

CHIREDZI CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S VILLAGE FIRST QUARTER REPORT



"All your children shall be taught by the Lord, and great shall be the peace of your children."
Isaiah 54:13



CURRENT ENROLMENT

TOTAL = 57

HOUSE	BOYS	GIRLS
	5	3
MT GILEAD	4	4
	4	3
CAPTAIN STERE	3	4
	4	5
C. MILLER	5	4
	7	2
	32	25
GRAND TOTAL		57

NEW CHILDREN

-During the first quarter, no child was received at the village.

DISCHARGED CHILDREN

Prudence was re-united with her family members in Harare after finishing writing her Ordinary level exams. Prudence came to the village when she was very young. Her relatives were unknown since she was dumped in the hospital by her mother. Her relatives were later found in 2020. After that, her relatives started to visit her and even to take her for holidays. It was an emotional day to everyone.

Prudence is a smart hardworking girl who loves interior décor. She was the one who doing décor in the church. However, there is a probability that we are going to provide her with college fees as well as other basic needs in case she passes,



Education

After closing school in December last year, children had a long holiday which extended to the end of January 2022. In this case, social worker interns were tasked to work as educators with children so as to equip them with a good head start. A timetable was drafted which allows social workers to interact with children of all age groups. Taking a closer look, these educational lessons were successful to a great extent. This is because some children who were not able to read and write improved very much due to these lessons. High school students were also having some presentations in front of other children as way of boosting their confidence. During lessons each and every student was forced to participate as a way of imparting listening skills and also to concentrate whilst they are in classroom. Social workers also train these children to be always punctual in every aspect of life because once time is lost, it is never being recovered. In addition, the student social workers also helped children to do their holiday homework which they were assigned to do by their teachers. The main reason of doing lessons with the children is to

produce the best students at Chiredzi Christian Children's Village with excellent results thus preparing them to have a better tomorrow.

Since children did not have access to education due to COVID-19 lockdowns last year, the institution decided to incorporate our former child Tinashe Marecha (who is a qualified teacher), at the village. He is doing extra lessons with the children. Tinashe is teaching grade 6-7 students and also secondary students from form 1-4. Violet, the preschool teacher is also doing extra lessons with grade one up to grade five students. Taking a closer assessment, extra lessons helped the kids to a great extent. There has been a drastic change when it comes to their academic performance. Children are now taking school work seriously. We are doing this because we want the best out of our students. We are looking forward to producing doctors, nurses and teachers amongst our kids at the village.



Tinashe and the kids



Violet doing some reading lessons with kids

Back to school

Schools were opened on the 7th of February. Every child is now going to school at the village except for Calvin Manenji who is mentally handicapped. On exam classes we have got Anna Shumba, Kudakwashe Matsvaire and Nommater Mpofu who are in grade 7. In form 4, we have three children namely Loveness Vhelemu, Delight Dube and Abiot Mutupo. We wish these children to succeed in their exams so that they will lift the flag of Chiredzi Christian Children's Village high. Tinevimbo and Rumbidzai did very well in their Grade 7 examinations and they got 21 and 18 units respectively. They are now doing form 1 at our sister school (Chiredzi Christian College).

The table below shows the number of students we have in each educational level

Educational Level	Number of children
ECD	8
Grade 1	7
Grade 2	2

Grade 3	3
Grade 4	9
Grade 5	2
Grade 6	1
Grade 7	3
Form 1	2
Form 2	1
Form 3	4
Form 4	3
Form 5	-
Form 6	-

END OF TERM PERFORMANCE

The end of term results are very pleasing. Our children performed better than last year, and for primary the pass rate is at 97% and for High School there is a great improvement from everyone. We really appreciate that. We really thank all the members of staff for making this happen. All who performed better than what they did last term will get some prizes.

We have 10 children at halfway houses, 8 boys and 2 girls. Nikiwe Banda has finished up his plumbing course and now he is looking for a job and also awaits discharge. Desmond is finishing his Accounting Degree at Midlands State University in August. Tinashe is doing a diploma in Boiler Making at Mutare Polytechnic College and is finishing this year. Brighton

HALFWAY HOUSES

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Making at Mutare Polytechnic College and is finishing this year. Brighton is studying a Higher Diploma in Information Technology at Masvingo Polytechnic College. Brighton is studying a Bachelor's Degree in Electrical Engineering at Bindura University of Science Education and he is finishing his second year. John is studying a Bachelor's Degree in Social Work at Women University in Africa and is studying a Higher Diploma in Information Technology at Masvingo Polytechnic College.

STAFF. Our staff members are all well and we really appreciate the role they are playing in serving this special group we are looking after. It's very unfortunate that Dennis, groundsman at the Boys' Halfway House, resigned. We worked well with him and we wished him the best on his future endeavors.

PSYCHOSOCIAL AND CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES

Psychosocial and capacity building activities are activities which are done to reduce the tension of the mind. On the other hand psychosocial and capacity building activities are strategies that target biological, behavioural, cognitive, emotional, interpersonal, social, or environmental factors with the aim of improving health functioning and well-being. Children at the village have got different emotional traumas. Some are victims of sexual abuse, verbal abuse, physical abuse and also the abandoned just to mention a few. Therefore, social workers are always come up with the idea of restoring their social functioning since mental health is a vital matter which is supposed to be taken very serious. Psychosocial and capacity building activities which were done during the first quarter are as follows.

a. Knowledge games

In this case, a facilitator of the game have to jot down some alphabetical letters from A-Z on a piece of paper. After that one of the people in the game is supposed to close his or her eyes and point one of the letters which are written on that small piece of paper then opened the eyes .Then all people in the game must write the name of a person, name of an animal, colour, place and a type of a food which starts with that pointed

letter. This is done within a given time frame. For instance, let's say the pointed letter is 'G'. The name of a person, animal, colour, place and type of food will be as follows

Name of the person	Name of the animal	Colour	Place	Food
Godknows	Goat	Green	Gweru	Grilled chicken

Having a close examination, this knowledge game freshens up the mind since children will be having some joyous moments and it sharpens their minds to be creative.

b. **Story telling**

This enables children to develop some important skills in life. These skills include listening skills which are important to children since they will be able to listen to other people and show empathy. Story telling time also promotes interaction of children and also sharing of ideas. Story telling is also important as it widens and broadens the knowledge base of our children, thus clearly elaborates that story telling is important in promoting psychosocial support to the kids.

c. **Music- singing and dancing**

-This is important in the mental health of the children because when children are singing and dancing they will be full of energy therefore this energy can be channelled in a positive way, thus restoring the feeling of normality to the children.

-Music encourages wider participation to the kids as well building solidarity amongst the kids

d. **swimming**

We would like to thank Pastor Mark and Mrs Burbidge and swim coach Lana Pinto who are offering some free swimming lessons to the kids. These lessons are very important because:

- They keep heart rate up while takes some of the impact stress off from the body
- Builds endurance, muscle strength and cardiovascular fitness
- Helps maintain a healthy weight, healthy heart and lungs
- It is a life skill
- Provides an all-over body workout, as nearly all muscles are used during swimming, thus deduce the importance of swimming



e. Girls talk

In this case, social workers were advising children to take good care of themselves, especially on hygiene issues. Girls were being advised to wash their bodies regularly, keep their nails short, and do their household chores just to mention a few. Chaplain on the other hand advises girls to keep their bodies as ‘God’s temple’ because this protect them from predators which can cause early child marriages as well as spread of Sexual Transmitted Diseases and HIV/AIDS.

f. Capacitating children through making mats

One of our interns initiated a mat project. This project is meant to equip children with hand life skills. This project is of paramount importance since

it generates income for the village. Children can also earn a living using such skill in their life after institutionalization. It is our wish that we will give these mats to some of our visitors as gifts



Enita (the intern) teaching kids on how to make mats

g. Teaching children on budgeting, responsibility, accountability and all financial related issues

We managed to teach children especially those in colleges and universities on the issue of budgeting. Whilst away, they usually receive some money for rent, food and other amenities, so with the assistance of Regis (the financial clerk) and Mrs Pruet t, we managed to train them on how they can make requisitions, how they can budget their money as well as how they must be transparent (through acquitting receipts and providing genuine requests) and accountable. This is a life skill to these children. We also included some older children who are still at High School.



The big guys listening to financial related issues from Mrs Pruett (on TV screen)

CHURCH ACTIVITIES

The church service is now done at the same time i.e. village members are now having the service with those from the community. It is because of the relaxation of the COVID-19 measures. The village also focused on devotions which are done on Monday and Friday, facilitated by Chaplain. Then there are also some short devotions which mothers and their children do in their houses. During holidays, children take turns in leading these devotions.

AWANA GAMES AND LESSONS

We are also doing AWANA lessons and games. AWANA lessons are playing a vital role in teaching our kids Christian principles. As kids spend time doing fun challenges with each other and their leaders, it can lead to a greater sense of belonging and community, and this can pave the way to deeper interest in what this community is centered around which is Jesus Christ and His love for us. Many types of educative

games are being played and they are even promoting team work, group integration and social interaction. The Chaplain (Shylene) is the one who facilitates in these lessons and games. Pre-school kids also have AWANA lessons every Wednesday.



Chaplain doing AWANA lessons with the kids

PROJECTS

1 . Pre-School

First term started well even though we had few children this term than what we used to have. Schools opened on the 7 of February for first term. Violet, the pre-school head is making sure that every kid is following the measures enacted by World Health Organisation (WHO) to prevent the spread of Corona Virus. Pre-school is one of the most important projects at the village since it is generating income and it is self-sustainable. Our young kids are benefiting too since there is no

issue of traveling and they are able to interact other children from the community.

2. Poultry project

We are doing a chicken project and currently we have got 248 chickens and they are producing an average of 7 crates of eggs a day. In this regard, this project was initiated so that children will be able to get a balanced diet. We are also selling the surplus to generate income for the village



Layers cage

5. Garden Project

There are many beautiful developments taking place on the yards and gardens for example growing of lawn, maintain and cutting of grass as well the maintaining of the car park. The grounds men are also pegging house gardens at each and every house. We want to plant some tomatoes and vegetables for family consumption. This will be good for children since they will be able to learn some skills and expertise which will even help them in the future. This also play a role in creating the issue of togetherness as well as a sense of ownership. The village main garden is no longer being utilised since the space wants to accommodate a playground for the kids. The home garden (halfway

house boys) is producing a lot food. We harvested some peanuts and maize this year.



Green lawn at the village yard

Aquaponics

We are also experimenting an aquaponics project. Aquaponics is a food production system that couples aquaculture (raising fish in tanks) with the hydroponics (cultivating plants in water) whereby the nutrient-rich aquaculture water is fed to hydroponically-grown plants. If it produces better results, we will expand the project from two tanks to 8. This will play a role in supplementing the village diet.



The aquaponics tanks

CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE

We put signage in the front area of the main gate. This was done for easy identification.

a). Signage



Village and Pre-school signage

b) The improvement of the village water system

" We were facing a lot of water challenges at the village, however with the help of IDES we decided to put some large water tanks at the village and water is being pumped using the solar system. This was done to increase the amount of water volumes which are channelled to the village. The garden was affected by these water challenges. Children were not getting enough water to use for washing up their clothes, flushing the toilets just to cite a few.



DONATIONS

We received a lot of donations this first quarter. Living Proof donated a lot of school shoes, uniforms and socks for our kids. We received some groceries, money and used clothes from the community. We do not hesitate to thank our donors since they save the lives of our children. We also received some food packs from IDES.

VISITORS

We received some visitors from IDES (an international organisation) which helped us in improving our water system. They organised for a dinner where children managed to enjoy a delicious meal. It was a great day for the kids. We really thank Rachel for organizing such an event for us.

We are also happy that The Department of Social Services managed to give us some court orders for non-committed children and for those with expired court orders



CHALLENGES

We really appreciate what God is doing to the Village. However, some of our children do not have sponsors. We wish for all of the children to have sponsors and it is a sort of motivation to the child. The state side office will avail the names of children without sponsors as well as their profiles.

PLANNED ACTIVITIES

We are planning to organise a trip for the children where they can go to some tourists attraction centres like Chinhoyi Caves, Victoria falls to mention just a few. This will be a lifetime experience for most of our children since they usually see these areas on television and in books. However, the issue of funds might restrict us but we are hopeful that with our sponsors everything is possible. With the help of Department of Social welfare, we would also like to facilitate on the issue of fostering and adoption.

CONCLUSION

We started the year in a bang and with the current progress we are looking forward for a fruitful 2022. Our children are being equipped with

knowledge and skills which will be of great importance even after they get discharged. With spiritual formation we wish to produce children who believes that there is God in heaven. We also like to thank our sponsors for making Chiredzi Christian Children's Village a great place to be.