

## *It is time again for the Living Proof Christmas Uniform Drive*

Christmas 2019 will soon be upon us. And it is going to be a very hard one in Zimbabwe this year. Just do a quick Google search of Zimbabwe economic news and you will soon see that we are now experiencing some of the worst times the country has ever seen.

For most children, Christmas is their favorite time of year. The same is true for our Living Proof children! It is the highpoint of the year for three key reasons:

1. As children raised in the Christian heritage and in HVCM mission schools, Christmas is a season of Joy and celebrating the birth of Christ our Lord. Even among the poorest, it is a season of special songs, worship and happiness. Christmas, ***after all, doesn't come from a store!***
2. A second reason the LP kids get so excited at Christmas is the anticipation of the annual Living Proof Christmas party and feast! Hands down, this is the greatest meal these children have ever had. Chicken, sadza, rice, bread, fruit, cake with icing and Cokes! It is a little taste of heaven!
3. Of course, the third reason the kids get so excited this time of year is in anticipation of a new school uniform that they will receive as a Christmas gift from you, their U.S. sponsor. It is hard for some of us to understand just how much a new school uniform means to these children and their families. It is such a source of pride to be able to go to school with a nice, new, clean uniform, shoes and socks. Last year we were able to purchase 1500 uniforms, all in the name of each child's U.S. sponsor. If you would like to purchase a Christmas uniform for your LP child (or children), you can send a check to: HVCM, P.O. Box 686, Grayson, KY 41143 and write "Christmas Gift" in the memo. You may also give online by going to our website or [www.hippovalley.org/christmasgifts1.html](http://www.hippovalley.org/christmasgifts1.html). Or, simply call our office and we can help you.

And... If the Lord has especially blessed you this year, you might consider purchasing more than one. This will provide for those kids whose sponsors were unable to give this year. We want every single child in the LP program to get their new uniform! If you can, take a minute and go to our website to see a short video message from one of our Living Proof parents. The uniforms mean so much to them! Each Christmas gift package costs \$35 and includes: 1 school uniform • 1 pair of school shoes • 1 pair of socks \*Christmas gift donations must be received by December 1st for your child to receive this year's uniform in time.

Tatenda and Kisimusi yakanaka!! (Thank you and Merry Christmas)  
HVCM Office Staff



## FROM RACHEL

Earlier this year I had the privilege of helping pass out new uniforms to our Living Proof students at Chiromo Primary. In the Zimbabwean culture, children are expected to be calm, quiet and respectful in public, and especially at school. Sometimes getting them to laugh and smile when visitors from the states are present is hard to do as it goes against the norm. However, I can tell you I witnessed so many smiles, giggles and even joyful singing as they celebrated their new uniforms. They just could not contain their excitement!

Receiving a new uniform from their Living Proof sponsor is not only a big deal to the children, but also to the parents. Most schools invite the parents to come visit during Living Proof school uniform distributions. It is wonderful to see them just as excited as the children (if not more). Our staff in Zimbabwe even tells us of parents urging their children who are not part of the program to try sneaking in line when uniforms are being handed out!

It is truly a wonderful thing for these families in Zimbabwe and it is only possible because of generous sponsors like you. We know it is not always easy to give extra around the holidays and appreciate those who choose to donate more than one uniform to help ensure every Living Proof child receives a new uniform in 2020. You may not truly know the difference you are making on this side of Heaven, but rest assured, you are making a huge impact in Zimbabwe!

Rachel Werner,  
Director of U.S. Operations

**Christmas gift packages cost \$35 each. This includes a new school uniform, shoes and socks, plus the Christmas Party feast. Deadline for donations is December 1.**

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