

# Send a Swazi child to school this Christmas

VMC's Medical Journalist Michelle Brear is currently doing her PhD through Monash University in Melbourne to investigate expanding and improving facilities for vulnerable children in Swaziland. She donates her time to Matjana Community Preschool where the study is being conducted and helps raise money to keep the school running and support its students.

Matjana Preschool and community kitchen looks after 30 five year old children from Ndabeni area of Kaphunga chiefdom. The fundraising team work on a voluntary basis and we have very few overhead expenses, so all the money you give goes to buy primary school supplies for children, wages for our teachers (three women from the local area) or other things that benefit kids directly.

Although Swaziland introduced free primary school education 6 years ago, children are only allowed to attend primary school if their parents buy them a uniform, shoes, books and stationary. This is out of the realm of affordability for many families, 70% of which live in poverty as subsistence farmers. Getting an education is impossible for kids who are orphaned- about 110,000 children out of a total population of just over one million.

This Christmas, we are raising money to keep the preschool running and buy uniforms for needy students who will go on to primary next year. **\$100 will send a child to school for a whole year where they will also be fed and get social support.**

If you can raise some money at your work Christmas party, do a collection amongst friends and family or make a personal contribution, we can ensure your money helps a child in Swaziland with education. For further details see our website: <https://sites.google.com/a/matjanapreschool.org/www/> or email [mbrear@matjanapreschool.org](mailto:mbrear@matjanapreschool.org). To make a donation please use our Australian bank account banks account (Bank: The Community Mutual Group | Account name: Friends of Matjana Preschool Inc | BSB: 932000 | Account: 719585 and email our treasurer [fortunatenate@matjanapreschool.org](mailto:fortunatenate@matjanapreschool.org) to let her know you have made a contribution and tell her how she should distribute it (to the preschool or a needy child).



Matjana students learning



2012 graduation ceremony- Matjana students and teacher Fortunete Sihlongonyane