

PROJECTS IN CENTRAL MOZAMBIQUE

CRIANCAS DE MANGUEIRAS – MANGO TREE KIDS, Mafambisse

Adelino Semente is a young man who was a sponsored child himself in the 90's with an organisation called Food for the Hungry. He lives with his family in a small community on the edge of Mafambisse. Adelino knew that he wanted to give back to his community after the support he had received. He did this through arranging a group of like minded youth in his area and looking at how they could support orphans in the surrounding area. In 2002, they started having a Saturday morning school session with a small group of children who would get schooling, a time to play and some food. Adelino didn't know what hit him! Within months he had over 250 children from the surrounding areas coming every Saturday. Not all these children are orphaned but parents realised the benefit of the project for their own children. The project has been a real journey for Adelino and all those involved. This includes the enthusiastic ladies from Açucareira de Mozambique (sugar factory operating in Mafambisse) who have always helped through providing food, helping with their time and other activities including teaching the girls how to sew. The project received some funds to build classrooms and a meeting room and while the process had its ups and downs eventually, again with the help of Açucareira de Mozambique, the construction was completed and now the centre has a reliable water source, traditional gardens and rooms for the children to meet and learn.

The centre now provides day care services for local children but continues to be a magnet for all young children in the area. The respect and trust shown to Adelino and his team provides testimony to his commitment and love for the children in his community. A number of the original youth workers have left due to study and employment opportunities but still are part of a close group.

While Açucareira de Mozambique continues with their support, there is a continuing need to provide supplies for the children and also to contribute to the development of projects that will allow the centre become more self sustaining.

Assistance required:

- Funding for an income generation project to ensure the centre is sustainable (ideas include a bakery and a mill)
- Computers (can be second hand) to allow for computer training for youth in the local area. This would also serve as an income generation project as there would be a fee for lessons.
- Food products, soap, gardening implements



Classrooms at day care centre



Children at the centre



Adelino (left) with Helen and Joao

Contact:

Crianças de Maguiera, Mafambisse

Contact: Adelino Semete

email: as.borracha@yahoo.com.br

Phone: 84 3899027