

Melfort Glen - Zimbabwe

Melfort Old Peoples Home in Zimbabwe (formerly known as Melfort Glen) is the Sacred Heart Hook's third world project which we continue to support for the last 20 years. The Melfort Old People's Home was started forty years ago by Sister Noreen of the Little Company of Mary who had found destitute old people living by the Mukuvisi River in Harare. The Catholic Archdiocese of Harare received a donation of 30 acres and with the help of generous donors started building accommodation.

The residents who mostly came from countries outside Zimbabwe when young, worked all their lives in Zimbabwe and have no families and no government pension to support them in their retirement. At present 25 residents there depend entirely on voluntary donations from us and other local charitable organisations. We have close connections with the home and organise fundraising activities each year for the home.

The need at the Melfort Home is so very great. There are currently 25 residents who depend entirely on voluntary donations. Monthly food inflation is currently over 50%. Medicines even higher. The shops have a lot of empty shelves. The daily Power cut means that Electricity is only on during the night from 10pm to 5.30am.

Residents continue to grow their own vegetables and now have 10 bee hives producing honey.

There is no National Health Service in Zimbabwe for the elderly and there is still a great need for medicine, walking frames and wheelchairs for those with mobility issues.

We continue to have reliable Zimbabwe contacts Claire Myburgh and others who visit the home regularly and take food clothes and gifts to Melfort as well as contributing to the cost of electricity, fuel and medicine.

Last November generous donors in the Parish enabled us to send out an emergency donation to enable Claire to take out necessities before Christmas as we had heard that MOPH funds were currently at '**rock bottom**' and we were emailed by a Board member immediately to say '***As a Board, we would like to extend our sincere thanks to the Sacred Heart congregation and community for this generous and timely donation. We will do out best to immediately stock up on essentials for the residents and Home since prices are not stable.***'

Everything we do send benefits the residents 100 percent with food, medication, staff wages, electricity and other necessities.

This year we are holding an Indian Supper evening on Saturday 1st February in aid of the home.

You can also Search on **Facebook** for **Melfort Old Peoples Home** for some photos and video clips of the home and the residents there.

For more information on MOPH please contact: Richard Sugden – richard@sacredhearthook.co.uk