

An Appeal for the Daisy Dube Children Home



Friends in the New Hampshire Conference and beyond,

In the picture above, you see the beautiful faces of the youth and children who live at the Daisy Dube Children's Home in Mt. Selinda, Zimbabwe. This picture is from when I was able to visit with them last November during my sabbatical time with our partners in the United Church of Christ in Zimbabwe. Together we had a wonderful talk about the differences between Zimbabwe and New Hampshire, a tour where they proudly showed me their rooms, and a time to distribute some clothing that had been sent for them. Without question, their infectious personalities and their impactful stories captured my heart.

On July 13, tragedy struck the Daisy Dube Children's Home. A fire quickly gutted the entire building. Little was left beyond cinderblock walls and a foundation. Thankfully, all the children and their caretakers were safe, but the building was a complete loss. The 22 children who resided at Daisy Dube were moved into a wing of the dormitories for nursing students at the Mt. Salinda Hospital. A couple of charitable organizations stepped up in a big way and were able to meet the immediate needs (clothing, school uniforms, etc.) for the children. Yet, these children remain displaced and we want to help them come home.

Our partners in the United Church of Christ in Zimbabwe have developed a plan to build four new cottages buildings on the site where the old orphanage building existed. Each cottage will house eight children and a caretaker. The plan to build in cottages is both a

desire, as it help provide better services, and a requirement of the government of Zimbabwe. The Zimbabwe government has in turn made the commitment that as the cottages are built, they will build a solar array to help power them.

This is no small undertaking. The estimated cost for building each cottage (labor and materials) will be \$80,000. The hope is to build at least three of the cottages before November when the rainy season will begin and potentially hamper building efforts. The three cottages will allow all the current residents of Daisy Dube to move into their new homes. So, we are hoping to raise \$240,000 in the next couple of months.

With the support of the Board of Directors and Ukama Mission Group, I have agreed that the New Hampshire Conference, in cooperation with UCC/Disciples of Christ Global Ministries, will take the lead on an appeal to fund raise for the rebuilding of Daisy Dube Children Home. As you can tell, our fundraising goal is ambitious both in amount and timeline, but the need, and God's call to address this need, is clear.

And so, I have two asks to make of all our New Hampshire Conference churches as well as of the members and friends of our churches. First, please contribute. Gifts are welcomed from both churches and individuals. To give, you may send a check to the "New Hampshire Conference, 140 Sheep Davis Road, Pembroke NH 03275" with "Daisy Dube Appeal" in the memo. Or you can give on-line using our website at www.nhcucc.org. By clicking on the donate button, then the "Other Donation" button and writing "Daisy Dube Appeal" in the "Give to" box, your donation will go to this appeal.

My second request would be that you let me know if there are those outside of our own church communities who you believe I should contact to support this appeal. If you would send such information to me at grankin@nhcucc.org, I'd greatly appreciate it.

I would draw your attention once more to the picture above. Friends, these children need our help, and I have no doubt that through the grace of God we are going to provide it. I am profoundly grateful for any and every way you are able to help support this appeal for the Daisy Dube Children's Home.

Yours in Faith,

Rev. Gordon Rankin,

Conference Minister

New Hampshire Conference of the United Church of Christ