

# HANDS AT WORK IN AFRICA

## RACECOURSE COMMUNITY

### ZAMBIA | KITWE REGION

Many men are absent from their families and their responsibilities in the community of Racecourse, where alcohol abuse, theft, prostitution and early pregnancy are prevalent. The level of poverty is such that many parents are unable to pay for the required school supplies for their children and many fail to see the benefit of an education and so do not send their children to school. The lack of responsibility can most easily be seen when walking the streets of Racecourse, which are littered with all kinds of rubbish and surrounded by bars.

In 2007, Rhoda heard a visitor speak at her church about the church's responsibility to care for the orphaned and the vulnerable. Feeling convicted, together with a few friends and neighbours, she committed to helping the orphaned in Racecourse. Immediately, Rhoda started an informal feeding programme and though there were many challenges, including the struggle to feed her own family, she was committed to caring for the children in her community. With her friends, Rhoda inspired other people to join her in serving the children in Racecourse, and together they, as the Care Workers, become parental figures to many children in the community. It was through their passion and dedication that the Rise and Shine Community Based Organisation (CBO) was born.

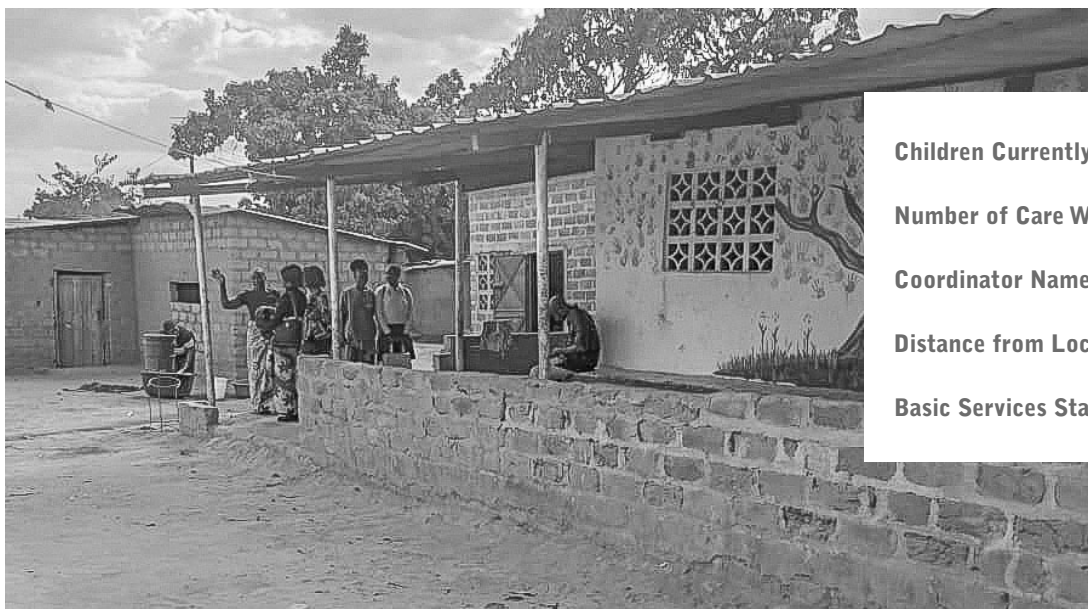
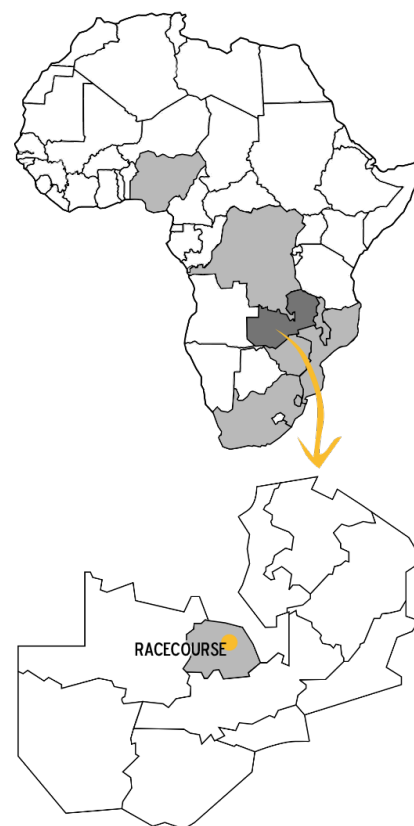
In 2008, Hands at Work began partnering with the Rise and Shine CBO, supporting the Care Workers in their commitment to caring for the children. To address the most essential needs of the orphaned and vulnerable children in Racecourse, the Care Workers provide each child with basic health care, support with their education and a hot, nutritious meal daily.

When the Rise and Shine CBO started, Rhoda had a dream to start a community school geared towards the most vulnerable children who were unable to afford school fees or uniforms. Her dream came true and today, 49 children attend the community school in Racecourse, while also coming to the Life Centre. Here, the children are provided with basic school supplies like exercise books and pencils and are surrounded by Care Workers who love them deeply and are committed teaching them.

As Rise and Shine CBO, the Care Workers visit the children in their homes to ensure they are being cared for and know they are loved. Visiting orphaned and vulnerable children in their homes is the foundation of everything that the Care Workers do. They build strong relationships with the children and provide physical, emotional and spiritual care. Though Rhoda has now moved away from Racecourse and is no longer involved in the Rise and Shine CBO, she leaves a legacy of determination and commitment to fighting on behalf of the children.

At the beginning of 2016, the Racecourse Life Centre moved to the new location with enough space for 150 of the most vulnerable children to play and spend time together. In 2020, new toilets were constructed and shelves put up in the storeroom, and a new kitchen structure with doors and locks has replaced the old one, which was previously insecure. Fence trees have been planted all around the Life Centre to discourage unwelcome entry and to demarcate the area.

The land next to the Life Centre has been purchased with the hope of building a structure for the Under 5's program and a home for the Life Centre's caretaker. This land will allow the children lots of space to run and play.



Children Currently Supported **150**

Number of Care Workers **18**

Coordinator Name **John**

Distance from Local Office **5km**

Basic Services Started In **2008**