

## The year of the Warthog.

### 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Run for Zimbabwe Orphans and Fair

A benefit for Makumbi Children's Home, an orphanage that serves 100 children.

#### 2019 Projects:

1. Micro grants to the teens graduating from the orphanage. The teens utilizing these grants are: Ablant Tinashe, Annah chizhanje, Chipo Mutero, Tanyaradzwa Chikoza, Charity Tinashe and Tafadzwa Chombo.
2. Repairs of water pipes [plumbing], electricals, ceilings, roofs, repainting for all houses at the Children's Home

## The Warthog.



Neither graceful nor beautiful, warthogs are nonetheless remarkable animals. They are found in most of Africa south of the Sahara and are widely distributed in East Africa. They are the only pigs able to live in areas without water for several months of the year. By tolerating a higher-than-normal body temperature, the warthog is perhaps able to conserve moisture inside its body that might otherwise be used for cooling. (Camels and desert gazelles have developed a similar mechanism for survival in hot, arid environments.

The warthog characteristically carries its tail upright when it runs, the tuft waving like a tiny flag. As the young run in single file, the tail position may serve as a signal to keep them all together. Warthogs trot with a springy gait but they are known to run surprisingly fast. When cornered, the warthog will defend itself and can inflict severe wounds with its tusks, particularly the lower sharp ones. Tusks are ever-growing canine teeth.

## Makumbi Children's Home.

Makumbi Children's Home established in 1930 has seen great changes over the years. The institution has soldiered on, brought change to many lives that may have been lost, brought hope to people and continue to do so. This has gone on during periods of plenty, but also during periods of scarcity, great poverty and economic hardships.

**SURVIVAL** is key and a main characteristic of the warthog. They are the only pigs able to live in areas without water for several months of the year. Similarly – as Makumbi Children's Home – we wish to continue doing the good work and bringing the best out of the children even during dry periods of life. The economy of Zimbabwe is not encouraging, but with the survival techniques of the warthog – we shall soldier on!

**CONSERVATION.** – Warthogs have techniques of conserving that which it has in its body. The Home has to receive and keep what it has. This refers to different forms of gifts, donations in cash and kind so that they will be useful in times of need. Thus, in times of drought and economic hardships, the friends of Makumbi, particularly Sustainable Living Foundation, has been able to conserve the friendship and the care it gives.

**EXCEPTIONAL HIDDEN TALENT** - Warthogs run fast than one would expect.

Makumbi Children's Home has achieved great heights than many expected. For instance, in 2018, it successfully managed to wean off older children who grew out of care. Also, courtesy of the help, the increased investment in education saw a number managing to perform surprisingly well. Two of our senior children who moved out of the Home, successful graduated with degree programs from the Middle State University (MSU).



## **The Warthog cares for the Young. Warthogs live in Family groups.**

Warthogs live in family groups of a female and her young. Sometimes another female will join the group.

## **Makumbi System of Mothers caring day to day for the Children.**

In the family houses that Makumbi Children live in, they are cared for by one house mother. There are also some mothers who work on relief who joining the family when the house mother is not on duty, usually for 8 days per month.

## **Warthogs system of weaning off its young.**

Before giving birth to a new litter, the female chases away the litter she has been raising and secludes herself. These juveniles may join up with another solitary female for a short time before they go on their own.

## **Makumbi System of weaning off.**

Makumbi Children's Home has a system in which when the children grow up, they start slowly to move out of the Home as they start going to school, then some to boarding schools and as they move to higher tertiary studies like University programs or vocational trainings. Some may be reunited with their families while some may be fostered. In this way they begin new families and continue to receive care and support until an opportune time that they go on their own as they would have grown out of care and weaned off through reunification and micro-grants financing in the form of exit packages.

By Fr Admire Nhika SJ.