

## We need your help

Over sixty years on from Rev. Rusike's initial act of charity, the need is as urgent as ever. The HIV/Aids epidemic means that about one in seven of Zimbabwe's population is an orphan child. Years of economic hardship have given us an 85% unemployment rate, making it difficult - often impossible - for families to feed and educate their children.

The Matthew Rusike organisation can channel support to Zimbabwe's deprived children efficiently and effectively. It's also a flagship for good childcare practice throughout Southern Africa. The work we do not only transforms the lives of individual children, it equips them to contribute to Zimbabwe's future.

We rely almost entirely on the generosity of our friends and supporters. With your help, there's so much more we could do to support our children and continue developing our families and communities.

Please make a donation to Friends of Matthew Rusike Children's Home today.

Thank you very much.

*Linri Link  
Mutendzwa*

National Director  
Matthew Rusike  
Children's Home



Registered charity 1120944

## Anything you can give will help change the life of a Zimbabwean child.

£2 will care for one child for a day.

£4 will provide medical care for a chronically ill child for a month.

£35 will keep one child in vocational training for a month.

£50 will pay one child's school fees for a term.

£170 will pay one staff member's salary for a month.

### How to make your donation:

#### By bank transfer

Please make a donation or set up a standing order to the following:

Co-operative Bank  
Friends of Matthew Rusike Children's Home  
Sort code: 08 92 99  
Account: 65869309

#### By cheque

Please make your cheque payable to Friends of Matthew Rusike Children's Home and post to

Niki Phillips - Treasurer,  
3, Badgers Green, Kingsbridge,  
Devon, TQ7 1UE

**If you are a UK taxpayer, please use the enclosed form to Gift Aid your donation. This way the taxman adds between 20p and 25p to every £ you donate.**

For information or to become a Friend of Matthew Rusike Children's Home, contact:

**Michael Mapako**, Secretary,  
email [michaelmapako61@hotmail.com](mailto:michaelmapako61@hotmail.com)  
**Carol Banham**, Chair, Tel 01302 744920 or  
email [carol2021@banham.net](mailto:carol2021@banham.net)

## Friends of

# Matthew Rusike Children's Home

## A brighter future for the



## children of Zimbabwe



[www.friendsofmatthewrusike.org](http://www.friendsofmatthewrusike.org)

## From small beginnings...

**Makwiro, Zimbabwe, 1950. A frightened 12-year-old girl has just lost her parents in a village fire and arrives on the doorstep of a Methodist Minister called Matthew Rusike. He takes her in and gives her a home with his family.**

In the years that followed, Rev Rusike took more orphans and abandoned children until, in 1960, the Methodist Church of Zimbabwe assumed responsibility and set up the Matthew Rusike Children's Home at Epworth, some 15km from the centre of Harare.

Today the home is one of Zimbabwe's largest child welfare agencies and the vehicle by which the Methodist Church of Zimbabwe cares for deprived children.

Under the church's vision for 2022, our mission is to transform the lives of orphans and vulnerable children in Zimbabwe through biblical teaching, nurturing and training, helping them to become adaptive and responsible citizens able to make a positive contribution to society.



Proud boys in their new winter uniforms

Friends of Matthew Rusike Children's Home is an entirely voluntary, UK-registered charity that provides a substantial part of the daily running costs of the home.

## Residential care

The Epworth residential home cares for about 150 children from babies to 18-year-olds. Many have been abandoned by mothers too poor to keep them. Others have been abused or malnourished or have lost parents to HIV/Aids. Some, born to infected parents, have HIV/Aids themselves.

The children live with house mothers in small, caring family groups. Professional staff help look after each child's total needs - the social, emotional and spiritual as well as the physical.



There's always homework to be done

Most of the children attend local schools with extra lessons at the home. Vocational training helps to prepare children for life in the outside world. The emphasis is always on returning children to the community and reuniting families whenever possible.

Foster parents, recruited and trained through the Methodist Church, provide a valuable experience of normal home life for most of the children during school holidays.

## Support in the community

Although residential care is the only option for some children, the organisation prefers to help deprived children in their own social setting, which is better for the child and means that scarce funds go further. As well as running the home, the organisation helps around 1,000 children in the community.



The first egg collection

Throughout Zimbabwe, volunteer coordinators identify needy children in their own areas. These might be chronically ill, or be missing school because their families can't afford the fees, or be Aids orphans looking after younger siblings. Support ranges from food and blankets to medicines and school fees.

The organisation is now setting up local hubs where needy children can come for counselling or medical treatment, or drop in to do their homework and have a meal.

The early learning centre at Epworth takes children both from the home and from the community. With so many children now in the care of grandparents or older siblings, it provides welcome respite and a chance, very often, for child heads of households to resume their schooling.