

MISSION ZIMBABWE HARVEST DINNERS RECEIVE EXCELLENT SUPPORT

Due to Covid 19 guidelines, Mission Zimbabwe held three small harvest dinners this past weekend at Hope Community Church in Hanover. Dinners were held on Friday evening, Saturday noon and on Saturday evening. The three dinners attracted approximately 125 people and a further 50 people picked up take away meals. The diners experienced a “virtual” mission flight from Pearson International Airport to Harare Zimbabwe, enjoyed in-flight entertainment and were welcomed to the Village of Hope by Pastor Zowa. The dinners also featured a roast beef meal, a fun live auction and an inspiring message about what can be accomplished when a community works together. At present, we do not know the amount of funds raised by the event through ticket sales, live auction proceeds and donations but a spirit of generosity was certainly present. During the dinners, donations were collected to support the Hope Care Packs campaign and to provide funds to purchase school supplies for the children who are returning to school at the Village of Hope.

A presentation was made that highlighted the need for funds to provide educational opportunities for graduating students through the Mission Zimbabwe Education Fund. Since 2007 when a Mission Zimbabwe team first went to the Village of Hope, we have had the privilege of watching the children grow up to be young adults. These children have been able to go to school because of sponsorship through Child Care Plus and many of them are now ready to go onto university or to a technical college. Without support through the education fund, the families of these students who have done well on their high school exams, would not be able to afford post secondary education. The education fund will help support these students who are the future of Zimbabwe.

More than forty volunteers served to make these dinners a success. The Mission Zimbabwe Project wishes to especially thank Jonathon and Joan Nelson from Lucknow and Gord and Anita Cooledge from Dunnville who prepared a wonderful harvest meal of roast beef, squash, carrots, coleslaw, apple salad and mashed potatoes topped off with home-made pies donated by the local Amish community. Also thanks to the guest auctioneers, Mark Davis and Paul Braeker, guest MCs, Gaye and Elizabeth Norrie, and sound and video technician, Pastor Isaac Marmelo. A special thank you goes out to Mayor Sue Patterson and the town of Hanover for their support for these Harvest Dinners.

All proceeds from the evening will go to benefit the Village of Hope and Vimbainesu Childrens’ Home in Zimbabwe. The funds will be used to support the house mother and children in Dumisani house at the Village of Hope, and to support the children at Cornelius Hope Academy Primary School. As well, monthly financial support will be provided for Vimbainesu Children’s Home.

Guests were given Mission Zimbabwe “Moving Forward in 2021” Calendars as a thank you for attending the event. These calendars feature beautiful pictures of the ways that the Village of Hope and Vimbainesu Children’s Home continue to move forward to bring hope for the future to the children in spite of the Covid pandemic.