

HIGH FIVE CLUB

changing lives, £5 at a time

Mnkhanya Community School, Luangwa Valley, Zambia



For our new members, the Luangwa Valley in Zambia is home to world-famous South Luangwa National Park, one of Africa's premier safari destinations, and an area where the High Five Club is fostering a long-term relationship with the local community. It is where H5C co-founder Manny Mvula was raised and worked for many years in the safari industry, and one of the rural areas in which Cheryl Mvula currently works, and hence it is very close to our hearts.



Despite its popularity for tourism, the majority of the Kunda tribe who reside here live in dire poverty. Very few people have formal employment, most surviving by growing maize and vegetables for their family's food security.



The High Five Club is working hand-in-hand with local people in the Luangwa Valley to change lives. To date we have together funded the construction of an ante natal/under 5's rural health post (with support from Hadlow and Eastbourne Colleges), the start up and on-going technical support of the Malimba Women's Alternative Fuel / Livelihoods Enterprise, and a poultry project (egg layers) that is providing the community with a valuable protein source. This month we are together supporting the community in its efforts to improve

education provision for its youngest children.

Mnkhanya Community School is a rural primary school in Chief Mnkhanya's area set up by the community itself with monies they have collectively saved up over many years. The Zambian government's school building provision does not extend to rural areas such as this, and hence the education of the children who attend this school is totally reliant on the community itself. Local people have hence hand-made all the bricks used in



constructing the school's 2 classrooms, and volunteers from the community (secondary school leavers) carry out the teaching. With 400 children and only 2 classrooms, classes run in rotation throughout the

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day, with some classes being taught in the open under a tree (which is fine unless it is the rainy season!).

It never fails to inspire Manny and Cheryl when they are working at schools in Africa such as this, of the lengths poor communities such as this go to provide an education for their children. They hold a firm belief that education is the key to ending the cycle of poverty they themselves are trapped in.

Very positively, the Ministry of Education in Zambia has agreed that if the Mnkhanya community can



construct teacher's houses, they will provide the school with, and pay the salaries of, qualified teachers. Teachers in Zambia will not usually take up positions in rural areas due to a lack of amenities and quality housing. It would hence be a major boost to education provision in the area if the community could build teacher's houses in partnership with the High Five Club.

High Five Club Support:

This month we are once again joining hands with 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). Together we will provide the funds to build 2 teacher's houses at the school. This development will be the first semi-detached house in the Luangwa Valley (!) as to make our funds go further we have worked with Mnkhanya Community Resource Board and Zambia Wildlife Authority's Community Liaison Officer to draw up plans for two 'joined' teacher's houses, each with 2 bedrooms, a living room and an outside cooking shelter and long-drop toilet.

The community will mould and fire the bricks themselves and we will pay for all other materials along with the labour charges of a local builder. The total cost of the build is £4,116, with a £3,200 contribution from Roffey Homes, £416 from our collective H5C member's pot along with a £500 donation from one of our own High Five Club members. We will keep you posted over the next few months as the houses are built and



the new teachers report for duty! For more information contact Cheryl@highfiveclub.co.uk