



**Golder Trust
for Orphans**



SNAPSHOT

Name of the Project:

Rhotia Valley Tented Lodge and Children's Home

Type of Project:

Grant Equity Project

Location:

Tanzania

Number of Orphans Being Supported:

30+



Rhotia Valley Tented Lodge and Children's Home is a project in the village of Rhotia Valley, Tanzania. Profits generated from a tented lodge located on the edge of the Ngorongoro Crater are used to fund a children's home that is currently caring for over 30 orphans from the local community who would otherwise have nowhere else to live. All profits from the Tented Lodge go directly to the Children's Home, through which they can pay their daily costs, notably food, drinks, clothing and school fees.

Rhotia Valley Tented Lodge and Children's Home is the dream and achievement of Marise Koch, a Dutch doctor who has relocated to Tanzania and dedicated her life to developing the village of Rhotia Valley by building positive futures for the village's children.

Says Marise, "Because children are the future, we would like to help children aged between 6 and 16 from Rhotia valley, in a way that the whole village is committed and the villagers themselves can embrace and feel part of the project. So that the project is carried by the community itself, with as little help as possible from outside."

Not only do all the children from the home come from Rhotia Valley, but all the people working at the lodge and caring for the children are also from the local community. The local village council is very supportive of the project, and Marise has developed outstanding relationships with local schools, churches and village elders.

The Rhotia Valley Children's Home consists of three houses, each containing room for twelve children, one house mother and one aunt, to create a family like atmosphere in each home. There are two maintenance staff who take care of the cleaning and daily repairs and maintenance of the homes, and who often play soccer with the children, and help them to develop their creativity through arts and crafts activities.

There also is a conference hall where community workshops and educational lessons about health, AIDS, nutrition, computers, sports, and arts and crafts are given.

A day at Rhotia Valley Children's Home starts with a long walk to school. After school in the afternoon they play soccer, Frisbee or do arts and crafts, but they also clean and wash their clothes and participate in keeping their beds and rooms neat and tidy. These are activities that all the children in Tanzania need to learn very early and do themselves. The children also help with the preparation of food, to help them to learn basic skills that will serve them all their lives.

With financial support from the Golder Trust for Orphans, the Tented Lodge and Children's Home have been able to improve their water pumping and heating systems, ensuring clean, hot water for tented lodge guests and the children. More projects are being planned for the future

Where to Find More Information

Visit www.rhotiavalley.com to learn more about this project.