

CHIREZI CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S VILLAGE 2ND QUARTER REPORT

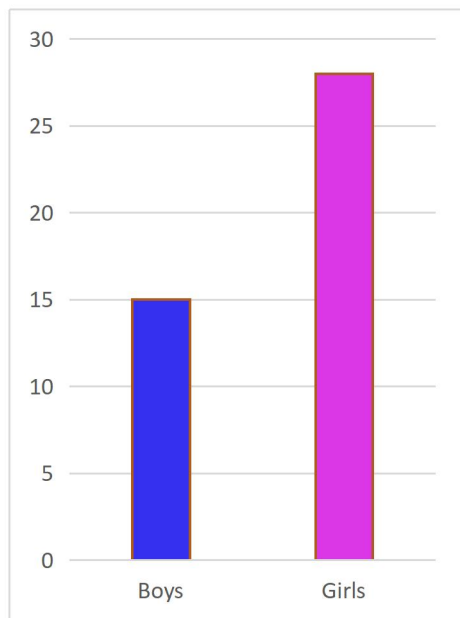


INTRODUCTION

The last three months have been fun-filled with activities like sports and music (at school) and church activities. There were also inspirational moments during conferences, training and psycho-social support sessions. Our vibrant and beautiful children had prepared various presentations like music, poetry and games for school and church programmes.

Recently, we welcomed two new children into our Village family; Enia and Delford, 12 years and 9 years old respectively. There was great joy and jubilation upon their arrival at the village; the newcomers were received with hugs. They managed to receive counselling from the social worker as well as good news about Christ from Chaplain. They have since settled in their household and are doing well. However, Delford only stayed with us for 7 days after he was reunited with his family.

CURRENT STATISTICS



Curently we have 43 children which include 28 girls and 15 boys.

NEW CHILDREN



our new girl

Discharged Children

There were 8 children who were released from the Village, including

the 5 siblings Tinashe, Tapiwa, Noah, Tapera, and Emmanuel (who were reunited with their biological parents), Martha and Rachel, who were also cousin sisters, and Fair, who was taken by a relative.

EDUCATION

With term one gone, children had a month to relax and enjoy play time at home. The esteemed play area is now being fully utilised; a series of games have been organized to keep the children busy. As usual, remedial lessons are going on; Teachers always see how keen to learn our children are. We had Bruce Thacker who was there with the children providing these remedial lessons.



Bruce Thacker doing remedial lessons in April

Schools were opened for the second term in early May and everyone was ready for school. We are expecting a fruitful second term for the children especially on their end of term results. From May we also had a volunteer named Lailah who is offering lessons to our guys not yet enrolled in school (Felistas, Enia and Calvin). She also helped the kids with homework and we've seen great improvement with a few.



Lailah doing lessons with some kids

VOCATIONAL AND UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

Students in the Vocational Training Centre have started a new term; they will spend this time doing more practicals in order to enhance their skills. In August, Delight will complete his training course and be prepared to become independent. University students are also doing well, and we anticipate Brighton to graduate this year.. We will soon update you on their progress as the year progresses.

STAFF

Our Chaplain was welcomed back heartily after being away for six months because of workplace injury and maternity leave. Her humorous antics during AWANA lessons and activities had been sorely missed by the kids.

Psychosocial Support for Children and Staff

Psychosocial activities are carried out regularly at the Village to help kids develop excellent character and preserve good behavior. Additionally, it tries to assist those who had

difficult lives prior to moving to the Village. These children come to the CCI with few personal belongings, but a lot of emotional baggage. They are terrified as they are placed in an unfamiliar setting with total strangers. Everything familiar has been left behind. Even though some of the kids have escaped violent neighborhoods, terrible relationships, and days and nights of starvation, they still yearn for the only life they have ever known. They experience overwhelming fear, despair, and misery, and they operate emotionally in survival mode, coping either by shutting down or acting out. Some people who sometimes arrive at the Village with complete trauma have been the victims of child sexual assault, physical abuse, and emotional abuse. We teach house parents the importance of building attachment with these children in distress, and coached children through the development of essential life skills such as expressing emotions and communication skills. We worked to build the capacity (and confidence) of Village social worker and Chaplain to provide the first level of counseling to traumatized children. We partnered with other child protection stakeholders who

visited the Village to provide guidance to children with complex issues.

Additionally, we work to raise awareness of proven methods for promoting kids' mental health. During this quarter, everyone at the Village is now aware of the effects of the trauma that children have experienced, including how it affects their health, cognitive abilities, sensory sensitivity, motivation, capacity for all types of relationships, and more. This includes everyone from the superintendent to the caregivers. We make an effort to inform caregivers about the objectives, types, and advantages of psycho-social assistance. Additionally, life skills education for kids is still provided, with a focus on the abilities most in demand in the real world. The social worker will occasionally have individual and group meetings with kids to give them the chance to freely express their ambitions and dreams for their future careers and lives in general.



Kids playing a snake game with Leilah whilst Faides (the senior mother) looks on

On a lighter note, when children are not at school, they engage in various activities which help them keep them occupied. Besides playing a variety of local games, they also help around their family houses (especially the older children) and some have recently showed a lot of interest in agriculture . Each family house has a garden from which they harvest vegetables and other fresh supplies. Not only has this enabled them to reduce their fresh food budget but it has also greatly boosted the children's nutrition.

CHURCH ACTIVITIES

Chiredzi Christian Children's Village is committed to caring for orphaned children in a Christ-centered environment with a focus on

personal growth, empowerment, and sustainability. Its core value is the teaching and propagation of the Word of God. When it comes to preaching, the Bible makes no distinction between adults and children. The preaching we do to our children is the means by which God saves both young and old. God utilizes the preaching, more specifically in the case of children, to make them aware of the new life they have in Christ. At Chiredzi Christian Children's Village we make sure that after receiving the child we offer him/her the physical and social needs as a way of satisfying his/her physiological needs. On top of that we try to build the innerman through preaching the gospel to the child. This is the greatest gift to the child.

Everyday children do house/family devotions which shows that God is the centre of the house and the child and his/her family depend on Him. This makes the children realise that making time for God should be a priority in their life as propounded in Joshua 24 vs 15; "But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord our God". House devotion can also teach children to know how to pray

especially the Lord's Prayer as well as on how to study the Bible. Main devotions for children are also being done every Monday and Friday. They also have a Sunday service at the Village where children usually participate or lead on music and Communion.

Children in April also managed to go for a National Youth Conference in Harare at Central Africa Christian College (CACC). It was a lovely outing for our young adults since, unlike other church programs, it reached a larger audience with much activities. Christian Youth conferences have lots of games for kids to play, loud, upbeat music that appeals to young listeners, and of course, interesting Bible teaching. A Christian youth conference is in a unique position to improve a child's social wellness (particularly in our case) while also fostering the development of the child's inner self since it combines fun and faith. Rumbidzai was very amazing in the Bible verses competition and she emerges the winner.



Our youths at the National Youth Conference at CACC

We are also glad that Chaplain is back and she will continue with the AWANA lessons with the children.



AWANA booktime with Chaplain

AWANA teachings are producing results because they help kids participate more actively in inquiries about the bible. Additionally, it has helped the kids' comprehension of English. Children's intellectual and perceptive skills, as well as their understanding of teamwork, adhering to instructions, and team

winning, are all improved during AWANA game time.



AWANA Gametime with Chaplain

PROJECTS

Our projects are doing well. Currently we have got new layer birds (300 of them). The project is doing well and our wish is to make it more sustainable whilst supplementing the children's diet.

Our rabbit project is progressing well. Of the 28 rabbits we now have, 8 are available for purchase or consumption. We had five before the year began, and they are breeding more and more all the time. Our diet will benefit from this endeavor, which has the potential to be self-sustaining.



Rabbits

We are also planning to use the workshop soon and every child will have a chance to get some practical skills.

Children are scrambling for the oranges in the orchard that are now ready for consumption. It's time to harvest and everyone is happy. Every Wednesday, children can be seen clutching or carrying containers with oranges.



Young Trish carrying a can of juicy oranges.

DONATIONS

We are really grateful to our sponsors and well-wishers for ensuring that activities continue to take place at the Village. We are so excited for Praise and Alfred, who recently got paired up with sponsors.



Praise now has a sponsor

We also like to express our gratitude to Nesbitt Group of Companies for providing blankets, mats, and towels for the children. Some well-wishers consistently give clothes and other supplies like food. We truly appreciate their care and concern.



Kids displaying their towels from Nesbitt Group of Companies

CONCLUSION

The Chiredzi Christian Children's Village deeply values the work that our supporters and sponsors perform on behalf of these kids. Our goal is to have children who will dedicate their lives to our purpose in the future as pastors, physicians, social workers, nurses, engineers, to name a few professions. We are anticipating a prosperous third quarter. May the Almighty God keep you in his blessings. We love you all.