

# HIGH FIVE CLUB

changing lives, £5 at a time

Tujatane School, Livingstone, Zambia



**Tujatane** means “**Let Us All Hold Hands Together**”, and indeed this rural community school is a living role model of how when people come together the lives of those less fortunate can be significantly changed for the better. Before this school was set up on the banks of the Zambezi, children living in villages along the river on the outskirts of Livingstone walked many miles each day into town to attend the government-run primary schools there. Some simply did not go to school as it was too far to walk.

Tujatane School was initially set up in 1996 to provide accessible education for the youngest children of villagers that worked at Tongabezi safari lodge. Since that time this pioneering community school has



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grown from a pre-school class of just 15 children, to a full primary school with over 240 pupils from the wider community in the area. Apart from the first classroom, which Tongabezi safari lodge built, the development of this school has only been made possible through the ingenuity and passion of the teachers for securing a brighter future for their students. Over the years the teachers have reached out to supporters all over the world to join hands with them to provide these children with a first-class education to match anything seen in the Western world.

The teachers have successfully secured support for individual child sponsorship, teacher sponsorship, help with the school's feeding programme, a medical programme, through to building projects. The school currently has nine classrooms, two offices, a library and a reading room, a kitchen and canteen, an amphitheatre, a storeroom, an art room, a computer room with ten donated laptops, a fully equipped science laboratory and a fantastic music room with guitars and keyboards as well as local instruments such as the *marimba*.

Performing Arts have become an increasingly important part of school life at Tujatane. The students have an inherent love and passion for dancing, drama and music. By supplementing their academic programme whilst at school with performing arts, benefits the overall quality of education and individual development. Tujatane have a fantastic drama teacher, their Deputy Head Sydney, and a very talented music teacher, Mike, running the performing arts programmes. This includes poetry, choir, traditional dance and drama as well as a music scholars programme for exceptionally talented students.

Each year Tujatane competes with all primary schools across Zambia in national performing arts competitions and they are proud to hold the title for **'Best traditional dancers in Zambia'** for primary (2009, 2011, 2012 and 2013). They also came 2nd nationally in 2013 for Drama and Poetry!



The children at this school are empowered, confident, and able to express themselves more freely, more so than in any other school High Five Club Trustees Cheryl and Manny Mvula have yet visited in Zambia. These children, all from impoverished households, are achieving some of the best exam results

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in the whole of Zambia, with several of the children having gone on to become doctors, teachers and pilots.

## High Five Club Support:



This month we are joining hands with Tujatane and long-term friend of the High Five Club, Roffey Homes, a family run company that develops luxury apartments along the West Sussex coast ([www.roffeyhomes.com](http://www.roffeyhomes.com)), to support this inspiring school provide a quality education to even more children from the rural villages along the

Zambezi River. Together we are providing the funds (£1,000) to enable Tujatane to furnish a new classroom block that the school has just built with desks and chairs to cater for their first in-take of Grade 9 pupils. This means that Tujatane will for the first time be able to cater for children from the community during their first 2 years of secondary education!

We are also providing Tujatane with the funds needed (£530) to upgrade and renovate the school's performing arts amphitheater, as it was badly damaged by the recent heavy rains in Zambia. The community will provide the labour and High Five Club funds will provide for the materials needed.

The total cost of our collective support to Tujatane is £1,530, and what a world of difference our joining of hands together will make for the children there!



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