

This school bus route is going to be a long one, going from North Dundas Twp. All the way to a Nigerian orphanage

A long, long school bus route

North Dundas Twp. group prepares to ship bus to Nigerian orphanage

By **TOM VAN DUSEN**

CHESTERVILLE --It may not be a traditional Christmas colour, but yellow will dominate when officials from a Nigerian orphanage open their super-sized gift from North Dundas Twp. sometime in December.

A 48-passenger 1993 Bluebird International school bus is what will roll out of the shipping container thanks to the generosity of Wubs Transportation Services, which is currently having some minor body work done to the unusual gift.



TOM VAN DUSEN/SUN MEDIA

Nanda Wubs, left, and Suzanne Akintunde are preparing a 48-seat bus for shipment to Nigeria, where it will serve the needs of a Children of Promise Ministries orphanage. The bus will be stuffed with useful items before being shipped.

A long, long school bus route *(continued)*

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2 of 2

LONG JOURNEY

Sometime within the next two weeks, company co-owner Nanda Wubs plans to drive the bus to Montreal, where it'll begin its long journey, with most shipping costs paid by corporate sponsors.

And the gift package won't end with the bus itself. Inside, it'll be stuffed with useful items for the orphanage, everything from four donated chainsaws to cough medication, diapers, clothing, educational materials and toys.

Some basic farm equipment is also being included because the shelter operated by the Children of Promise Ministries also plans to produce its own food on 2-3 acres.

As orphanage director Dayo Idowu reported in an e-mail, the orphanage hopes to grow tomatoes, corn, onions, peppers and other vegetables so that "we can feed from the field."

"We need medical supplies for the sick bay we are setting up," Idowu said. "We plan to use this area also for our children to see visiting doctors and nurses."

While he lamented not having any funds at his end, Idowu said he'll borrow if necessary to help bring over the magic bus.

'GOD WILL PROVIDE'

"Whenever the bus is ready to sail off, God will provide."

The bus is pretty well full, but there's always room for a little more, said Wubs, who can be reached at wubsfamily@yahoo.ca. And if there's enough overflow, a second container could be sent.

The project took off after Wubs was told about the orphanage by local teacher Suzanne Akintunde, who recently married a Nigerian. While there was a van on hand, something larger was required to transport the children.

As it turned out, when Timothy Christian School outside Williamsburg where Akintunde teaches scaled back its contracted transportation service because of declining enrolment, Wubs and husband Richard wound up with an extra bus which still had some mileage left in it.

"We could have sold it but we decided to try to make a difference with it instead," Nanda said.