

## COMMUNITY PROJECTS

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### **Muneli Child Centre**

Muneli Child Centre is a non-profit organization established in 2018 with a mission to uplift the welfare of children with unique aspirations and limited recognition in the Sinde community and beyond. The center aims to provide a secure learning environment and mitigate social and educational challenges faced by underprivileged children. Their vision is to create an inclusive, hardworking community for a self-reliable society, and their motto is "My strength my future." The center operates two main programs: one for children with disabilities and another for early childhood education. However, they face challenges due to insufficient resources, such as classroom space, a feeding program, a play park, access to water, and the need for additional teachers. Despite the obstacles, Muneli Child Centre is determined to provide better opportunities for children and welcomes support from others to achieve their goals. They also run literacy clubs, a fun club for girl child support, and advocate for environmental conservation in the community.

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### **Zambezi Animal Welfare Services (ZAWS)**

Zambezi Animal Welfare Services (ZAWS) was founded in 2014 as a non-profit organization dedicated to rescuing, rehabilitating, and rehoming dogs and cats in Livingstone, the Zambian "tourist capital," along with offering education, vaccination, and treatment services for these animals in both urban and rural areas. The organization's mission is to promote a smaller and healthier population of domestic animals while curbing the numbers of feral dogs and cats through spaying and neutering initiatives, vaccinations, and community education on animal welfare. The team behind ZAWS, comprised of a group of animal-loving friends, passionately believes that rescued animals are not damaged but rather have been let down by humans. Their goal is to provide a second chance for as many of these unfortunate creatures as possible, nurturing them physically and emotionally until they become joyful and healthy beings that relish life once again. Throughout its relatively brief existence, ZAWS has earned the support and appreciation of local communities and government due to their comprehensive programs, encompassing education, community veterinary outreach, population control through sterilization, and rescue efforts. Being the sole domestic animal welfare organization in the southern and western regions of Zambia, ZAWS plays a crucial role, making a substantial difference in the lives of countless animals. To sustain their vital work, the organization depends on the generosity of donors who contribute to providing shelter, food, bedding, and medical care for the rescued animals.

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### **Mukwa Football Team - Empowering Youth and Promoting Positive Change**

Driven by a shared vision to empower local youth and foster positive, healthy activities while discouraging negative behaviours such as alcohol abuse, gambling, and early pregnancy, a dedicated group of individuals from the community, backed by Mukwa River Lodge, came together.

In 2022, the Mukwa football team was established and officially registered with the Football Association of Zambia (FAZ). Comprising 30 boys and young men from nearby villages, the team has become a symbol of determination and resilience. Every Sunday throughout the season, they



engage in home and away games, supported by rigorous training four times a week. Their unwavering commitment to the sport has propelled them from Division 5 to Division 4.

To sustain their progress, the players must adhere to FAZ rules and regulations. Additionally, they require updated football kits, including two sets for home and away matches, football boots, high-quality footballs, nets, refreshments, and funds for transportation and logistics during away games. Moreover, for those players who do not reside near the team's football pitch due to work or school, there is a need to cover expenses for transportation, accommodation, and food.

Football holds immense significance for many Zambians, and this project has garnered tremendous support from individuals of all ages within the community. It serves as a unifying force, providing a platform for fostering positive role models and offering the participants an invaluable opportunity to develop their skills, focus, and take pride in their achievements.

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### **Mukeya Development Centre**

Mukeya Developmental Centre is a community centre that aims to combat poverty by equipping widowed women in the local community with income-generating skills such as shoe-making, clothes-making, and other life skills that can support their families. Spearheaded by Mbanacele Tolombita and Christine Siavuta, the project is driven by Mbanacele's personal experience of growing up with a widowed mother and witnessing her struggles. Mbanacele has dedicated his life to empowering widowed women and believes that "when a woman is empowered, a nation is fed."

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