

Newsletter



1ST SEMESTER
OF 2021



Message from the President

Dear Friends, Godmothers, Godfathers, Sponsors and Big Hand Partners,
The first half of 2021 brought us many changes and good events that helped us to overcome the difficulties that appeared in this new world context.

In this very atypical beginning of the year, five youngsters from the village of Matsinho, a village with many difficulties, managed to finish the 10th grade. The final year available at the village school. But the youngsters had the will and courage to continue, on a boarding basis, in another school and so, with the support of the Big Hand Godfathers, they are studying the 11th grade in the village of Gorongosa. We are very proud of the group, especially the girls and their families who overcame the stigma of early marriage and dropping out of school to give way to the dream of having a better life! Best of luck to them!

Finally, it was with great emotion that we managed to finish the construction of the improved houses for the 35 families who lost everything in the IDAI cyclone. It was a long road, affected by the States of Emergency and heavy rains, but with everyone's help, these families now have a house they can call their home and where their children can grow up safe and in better health.

In order to respond to the growing needs of the children of the project, we increased the number of Monitors / Tutors in the villages where we operate. With this reinforcement of the Big Hand Team, we can give school support to more classes with fewer students and maintain the hygiene and food actions, as well as respond to the various requests for help that we receive from the population. We also count on the help of Marco Ataíde a volunteer who was integrated in the International Volunteering Program thanks to the support of GRENKE! Welcome, Marco! Thank you, GRENKE!

And if, among the various events of the first semester, we can highlight something wonderful, it is the Team's ability to adapt to new challenges and respond to all those who ask for our help. In particular, the health team, which is doing a fantastic job in caring for the children in our communities.

I would also like to thank, from the bottom of my heart, Cristina and Dr Aristides and all the team at the PAF Clinic who have been tireless! A big hug! Thank you for everything!

In this newsletter we can also read the testimony of Teacher Filomena, Director of the Messica village Primary School, with whom we have been working since 2011. At first, the school had no running water or electricity, the toilets were precarious, as well as the classrooms which were insufficient for the 1,600 students. Time went by and 10 years later the school has water, energy, 12 classrooms, 2 pre-school rooms, 6 improved bathrooms, a library, a principal's and pedagogical office, a sports and recreation area, as well as a school garden. It has been considered, by the local government, as a model school. Spectacular! Thank you, Headmistress Filomena, it was a long road, but the result is amazing! Thank you to all the godfathers, godmothers and Big Hand friends who make it possible to change the life of this community!

Before finishing, as there are always communities in need of help, I would like to make an appeal to the community of Monte Chimoio. An extremely poor community where the Big Hand Team is already providing support to the children and where we are going to drill a borehole close to the school very soon. But we still lack part of the funds to build three classrooms and for that we will relaunch the campaign "where is your Big Hand t-shirt?"

LET'S CHANGE THIS VILLAGE TOGETHER?

David Fernandes



OUR FIVE SUPERHEROS!

Initially, in Matsinho Village, it was only possible to study until the 8th grade. In order to continue their studies, the children had to move to another location where, without family support, it was practically impossible. Thus, at the age of 15, the schooling of the majority of the children of this village came to an abrupt end.

With the help of the Big Hand, the school managed to implement education up to the 10th grade but, even so, to go further it is still necessary to leave the village and this year, some of the sponsored children were in that situation.

We met with the families, listened to the youngster's wishes and with great joy, especially in the case of the girls, we were given permission for them to continue their studies! Thus, in February, our five heroes entered the boarding school "Nossa Senhora de Fátima" of Gorongosa where they will finish the 12th grade. We are following them very closely and everything is going well.

Thank you to the godfathers and godmothers of these youngster's for helping us overcome the stigma of early marriage and dropping out of school, to make way for the dream of having a better life! Good luck to all!!!

35 HOUSES LATER...

2019 started abruptly with the passage of cyclone IDAI which caused unspeakable damage in the communities. With great fortune, in our Villages the damage was only material, but still caused much suffering. **Faced with this situation, the Big Hand Team acted immediately and, in addition to providing emergency support, identified 35 families in which damage had left their children in a situation of extreme risk.**

Thanks to the solidarity and commitment of our volunteers, friends, the **V.F.C Setúbal** supporters and the **ASSOCIAÇÃO AJUDAR MOÇAMBIQUE**, two years later, our mission is accomplished!

We have finished the 35 improved houses for the families! From the bottom of our hearts and with immense happiness, a huge thank you!



REINFORCEMENT OF THE BIG HAND TEAM

We always want to be a little bit ahead of ourselves!

We always want to be where needed! This is the desire of the Big Hand Team so that we can help more children at risk! And for that to be possible, facing the demands of the new times, we carried through one more Big Hand Monitors / Tutors Course with a strong theoretical and practical component. **From the Course, 7 youngsters were selected and are now finishing the Traineeship period. Good luck to all!**



On the field, we can also count on the reinforcement of volunteer Marco Ataíde, from Torres Vedras, who was integrated in the International Volunteering Programme thanks to the support of GRENKE!

Welcome, Marco!

Thank you, GRENKE.

INTERVENTION IN THE HEALTH AREA

As we know, in certain regions of the world, the means to face this pandemic are scarce, so all help and cooperation can make a difference. It was in this sense that the Big Hand Monitors, in partnership with local entities, were moved to the front line in prevention actions, but also in general health care provided to vulnerable children and their families. Fortunately, no cases of COVID have been identified in our communities, but on several occasions it has been necessary to ensure the transport and admission of children with other types of needs.

The health team in the villages has made a difference! And besides the extra effort, they have not neglected their main work of surveillance and monitoring of the general health status of the Big Hand children Club.

To all of you, thank you and congratulations for your commitment!





Testimony

DIRECTOR FILOMENA, 11 years of partnership.

"What struck me was the profile and human feeling of Mr David in 2011, when he visited the Administrative Post of Messica, in the area of Messica village, who, upon seeing the block of three rooms destroyed by the strong winds in the Messica Primary School, asked what help I would like. Such solidarity is not easy.

In 2013, it built a block of three classrooms, a school library, three bathrooms, provided school materials to orphaned and vulnerable children, school uniforms, folders and hygiene material, promoted training actions for teachers and an exchange of experiences with Mwana Unerufaro Schools - Chimoio, on the production of didactic material.

In 2018 it built another block of 3 classrooms, a Principal's office. The community where Big Hand operates is now transformed. With the construction, through awareness raising, the Parents' Association already has a broad vision of the development of the school and in 2020, in partnership with Big Hand, the community raised a block of 3 classrooms with a teachers' room.

The Big Hand's help and partnership helped teachers in teaching their classes minimising the COVID - 19 pandemic. It supported orphaned, vulnerable children, those with special educational needs by providing scholarships, training activists specialised in caring for pre-school children and professional grants.

David, as we call him, continues his natural duties, he does not step back, he was inspired to help those who suffer, he rescues all children, he extends his dream, I know that my school will no longer forget his dedication and firmness in what he plans.

Thank you Big Hand."

Campaign
**"WHERE IS YOUR
BIG HAND T-SHIRT?"**
Order yours in our website and
help us to build a school in the
Montechimoio Village



Help us! Participate!

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