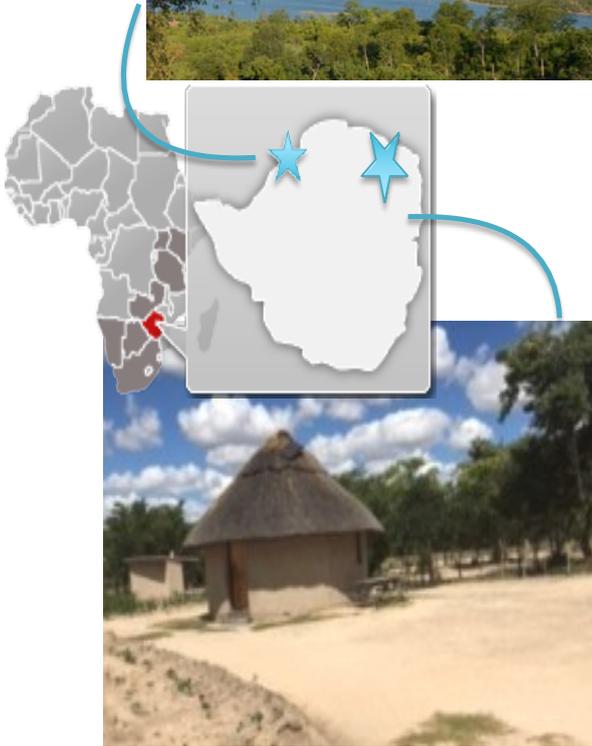


PRESS RELEASE

WALK WITH ME Across Zimbabwe

Vana Trust founder embarks on 225 km Walk Across Zimbabwe to celebrate the charity's 13th Anniversary



Nyasha Gwatidzo, Vana Trust's founder, Liam Garcia, Thandi Haruperi and a group of volunteers are taking on an exciting challenge to mark the charity's 13th anniversary.

This year's walk will start at Manyushwa Primary School in Zimbabwe, and over a period of ten days (from the **29th May 2017 to 10th June 2017**) the team will walk through a total of thirteen (13) schools, finishing at St. David's Primary School in Chihota. Nyasha will be conducting structured presentations on business & entrepreneurship and personal development as well as raising awareness for mental disability at key schools along the route. These workshops will inspire the youth and the wider community to aspire beyond their current circumstances and kickstart sustainable community projects. Vana Trust would like to continue supporting the children's education and their upkeep in their Zimbabwean community.

Since it was created, Vana Trust has championed and promoted empowerment through education, thus enriching the lives of vulnerable children and young adults in the UK and in Zimbabwe.

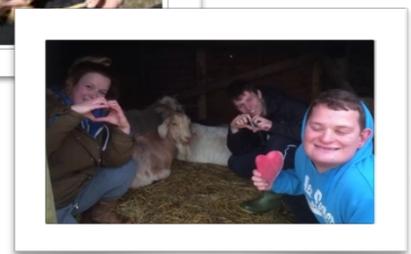
Let us remind you what we do. VANA TRUST is a charity which raises funds for:

1. **Schoolchildren in Zimbabwe** (with prospects to expand to other regions of Subsaharan Africa) who are orphaned or whose parents, affected by HIV/AIDS, are not able to pay for their education.

2. **Vana Trust Organic Farm.** An 8 acre farm in Buckinghamshire UK, which was created to provide a safe educational setting for young adults affected by emotional and learning difficulties to gain new skills, confidence, physical fitness and integrate into the community.

Vana Trust has made a significant difference to the hundreds of individuals whose lives it has touched. Hear from two of them:

"Vana Trust Farm is a fun and friendly environment which has given me confidence, skills and experiences which I would never have had the chance to learn or partake in otherwise.





You leave with a sense of achievement, new friends and a smile."

Jack

"Thank you very much for everything you are doing in my life...the laptop, the shoes, school fees and medical aid.

Placement results are out... I managed to come up with 2 distinctions and a 2.1"

Vimbai

The funds raised on this walk will, therefore...

- Provide St. David's School, in Zimbabwe, with a much needed **Science Lab**, as well as repair a borehole for both schoolchildren and villagers to have **access to clean water**.
- Allow us to build a **livestock barn needed to** keep a wider range of animals at Vana Trust Organic Farm in England. The funds are also needed to develop further activities and experiences for our vulnerable trainees



Nyasha says,

"I am very excited to be marking Vana Trust's 13th anniversary in this challenging manner. I have surrendered to the encouragement of many organizations, family, friends and supporters. Please sponsor me in whichever way you can, as, with your support, we can make a difference to people's lives across the world."

Please CONTACT US if you would like to join us in all or part of the walk and GET SPONSORED yourself! Or perhaps you would like to make a DONATION on the Walk Across Zimbabwe Just Giving page at <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Nyasha-Gwatidzo1>

Organizations can support us by sponsoring the event and/or donating supplies and farming or other equipment. We also welcome the support of Restaurants and Hotels which can sponsor us by donating meals and accommodation at the team's scheduled stops. So... Go ahead! Sponsor us and **TAKE A CHANCE ON MAKING A REAL DIFFERENCE!**

A word from Cherie Blair. Vana

Trust is... "contributing to the community in both the UK and Africa. In Africa, Vana Trust sponsors the education and overall wellbeing of children affected by HIV/AIDS and poverty in Zimbabwe. It is also involved in supporting women through training and micro-financing."

There is so much more we can do, and your support will ensure that Vana Trust can change the lives of even more individuals and their carers.

To find out how you can help, please contact our administrator Katy Farnell on 07972153778 or katy@vanatrust.org.uk

For more information consult our website www.vanatrust.org.uk
or the event page at

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Nyasha-Gwatidzo1>

On Twitter @walkwithmenet

On Facebook @walkwithmenetwork

Hashtag #WalkWithNyasha

On LinkedIn <https://www.linkedin.com/company/vana-trust>

VANA TRUST is a registered charity 1105276

NOTE TO EDITORS

- All images have been cleared by appropriate responsible adults.
- Vana Trust was founded in 2004 and the farm was set-up in 2009. It has sponsored the education of over a thousand children in Zimbabwe. It also helps those with learning disabilities gain confidence and practical skills through farming at a small farm in Ludgershall, Bucks, endorsed by Bucks County Council, Bucks Community Foundation and the MacIntyre Charity.
- Achievements at the farm include: the setup of Management and Fundraising Committee, a successful grant for a new polytunnel, a tea room conversion, construction of raised beds, new chicken and goat pens, organic status, the annual Summer Fete, planting, harvesting and selling at local shows with a profit of over £1,000.
- In Zimbabwe Vana Trust has provided St. David's school with books, a computer, water and repair supplies. The trust continues to support the children after they leave school by funding for further education and training. Young adults are encouraged to develop small businesses and trades through micro-financing and training schemes. The Trust plans to expand its activities in Africa to support more children and other schools.
- Many people have benefited from attending the Trust Farm thus accessing higher education after, which is halfway to finding relevant employment.
- We have raised over £10,000 in funds, and every pound has gone directly to the projects in the UK and Zimbabwe.
- The success of the farm has enabled us to extend our programme to offer work experience to special educational needs schools, open days, school visits and group visits.