

Uniting Church in Australia

St Margaret's, Mooroolbark

Postal Address: PO Box 306, Mooroolbark, Vic, 3138



MIVA

Vijverstraat 12

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Netherlands

Dear Inge,

I write to support the application by Rubaga Youth Development Association for vehicle and computer assistance. St. Margaret's Uniting Church has been a small scale consistent supporter of this organisation for over fifteen years. We guarantee that every dollar donated to this organisation, either as direct funds or in the form of material goods as being requested on this occasion, is fully used to support orphaned and vulnerable children.

As our treasurer has recently written:

When we started out we gave skipping ropes, music tapes and balls. These were given to street children who never owned anything. We had a special rugged computer made for Geoffrey that was the RYDA first ever computer – one that would need the minimum of maintenance but enabled them to produce professional reports, class work and make representation to Government for grants. We enabled them to buy their first chickens when they moved out to their farm. Then we gave money to buy pigs. This meant that they were on their way to becoming self sufficient.

We enabled them to store water in the wet season by providing their first tank. The girls who were training as seamstresses won a contract years ago to make uniforms for a school. We gave them the seeding money to buy the first fabric to allow them to make the first uniforms to sell and then to be able to fund future fabric purchases.

Recently we provided the subsidy they needed (\$9000US) to attract a large grant from the International Labour Organisation which enabled them to tackle the problem of child labour. Can you imagine small children 8 and 9 years old who spent their lives in a quarry starting each day with a huge rock and belting it into a small heap of gravel by the end of the day? This project has enabled a large number of children to be placed in school with the chance of a quality education.

This project, like much of RYDA's other work involves, travelling to communities to work with adult groups to overcome the circumstances that create street children, and to document family backgrounds so families can be reunited with lost children. An effective reliable vehicle is essential for this work and many other aspects of RYDA's outreach. Recently that work became instantly impossible when the gearbox of their aging vehicle failed completely. It was fortunate that our small fundraising activities had recently gathered \$US1000 which we were able to transfer immediately for repair and service of this vehicle and their motorbike. But that is a temporary measure. That vehicle needs to be replaced.

On the computing side, it is obvious from the application documents you have received that RYDA has come far in its use of technology since that first machine we donated. As the organisation becomes increasingly successful, more modern equipment will be essential.

So, let me repeat our support for this application and encourage you to grant all that is asked. Further, since both vehicles and computers have a comparatively short useable life, let me encourage you to build a system which supports RYDA with updated equipment every five years.

Yours sincerely,

Douglas Williams, RYDA Support Co-ordinator, St. Margaret's Uniting Church, Australia