

Thanks for the Pencil Project

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Last year's Pencil Project has been declared closed. Here's how things finished up, and a message of thanks.

Thanks for the Pencil Project

Last year, VicSuper and Rotary District 9810 asked whether we could spare a pencil for Zimbabwean children who had nothing to write with. Some St Paul's members also supported this project; and one year on, the state-wide response is nothing short of inspirational. This appeal is now closed, with sincere thanks.

Education is crucial to breaking the cycle of destitution and disease that affects millions of children in Zimbabwe. Yet the barriers include some of the simplest things: for example, the children attending schools had nothing to write with. The pencil project aimed to collect the equivalent of one pencil for every school child in Victoria — all 900,000 of them — to send to Zimbabwe. The response was generous and immediate, such that more than a million pencils, crayons, and chinks have flooded the appeal coordinators.

With the appeal now closed, so far more than 600,000 items have been packed into 400 shipment boxes, with more than another 400,000 to go. This open-hearted response will help the poorly-resourced schools in Zimbabwe educate their students — starting with learning how to write.

Elizabeth Stevenson

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