

MIDLANDS CHILDREN'S HOME

“Rosedale”

2023 Annual Report

Introduction

Days are passing without any change in the country especially the social welfare part of the majority of citizens, generally it is deteriorating as the economy situation is melting down with very high rate. The main cause of this being the political instability, which is the back born of the economy. The majority of the citizens are not employed due to the closed companies about 15 years ago during the introduction of different policies including indigenization which causes the closure of almost all organisation, living most of the citizen jobless. The few ones who are employed are getting almost nothing due to the inflation and deteriorating of the local currency. As Rosedale we are not spared as we are part of this community and our young adults are heavily affected by this situation.

Swiss Visit

Rosedale family is lucky to be associated with friends and donors who are always there for us, this year they even go an extra mile in their quest to support us and organised a very vibrant fundraising where they invited the Administrator and the Matron to attend in Kleindottingen and say it on their own what is on the ground. Truly this was a wonderful idea which gives our friends and donors to hear it from the horse's mouth and coming to know each other personally. At the same time this give an opportunity to celebrate for the years we have been working together.

During this visit more meetings were held with different people and the main one was interview which was done during the function where the main question was if the home can operate without the donor and friends' support. The answer from the administrator and matron was a big no. The two ladies clearly informed the congregation that without their support Rosedale can be closed very fast as there is no support from the government and the locals.

The two ladies commented that because of this function and the attendance gives them hope for the future of the Rosedale and also indicated that Rosedale mostly get their support from the Swiss and Germany people.

Achievements

During the year 2023, four projects were started through the donations from friends and donors.

The green house and the fish ponds which were donated in 2022 have started to yield something, though it is not as much as was expected due to different reasons like stiff competition on the market for tomatoes and for the fish project, it was anticipated that the wrong fingerlings were

supplied from the bigging unfortunately they did not grow well. Also, the ponds were wrongly installed. We are appreciating that the donor has agreed to reinstall them.

Both homes Pamusha and Rosedale have solar system now and gas stove has been also installed. All these have come with a very big relief for the homes. Everyone is excited about the installation of gas stove and the solar system which is now enabling us to do our work at any given time. We are no longer rushing for electricity like our neighbours. This is definitely helping in different ways, like children doing their homework, cooking, light and another relief is on the reduction expenses and use the funds for other activities.

After a long time since we last went for a trip with children, this year we managed to go with all the children and staff to Antelope Park for nature viewing, surely all were very happy and this was well appreciated by not only the stakeholders of Rosedale but the Gweru community at large.

Admissions

During this year we received five children namely, Amanda Shumba, Munashe Chikwanda, Fadzai, Junior Ndhlovu and Tinotenda Ndhlovu. Their ages are 11 months, 14 years, 5 years, 8 years and 7 years respectively. Among them only baby Amanda Shumba is committed to the home, while the other four are still on place of safety.

Discharged children

In 2023, 6 children were discharged, five young ladies and one young man. They all got employment through people who know us especially from our church.

Tsitsi Dzaishe - Ok Mart, doing refrigeration

Chiedza Mago - City of Gweru, transport and logistics

Prisca Moyo – Local dressmaker due to her low salary, one neighbour has offered her a room to use.

Melody Chanetsa – Working in Harare as a helper for one of Church members, after finishing Red Course.

Kimberly Jeremiah – In Harare as Carpenter making bee hives

Kudzanai Muradzikwa – Local construction company

Currently

At the moment we have 53 children, 27 boys and 26 girls, 1 is looking for a job 9 are young adults in training courses. While 3 are waiting to join in job training and 6 are waiting for the results which will determine their job training, they wish to pursue. 8 are in secondary education, 14 are in primary education while 8 are toddlers, among the toddlers 2 are babies. 4 are on place of safety, the Department of Social Welfare are still investigating their situations for them to give a final discission whether they are committed or placed to their families if any.

Educational Breakdown

Under fives	
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Boys	6
Girls	2
Grade 0-7	
Boys	7
Girls	7
Form 1 – 6	
Boys	1
Girls	7
Waiting for results	
Boys	3
Girls	3
Pending Train. Centers	
Boys	0
Girls	3
Tertiary	
Boys	8
Girls	1
Looking for Employment	
Boys	
Girls	1
Place of safety	
Boys	2
Girls	2
TOTAL	53

Education

Among the 8 children under-fives, 5 are going to the nearest pre-school, for half day. This helps them to learn earlier so that they will be on the same level with their age groups when they go for primary education.

Due the poor remuneration of the teachers, the house mothers are helping the children with the school work, as the teachers are mostly on go slow. The mothers and the big children also help the children to do their research on the computers. The new syllabus CALA (Continuous Assessment Learning Activities) is also another troubling area of education where most of the work is supposed to be done at home with more paper work.

We are very proud with some of our children who are improving in their school work, like Jessica Shumba came number 2 in their class end of year examinations and Alvin came with the first position in their class and he was also selected to be prefect at Riverside Primary School. Alice was also selected to be prefect at Thornhill High School. This position of prefect is normally based on children's behavior and academic performance.

HEALTH:

Manasseh, Amanda and Alice were once admitted in hospital. Manasseh had seizure, doctors are investigating the causes of this. Amanda is having high temperatures and the doctors are investigating the problem, Alice continuous having head and stomach pains, it is now difficult to tell the really problem as all Xrays and Scans results were negative. The Doctors have recommended for further tests. Dr Plesser examined some the children with health issues during his stay in Zimbabwe. This had a positive result especially with one of the girls who had stopped mensuration for long. Some of the children were assisted while others were referred to the eye specialist namely Dexter and Pretty.

PAMUSHA

By the end of the year 2023 we have 12 young adults who are listed below with their colleges and courses. One (Chiyedza Chenyika did plumbing) is still looking for employment,

	Name of Student	Training Centre	Course
1	Ropafadzo Sadza	Kaguvi Training Centre	Cobla
2	Kudakwashe Shoko	Kaguvi Training Centre	Welding
3	Tawanda Chipuriro	Kaguvi Training Centre	Cobla
4	Mintberg Mago	Bulawayo Polytechnical College	Architecture
5	Davis Mago	Gweru Polytechnical College	Purchasing & Supply
6	Tawanda Mashava	Midlands State University	Sociology & Social Policy
7	Hendrick Jim	Bindura University	Chemical Eng
8	Mike Chanetsa	St. Joseph Training Centre	Carpentry
9	Perfect Ndllovu	Gweru Vocational Training Centre	Motor Mechanics
10	Varaidzo Mutimbairi		
11	Charity Dube		
12	Memory Mangena		

This year we have additional projects at Pamusha, Green house and fish ponds are now in functional. We have already harvested tomatoes, cucumbers and fish though it was of low standard as we expected. These projects increase sustainability in food security at the same time children are benefiting in self-survival skills.

Though economic problems are escalating that profit is not realized, we appreciate these projects as we are getting fresh and healthy food for the children and at the same time children are learning a lot from these projects.

STAFF MEMBERS

Currently we have 8 staff members who comprises of the administrator, matron, 3 house mothers and three gardeners. After the retirement of Gogo in August 2023, who has worked for 26 years specializing with toddlers, no replacement has been done due to our financial position. We are happy that the big children are also helping and at times we take students from university who are studying Social Work, Development Studies and Child Development as their part of studying. We appreciate the remaining staff members for working extra mile to cover up this position.

Staff members hold their meetings monthly where they share their ideas and children's behavior etc. They also discuss about other issues like the repairs of the home, former children who would need assistance from us and those who would come for assisting us, during these meetings tasks are also assigned to each other. The committee members hold their meetings three times a year while the Department of Social Welfare make 4 monitoring visits per year, where they check children's files and their social life style etc.

GIFTED STUDENTS

Currently four students are on this program, of which three grew up at Rosedale while one grew up at a Catholic Mission.

Three are Mintberg Mago at Bulawayo Polytech and Davis Mago at Gweru Polytech they were both admitted at this home when they were young. Tawanda Mashava at Midlands State University, was admitted here when he was a baby.

Hendrick Jim, is the fourth one and is at Bindura University, he has been staying at Catholic Mission since, he was in primary school. he is currently staying at Pamusha, his family is believed to be an alien, who originates from Mozambique.

FUTURE PLANS

With the current economic situation, it is difficult to make any plans, we only wish and pray that we have finances for basics like food, medication, cleaning material, clothing, education, salaries etc.

Our second prayer in this difficult economy is that if the chicken farmers can resume their contract farming, we would join if we manage to get a big fowl run with their specifications as with this project, we will be assured of the market compared to our current projects were we have to enter into the stiff competition with other farmers.

CONCLUSION

There is no improvement in terms of the economic situation as it is worsening. The local currency is losing value very fast and other organization are no longer trading with the local

currency, while others use both and at the same time some organizations are not trading in US\$ like government institutions. So before one decides to do the purchasing one has to do the comparison first so that a better decision is taken especially on which currency to use. In our case it is difficult to peg how much is required per child in local currency as the rate US\$ to RTGS have very big margins from January to December.

Due to the current situation the workers, especially teachers are not performing their work well. As a result the parents has to work with their children to cope with their studies. Even with the young adults in tertiary education, parents have to do much to help them in their research work as their lecturers are not willing to do much. Even at the health sector no adequate services are provided especially when it comes to medication, so this forces us to opt for the private sector.

The Rosedale family appreciate very much for all the support we are getting from our donors and friends, their efforts make our job easy and enjoyable as we can feed, educate, clothes and give them shelter, and see them happy and grow in a good environment like any other children, which gives them confidence, hope for the future and help them to forget the past.

20 January 2024

Lenzeni H. Kamwendo
ADMINISTRATOR



