

# Sewpportive Friends

A stitch of compassion goes a long way.

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*Join us in our journey, as we help women in Africa by providing them with handmade, reusable feminine products.*

## HAPPY June!

Flowers are in bloom, vegetable gardens are planted, and birds are singing as the early daylight appears. Wherever you call home, we send our love, gratitude and wishes for a happy and healthy season.

My goodness! We have been blessed with some amazing friends who have generously donated funding, and others who have been producing all winter and spring. Hundreds of padlets and over a thousand inserts have arrived to our packing location over the past few weeks. We are truly grateful for the love, compassion and incredible support from ALL of you! It's so amazing to know how many girls will be empowered by your love.

♥ Julie



## ACTIVITY News

As some of you might know, we are currently working with the communities of Sianyanga, Lupinyu and Silungudzi. Our goal is to teach and encourage them to produce enough to create a sustainable infrastructure that impacts and directly benefits all of the women in their communities.



We have also assisted other non-profit organizations based in Zimbabwe: Precious Pearls and Jafuta Foundation. By sharing our mission, production information and the Sewpportive Friends padlet/insert pattern, we can help more girls and more families. They are doing tremendous work for other communities in Zimbabwe.

## Sianyanga Sewing Group

Sianyanga is a village which is located in the Dete area of Zimbabwe on the border of Hwange National Park. Their Sewpportive Friends sewing group consists of women from different tribes including Shona, Ndebele, Nambya, and Tonga.

The group meets at Sianyanga Primary School ([www.sianyanga.org](http://www.sianyanga.org)) weekly to sew the feminine hygiene items. We are thrilled to hear more women have joined the group. They have been busy! We just received word that they are finished with all the sewing supplies which we delivered last November and are in need of more fabric, snaps, and thread.

With the kindness and assistance of Isabel Lynch ([www.hwange-schools.com](http://www.hwange-schools.com)) and Dominic Nyathi ([www.painteddog.org](http://www.painteddog.org)), we were able to provide two non-electric sewing machines for the Sianyanga group. Production is now faster and more efficient.

Edson Munsaka, Teacher at Sianyanga Primary School, has been wonderful in sending updates, photos and videos of the activities of the group. Additionally, Dominic provides updates when he visits the school. Both friends have been great in keeping us connected with their community. We are so grateful to see their progress. Amazing work is happening!

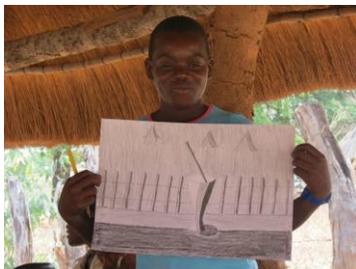


Julie created a website for their school to share their curriculum, school life, activities, and raise awareness to this area and their needs. Please visit [www.sianyanga.org](http://www.sianyanga.org).

We are looking forward to visiting with all of them this July.

### Rise N Shine Trust

Rise N Shine Trust is an after-school girls club operated by Sfe Sebata and Shorai Matambanadzo. Their philosophy is "the art of doing is the art of learning." Sfe and Shorai are talented artists and teach the children poetry, dance, drama, painting, drawing, sculpting, sewing, and much more. They believe that art contributes to building confidence and assertiveness in young people whose circumstances are not always "favorable to their growth, education and their environment."



We are pleased to have met them in November and to teach their club members how to produce a safe and healthy option to manage their menstruation. Julie also provided the club with two non-electric sewing machines. Sfe and Shorai are keeping us up-to-date with their progress. We enjoy

seeing photos of their group in action. Keep up the great work!



You can see a few photos of the sewing project on their website ([www.risenshinetrust.org](http://www.risenshinetrust.org)).

We will be visiting with them in July as well. See you soon girls!

### White Waters High School

White Waters High School is located in Silungudzi (Matopos area). In an earlier newsletter, we shared some interesting facts of this region. This region is sometimes called "the wilderness of granite" and is home to leopard, rhino, giraffe, zebra, and much more. It is a truly unique region filled with history, breathtaking landscape, wildlife, and incredible people.



Two sewing machines arrived in early May for our friends at White Waters. They offer a sewing class as part of the curriculum. Teaching the staff and girls how to sew the padlets was a fun time and they always treat us to special songs before we depart. Lead Teacher, Isabel, has been tremendous in sending photos and updates on the girl's progress and school activities.

A special thank you to Dave, Lin and Tawanda from Big Cave Camp for delivering the sewing machines and providing updates, photos and videos. We look forward to staying with you again in July ([www.bigcavecamp.com](http://www.bigcavecamp.com)).

Hwange National Park is home to all five of Africa's Big Five species which include: elephant, lion, Cape buffalo, leopard, and rhino.

### TRAVEL Ideas

This July, we will be traveling to a new village and meeting with school leaders to discuss Sewpportive Friends working with their community. We will introduce the SF kits and plan to get a sewing group started there in November.

Our travel plans for this coming November are confirmed. If anyone is interested in traveling to Zimbabwe or other parts of Africa, please feel free to reach out to us and we will assist you in planning a trip of a life-time! You will visit a village Sewpportive Friends is working with, deliver sewing supplies, experience a celebration of gratitude of song and dance, and safari. Zimbabwe is simply beautiful with a vast amount of wildlife; elephant, lion, leopard, cheetah, zebra, giraffe, hippopotamus, painted dog, and the list goes on.... And if you are into bird watching, you will be overwhelmed! Feel free to drop us an email and we are happy to provide more information.

All of our friends in these communities are so grateful for the support and love. We have been posting photos and videos on our Facebook page. We will be adding to our website soon too. The photos and videos express their sincere gratitude for all of the Sewpporters assisting their community.



The following is a beautiful poem written by a special young lady and friend, Babongile.

#### **The way to my future**

Wigy-wogy it goes  
Down the river that flows  
Up the mountain that shows  
The great glory  
That is my path to my future  
No matter the tears, pain  
But all that matters is my path  
Challenges may come but they say what  
comes up comes down  
Tragics may descend  
But I know the future has something for me in store  
That is my path to my future

Written by Babongile of Dewe, Zimbabwe

