

Because I know you care



This Christmas I chose to support the love and care of a child in Africa on your behalf. This gift ensures a vulnerable child has access to food, education and basic health care. A child like Chibesa...

Chibesa is a six-year-old boy who lives in one of the poorest communities in Zambia. Abandoned by his parents, Chibesa has been raised by his aunt Peggy, who has struggled to provide for her household of 12. She could not send Chibesa to school, and most days he went to sleep without eating. Fortunately, Ruth began visiting Peggy and quickly realised how desperate her family was for even basic support. Ruth is one of many local volunteer Care Workers who are reaching the most vulnerable in their community. She arranged for Chibesa to receive a free daily meal, access to education and basic health care. In love and compassion, Ruth has taken Peggy and her family into her heart. And Peggy, wanting to be a blessing in return, has become a Care Worker! She walks alongside Ruth ensuring many more children are able to survive, and know they are loved.

_____ was given on your behalf.

Hands at Work mobilises, equips, and supports the church in Africa's poorest communities to care for the most vulnerable among their neighbours, bringing the light and hope of Christ.

handsatwork.org



Merry Christmas!



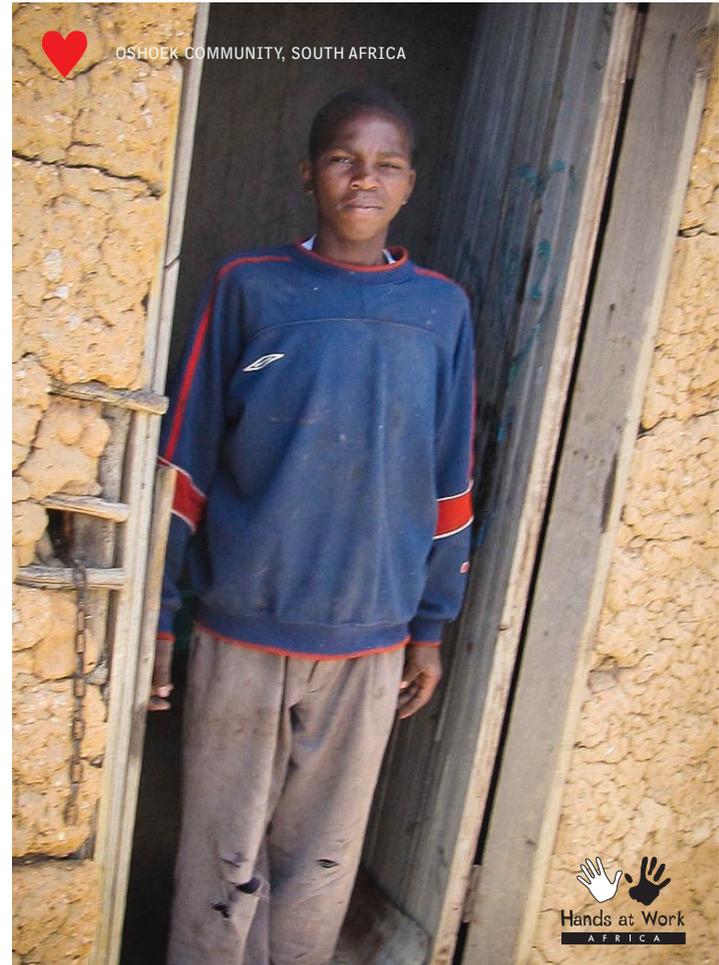
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At only 14 years old, Mancoba became the head of his family. His father had passed away and his mother abandoned him and his four younger siblings. Mancoba and his siblings were originally from Swaziland but, now living in South Africa with no identification documentation, were unable to receive assistance from the government. They had absolutely no income and were forced to ask their neighbours for food; they often went without. One day, a local Care Worker named Nesta visited Mancoba and saw how challenging his life was. She began encouraging Mancoba, becoming like a mother as she guided him in caring for his siblings. Nesta has ensured Mancoba and his siblings can attend a local Care Point where a daily meal is provided by loving Care Workers. Each child is also given access to basic health care and equipped and encouraged to attend school. Mancoba is now 17, in grade 7 at school, and most importantly, knows that he is not alone in caring for his family.

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Half-sisters Adanna and Adaugo were just eight and five years old when their father was drowned during a storm in an urban slum, where some of Nigeria's poorest and most vulnerable are forced to live. Overcome with the responsibility of caring for her child, Adanna's mother ran away. Adaugo's mother tried her best to provide for both girls but she was in a state of desperation when Bernard, a local church volunteer, found the family. He felt compassion and stepped in to help. Bernard registered the girls at a local community school where Care Workers seek to build loving relationships with children while giving them a free education and a healthy meal each day. Bernard is building a solid, trusting relationship with the family by visiting them in their home and speaking words of encouragement over them. Bernard's dreams for the girls' future are reliant on a God who brings hope to the hopeless and light in the darkness.

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In a rural village in the Democratic Republic of Congo, two-year-old Claude lost his mother to illness. Claude's father then abandoned him and his three siblings, moving elsewhere to work. He never returned. The children were grateful that their grandmother took them in, but the pain of loss and rejection left them with deep inner wounds.

It is to vulnerable children such as these that God has called His people to show compassion and bring love, hope and healing. The Care Workers in Kitabatata, volunteers from the local church, have responded to this call. When they first met Claude and his family, they immediately stepped in to help. Claude soon began receiving a daily nutritious meal and health care for the first time in his life. He was enrolled in school where he now studies, with an aspiration to help other people in need. Claude, once abandoned himself, is a Care Worker in the making with a passion to share the love he has experienced.

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