter. From admission, until after reintegration the center is responsible for all the needs of a child: physical, emotional, cognitive and spiritual.

We have on average 50 new admissions every year and 40 boys in residence.

With an average age of 11 years for newly admitted children, the great majority of children in residence are at the level of primary education. For those children who cannot return to their families we ensure continuation of education through secondary level education institutions and skills training centres.

Reintegration...

... is the overall goal of our work with homeless children. When a child and his family are ready for reintegration the child is taken back home. If the situation requires, upon reintegration the child is provided with basic and essential items to help him resettle in his family – “exit kit”: new set of clothes, blanket, shoes, etc.

The Project provides for child's school requirements: fees, school uniform, shoes, books, pens, pencil and a school bag.



**DO NOT ENTERTAIN CHILDREN ON THE STREET!
HELP US TO HELP THEM IN A WISE WAY!**

Your handouts keep them longer on the street!

Your handouts bring more children to the street!

BE WISE!