

Newsletter

1ST SEMESTER
2020



Message from the President

Dear Godfathers, Godmothers, Friends and Big Hand Partners,

2020 has had a very special meaning for me because it is the year that The Big Hand celebrates its tenth anniversary.

We had many plans to celebrate this very symbolic date with you but, due to security conditions, it will not be possible. However, I cannot help but write and thank you!

In 2000, I arrived in Mozambique, as a great friend says, "a lost boy with his backpack" but with an open smile and a dream of changing the world. With the help of all of you, after 10 years, I can say that we managed to change the world of many children and adults! The fantastic thing is that we continue, day after day, to change and transform the lives of those who suffer a lot.

We started our program in a school with 80 children. Today, we account for more than 6 schools and communities where The Big Hand has intervened and many hundreds of children whose lives were transformed by the direct impact of our work and your support.

It is impossible to detail all our achievements in this small space but I recall some projects that fill us with joy. **The Bicycle Club in Chissassa Village that allowed young teenagers to stop walking more than 8km to continue their studies and enabled the villagers to transport their agricultural production to the city market.**

I would remind you that we have managed to implement free pre-school education in the villages, as well as to open the first nursery.

Dreams achieved that transform the lives of children.

I remember the drill of the water holes that allow thousands of people access to drinking water.

I remember the construction of the new classrooms, the libraries, the ambulance bikes... so many achievements that fill us with pride on the path taken and give us the strength we need to continue!

May there be another 10 years because despite the challenges we have overcome there are still many villages where this "lost boy with his backpack" wants to bring help, aware that the results of our action will only be seen in the children and grandchildren to whom today, with your help, we lend our hand.

In this newsletter we have the honour to read the testimony of Geraldo, one of the first children to be sponsored and who today is a man studying in college. Simply wonderful!

We continue to build improved homes for the families who lost everything during the IDAI Cyclone.

And as the dream never ends, I want to share with all of you that in the village of Monte Chimoio we will very soon drill the water hole that we so desperately need to ensure the population access to drinking water.

Thank you all so much for following me on this trip! Thank you for your company, your support and for believing without ever giving up!

David Fernandes



CYCLONE IDAI

**10 houses, 10 families, 10 new beginnings.
Millions of thanks!**

The year 2019 was an extremely hard one for the Mozambican people with the passage of two cyclones that devastated the country leaving entire families completely destitute.

But the huge wave of support that was generated allowed those on the ground to give the strength these families needed for a fresh start. It is with great pride that we share with you the photographs of the first 10 houses delivered. They were moments of great joy and emotion!

We want to thank all those who gave so much of themselves to this moment: the volunteers, friends and individual donors. To the organization of the solidarity concert in Setúbal and to Vitória Futebol Clube our Many Thanks.



FIVE MORE HOMES STARTED

As good deeds generate further good deeds, the Associação Ajudar Moçambique joined The Big Hand to support the reconstruction of another 20 houses for families affected by cyclone Idai in the villages of Matsinho and Chipaco.

In April we started the construction of the first five houses. A big thank you to the Associação Ajudar Moçambique. Thank you for all your support!





COVID-19 ACTION PLAN

As in most parts of the world, schools have also been closed in Mozambique and restrictions for social contact have been decreed, so The Big Hand has closed day-care centres, study rooms and libraries but we wish to inform you that we have maintained our actions to support children and their communities:

- **We will continue** to maintain the plan for personal hygiene and the environment with hand washing and disinfection of the project structures several times a day.
- **Through home visits** we are keeping an eye on the general state of health of children and families and carrying out health education activities door to door, distributing hygiene materials.
- **We distribute several meals** during the day, with a restricted use of the cafeteria to groups of 10 children at a time, maintaining safety distances;
- **And we have strengthened the team of ambulance bicycles** at the service of the community in order to make the population aware of the importance of taking preventive measures and assisting in the transport of patients.
- **Soon we will be supporting the children** and their families with the distribution of seeds, hygiene materials and social masks that are being produced by local craftsmen, thanks to the support of godmother Emilia.

Thank you to all the godfathers and godmothers who through the sponsorship program have provided help to hundreds of children! Thank you all!

Village of MONTECHIMOIO

Another dream come true

In the previous newsletter we introduced the village Montechimoio, where The Big Hand started the program to support children at risk.

An extremely poor village, with many needs and which therefore needs the support of all of us. It is with great joy that we share the good news, thanks to the support of some Big Hand friends who responded to our appeal, we already have the necessary amount to drill the water hole for the community and 40% of the amount for the construction of the first social room.

Our thanks to Sergio, Manuela M. and Andreas O., Godmother Giselle, Godmother Ana F.S. and all the friends and individual donors who have joined this cause.

Help us reach 100%! Share and disseminate our work!



SUCCESS STORIES

Geraldo's testimony

My name is Geraldo José Jairosse Machamacha, Mozambican citizen attending the third year of Higher Education, at the Higher Polytechnic Institute of Tete, in the province of Tete, city of Tete.

This is the ideal opportunity to say thank you for all that has been made by The Big Hand, as The Big Hand has been helping me with tuition and school fees since primary school.

The Big Hand entered the story of my life when I was attending the third grade, at a time when I was only 8 years old, this project took care of my school expenses (Fees, monthly tuition, uniforms, school materials and much more). I grew up as an orphan of both parents, having lost them when I was only 2 years old (my Mother) and when I was 4 years old (my Father), respectively.

After the loss of my parents, I went to live with my uncle Alberto, my late father's cousin, and Narcisa, my uncle's wife, and I still live with them today. Uncle Alberto supported the school expenses before The Big Hand came to Mozambique.

After finishing primary school at the Salvatorian school Mwana Unerufaro, The Big Hand maintained the tuition and school fee payments at the Samora Moisés Machel school.

When I finished high school, once again The Big Hand continued to pay the tuition and school fees in Higher Education, in the computer engineering course of the Higher Polytechnic Institute of Tete.

There are no words to express my gratitude! It is so good to see that in the world there are people who care about the welfare of others, a rare thing these days. This will all contribute a lot to my training/ career path as a person.

I know that TO EDUCATE is an arduous and continuous task, which requires a lot of LOVE and DEDICATION, it is like a priesthood. I can say I found those virtues in The Big Hand.

So I want to pay my respects to all of you who make The Big Hand go forward, you deserve a medal of honour for merit.

I begin by thanking David and Marisa and the employees of The Big Hand general services whose names I do not know, but who deserve my respect and gratitude. Thank you for everything!

God bless you all!

SINCERELY: Geraldo José Jairosse Machamacha.



GRENKE, partner company

With the motto "never stop exploring" GRENKE a partner company of The Big Hand since 2010 held two events with its Partners and Clients, one in Lisbon and the other in Porto city, where our founder, David Fernandes, was invited to share his experience. These were two fantastic events from which new projects were born. Many thanks to the entire GRENKE team for their support and professionalism.

