

TARIRO: HOPE AND HEALTH FOR ZIMBABWE'S ORPHANS

2016 ANNUAL REPORT



Our mission

Educate and empower young women affected by HIV/AIDS in Zimbabwe

Our vision

Tariro sees education as a basic human right, which should be available to all children regardless of socio-economic status. Tariro seeks to meet the challenge of ensuring even the most vulnerable Zimbabwean children have access to education by working with young women and girls in Harare communities affected by HIV/AIDS.

Tariro Today

Founded in 2003, Tariro: Hope and Health for Zimbabwe's Orphans ("Tariro") is dedicated to empowering and educating young women and girls in order to prevent the spread of HIV and AIDS, early marriages and teenage pregnancies in the high-density suburbs of Harare. Tariro ensures these young women and girls can go on to live prosperous and fulfilling lives as valued members of their communities. For over 13 years Tariro has supported more than **300 girls** in completing secondary education by providing all-inclusive tuition sponsorships that cover school fees, exam fees, uniforms and other school supplies, such as stationery. A significant number of Tariro's students we have supported over the years have gone on to enrol at various tertiary institutions, including nine currently enrolled.

In 2016, Tariro supported 30 students and, of these, nine were in tertiary institutions, 12 in secondary school, eight in primary school, and one in a special-needs school.

Tariro also provides academic support services to our sponsored students, including support that makes attending school possible by providing school uniforms, school supplies, bus fare, and feminine hygiene products. We support our students' academic and future success by offering a lending library, tutoring, mentoring, career guidance, and workshops on life skills and sexual and reproductive health.

2016 was a year most Zimbabweans would want to forget – a year of severe drought, civil unrest, protest against the government, and renewed financial insecurity with the introduction of new currency bonds that could further destabilize an already shaky economy. As a result, Zimbabwe is currently experiencing profound economic challenges that have led to significant job losses and unprecedented levels of poverty. Dropout rates have risen significantly, particularly among girls. According to the National Education Profile, 21% of girls are dropping out of school in urban areas, 45% of secondary school-aged girls are out of school and 9% of primary school-aged children are out of school. Schools have indicated that irregular school attendance is now more common than previously because families can no longer afford tuition and associated educational costs.

Unfortunately, over the last couple of years, the number of students Tariro has been able to support per year has significantly decreased. This is primarily because of the increase in our students who have been admitted to tertiary institutions, which is significantly more expensive than primary and secondary education. While it is extremely positive that an increasing number of our students are completing high school with strong academic records, the reality is that the yearly fees for one student enrolled at a tertiary institution can pay for eight students enrolled at the secondary school level. As a result, Tariro now actively seeks partnerships and sponsorships for students enrolled in tertiary institutions so that we can continue supporting more girls in secondary and primary school. Fortunately, Tariro secured a large grant in 2016 from a local institution in Harare, which made it possible to enrol new students for the first time in two years. Our hope is we can be able to reach out to more orphaned girls in all of Harare's high density suburbs.

Letter from Board President

Dear friends and faithful supporters,

Despite some of the dire conditions in Zimbabwe in 2016, it has been a great year for Tariro. We started off the year by hiring Simbarashe Kanyimo as our new Executive Coordinator in Zimbabwe, and he has had a great year guiding Tariro forward. Simba came to Tariro with more than seven years' experience in the development and humanitarian field and has been involved in capacity building and communication for the Norwegian Refugee Council, the Centre for Cultural Development Initiatives, the Zimbabwe National Family Planning Council-Global Fund Adolescent Sexual Reproductive Health project, and Muongoli Home-Based Care Programme run by the Chikomedzi Mission Hospital. Simba has also taught within the school system as a guidance teacher and counsellor, giving him a first-hand knowledge of the schools our students attend. Simba has significant working experience in working with vulnerable communities, orphans, youth, and the "girl child" in difficult circumstances, returnees, refugees and internally displaced persons. We are very lucky to have him on our team! Some of our supporters had the opportunity to meet him in person when he visited Portland and Eugene, Oregon and Victoria, Canada in late 2016.

Within Simba's first three months on the job, he secured a large corporate grant in Zimbabwe from CBZ Holdings ("CBZ") that made it possible for us to enrol new students for the first time in two years. We decided to enrol primary school students because we want to establish a long and fruitful relationship with our new beneficiaries. We have so many students currently in tertiary institutions, and soon they will move on from Tariro support to become Tariro alumni. We are excited to welcome new students into the Tariro program, the next generation of young girls who will grow up to complete their education, be firmly rooted in the Tariro community, and be empowered to know that they, too, are valuable contributors to their society.

I think the thing I am most excited about this year is the large grant we got from CBZ. CBZ is Zimbabwe's largest financial services group by asset base. This is the first time in Tariro's 13-year history that we have received significant support from a local organization. Our goal is not just to provide education for these young women, but to be a community where we support them and their families, a place where they can explore their dreams and be encouraged and supported to go out and achieve them. We are closely integrated in the communities we serve, and we are delighted and humbled to find support from a new local partner in Harare. If Tariro is to thrive and grow over time, we depend not only on financial support from donors both local and international but on support from the community we serve. This grant from CBZ represents to us that the community is with us in our effort to change the future for these young women. The community is with us, encouraging our students to pursue their education and their dreams.

Simba closed out the year with an incredibly successful trip to the United States of America and to Canada during our Fall Fundraising Campaign. He was able to talk to our supporters about Tariro and share his passion for our work and in seeing our students' lives change because they are able to finish their education. Simba participated in promoting the Quite for Zimbabwe and selling raffle tickets, updated Tariro supporters about Tariro programs and plans, and met with high school students to talk about Tariro.

We have big plans for 2017 – including a year-long program to educate and empower our students on sexual and reproductive health and rights, and career mentoring and counselling. We are also looking into starting a poultry farming project, which will serve as a source of income for Tariro while acting as a method for teaching business and entrepreneurial skills to our students, in an environmentally responsible way.

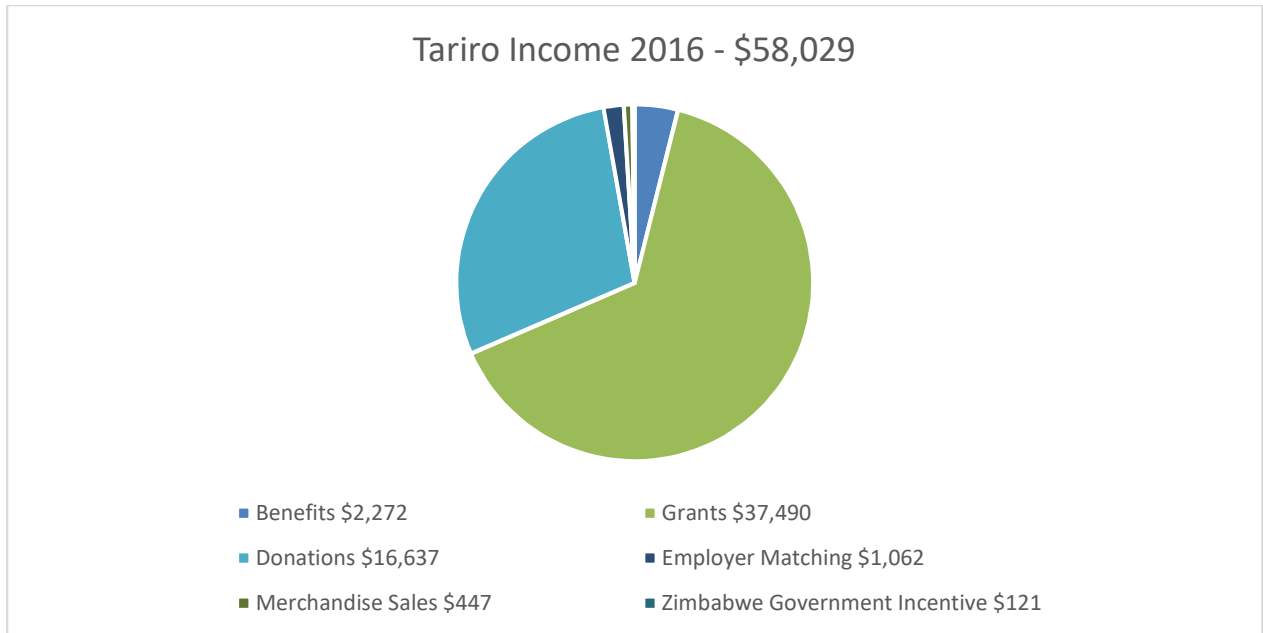
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "edavis". The signature is written in a cursive, lowercase style.

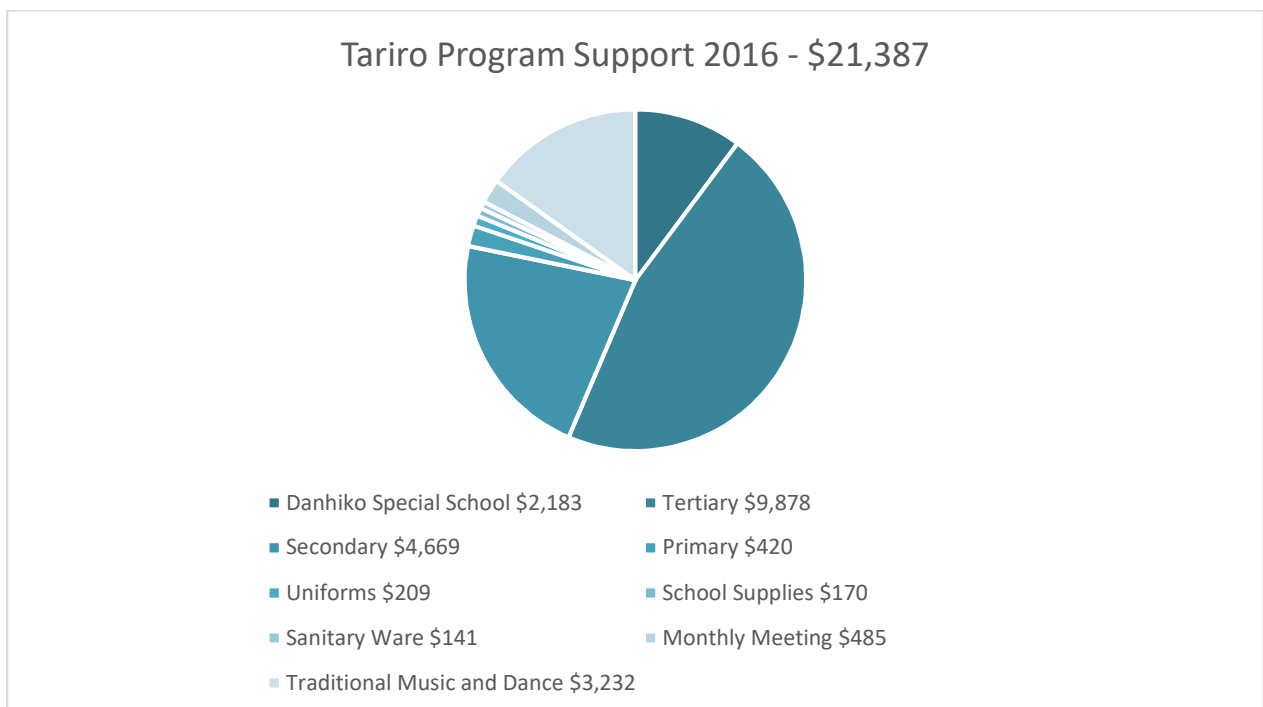
Elizabeth Davis, President, Board of Directors

2016 Financial Summary

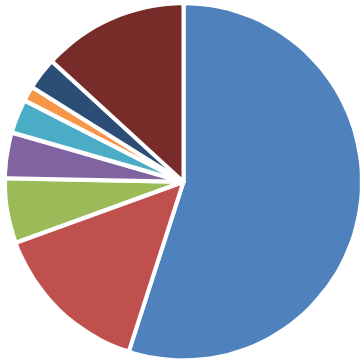
Tariro income for 2016 totalled \$58,029 and program expenses totalled \$40,709. Our surplus came from a large grant we received from a corporation in Zimbabwe. Our surplus has been invested in 2017 in expanding the Tariro program by hiring a Social Worker intern, enrolling new students, and strengthening the psychosocial support we offer to our students.



Direct program support provided by Tariro to our students comprised 53% of Tariro expenses. Administrative expenses, including salaries for our hard-working staff, comprised 47%.



Tariro Administrative Expenses 2016 - \$19,322



- Salaries \$10,619
- Transport and Communications \$1,134
- Attorney and legal fees \$595
- Other Admin Expenses \$561
- Office Rentals \$2,800
- Bank and transfer fees \$800
- Fundraising \$263
- Executive Coordinator Visit to US Donors \$2,550

2016 Highlights

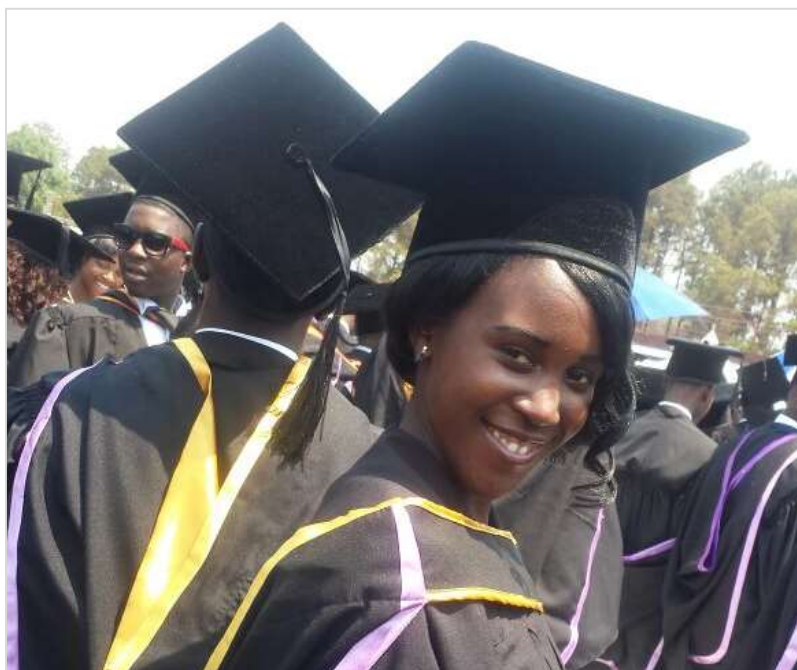
Our Students

Tertiary Students

Tariro's young women continue to shine, with Melody M. receiving the Helper of the Year Award from the Vice Chancellor of the University of Zimbabwe for the second year running. The award is in recognition of Melody's volunteer role in assisting the visually impaired at the University of Zimbabwe. To cap a good year for Tariro, Melody also graduated in September with her Bachelor of Science degree, majoring in Sociology.

Tariro K. and Politeness N. successfully completed their internship at Harare City Council and Monte Claire Hotel, respectively, and are now back at university for their final year. Tariro K. is in her final year at the Bindura University of Science Education where she is studying for a Bachelor of Science degree majoring in Social Work; and Politeness N. is majoring in Tourism and Hospitality at the University of Zimbabwe, where her results to date are exceptional with a significant number of class 1 passes in her courses.

The year 2016 also saw two other university students we support, Jane J. and Edwinner S. starting their co-op/internship years, a formal part of the university system in Zimbabwe. Jane J. is a Human Resources Management major at the Midlands State University and is currently doing her internship at a government institution, Central Mechanical Engineering Department (CMED). Edwinner S. is a third-year



Melody on graduation day

student at the Bindura University of Science Education majoring in Social Work, and is currently doing her internship at St. Johns Ambulance Service. Pride R. has enrolled at the Midlands State University for a Bachelor of Commerce degree majoring in Banking and Finance. We wish her well in her studies.

Tariro is also sponsoring three students doing their studies at Harare Polytechnic College. The three are pursuing courses which generally in Zimbabwe have been preserved for males. Pamela K. is studying for a National Diploma in Civil Engineering and has just completed her internship at Mazowe Rural District Council where she was placed at the Physical Planning Department. Nicole M. is studying for a National Certificate in Electrical Engineering, and her dream is to go all the way and be a certified electrical engineer. Florence M. is studying for a National Diploma in Purchasing and Supply and will start her internship in January 2017.

We wish them all the best as they apply and gain skills in their fields of study.

Secondary School Students

Two of our students did exceptionally well in their 2015 Ordinary Level Examinations and are now doing their Advanced Level studies. The two students are Brenda M., who is studying Humanities and Arts subjects at Morgan High School, and Bertha M., who is studying Commercial subjects at Hatfield High School. During the Prize Giving Day ceremony held at Hatfield High School in October, Bertha received an academic award for the Best Student in Accounts (Lower Sixth level).

Morleen W. sat for her final Advanced Level Examinations this year and she is confident that she will do well. She also completed her second year as a member of the Junior Council of Harare and has been an active member of her schools' Interact Club. Morleen has exhibited great leadership qualities and great public speaking skills, which have earned her a sponsorship to attend public speaking classes from one of our supporters. In recognition of her academic performance, Morleen has also earned herself an individual sponsor who has agreed in principle to sponsor her future tertiary studies and associated living expenses.

Three other students we sponsor, Winston N., Tinotenda M., and Tilda M., sat for their national examinations in November, and we are hopeful that they will excel. We also have one student, Norleen C., who is physically challenged and is enrolled at Danhiko Special School.

Primary School Students

Courtesy of the CBZ Holdings grant we received in August, Tariro was able to recruit eight new orphaned beneficiaries drawn from primary schools in the high-density suburbs of Glen Norah and Highfield, six of whom will be proceeding to secondary school next year.

We are so excited to be able to enrol new students for the first time in more than two years!



Community, school and family engagement

It takes a village to raise a child, and central to Tariro's work is engaging the community, school authorities, parents, and guardians to ensure the best for our students. We believe a student's success is premised on a number of factors which include support from the community, school, and family. During meetings or visits carried out, it was noted that many of the girls living within our catchment area are in need of assistance to ensure that they are able to at least complete secondary education.

Our work is appreciated by many and it is their wish we could reach out to many more disadvantaged girls.

Traditional Music and Dance

One of Tariro's most successful programs is the traditional music and dance ensemble, which not only allows the girls to develop their music and dance skills, but also provides them with key psychosocial support through its emphasis on well-being and community. Tariro employs a music and dance instructor, Daniel, who takes the girls through their paces every Saturday. The girls are taught mbira, marimba, hosho, African drums, and traditional dance. The group is grateful for the support of our donors, which enabled the purchase of a new set of uniforms and the repair of traditional musical instruments in 2016. We at Tariro believe this ensemble is a form of 'edutainment' – the girls are entertained, and use the platform to learn various key life issues through song and dance. Bringing the girls together in our ensemble is integral to establishing a Tariro community and giving the girls a sense of belonging and establishing friendships between girls who live in different suburbs and attend different schools.

The music and dance ensemble is key in our expression of Zimbabwean culture and it helps to define who we are. The group has performed at high-profile events such as the Harare Agricultural Show and the Harare Schools District Merit Awards and it continues to get good reviews for videos posted on Facebook (a recent video has been liked by over 1000 people and shared by 3000!) The girls really enjoy the music and dance sessions and some are seeing in the near future a rewarding career in music and dance.

We are very proud that six group members were selected to be part of the Dreams Marimba camp to be held in December 2016, a program supported by the US Embassy and which will be led by a renowned Zimbabwe marimba player.

Psychosocial Support and Protection

In addition to our traditional music and dance ensemble, which plays a key role in bolstering the girls' well-being, we are continuing to evolve our formal psychosocial support and protection mechanisms. Psychosocial support has become an integrated service in many organisations dealing with the most vulnerable and disadvantaged members of the community. As research shows, this support not only helps improve school retention and outcomes, but also helps **to fully empower and equip our students to break the cycle of poverty and disease**. Throughout the year during monthly meetings, Tariro held sessions focused on important life skills such as self-esteem, communication, courting, career guidance, HIV and AIDS prevention, self-control, and gender-based violence awareness and advocacy. To help in building students' confidence and self-esteem, the girls themselves often took the opportunity to facilitate the discussions and sessions.

Key to all the sessions was the need to raise awareness on HIV and AIDS prevention in our communities and be of exemplary behaviour in our communities. While Zimbabwe has made significant gains in HIV and AIDS prevention in the past, according to the Zimbabwe Demographic

Health Survey 2015, **70% of new HIV infections are found in adolescent girls**. Due to economic hardship, many young girls and women are turning to prostitution, exposing them to HIV infection. The streets of Harare are now littered with young sex workers looking for clients at any given time of the day. Key messages to our students also included the need to abstain from unsafe sex and avoid early marriages. The Zimbabwe Demographic and Health Survey preliminary findings on Adolescent Sexual Reproductive Health show that nearly 2 in 10 girls aged 15-19 give birth every year.

Two of our beneficiaries also attended a workshop in Chitungwiza organised by the Young Africa Skills Centre – the Entrepreneurship Network Zone workshop. The participants were drawn from all over Harare, and the workshop sought to equip participants with entrepreneurship skills. Thank you, Chiedza Mufunde, one of our international board members, who made the participation of these two a reality. It is our belief the two will be able to share with their peers what they gained from the workshop.

Tariro has also begun the process of establishing a position for a university student of social work to do his or her internship year with us in 2017. The student will work with the Executive Coordinator to see how we can better structure our psycho-social support for our students and further address community and home challenges that impede school attendance and academic success.

International Visitors

Tariro had the honour of hosting three visitors from the United States. Early in the year, Tariro founder Dr. Jennifer Kyker, an Ethnomusicologist from the University of Rochester, USA visited Zimbabwe. She had a meeting with the Executive Coordinator and met the Tariro girls for two consecutive Saturdays leading them through a host of activities that included music and dance. Jennifer is deeply committed to Tariro's success.

In April we also had Necrisha Roach visiting Tariro. Necrisha came to Zimbabwe as part of a global health elective offered by her home institution, Ohio State University College of Medicine. This course is offered to medical students during their final year of medical school and it allows them to have a clinical experience that is different from what they would normally experience back in the United States of America.



Necrisha with Tariro students

During her time working in the health care system in Harare, she had the opportunity to have a first-hand look at the many challenges faced by local doctors and patients alike. In addition, she also had the chance to work with Tariro in a professional capacity. Necrisha developed an interest in Tariro after going through our Facebook page and webpage, and Tariro was a major influence in her decision in doing her internship here in Zimbabwe. She spent the day with the Tariro girls in Glen Norah, a high density suburb of Harare, and donated funds towards the purchase of school supplies.

Chiedza Mufunde, one of our international board members, took the opportunity to pay the girls a visit at Chembira Primary School when she last visited Zimbabwe in April. The girls were very happy to meet Chiedza, who to them is a role model. Chiedza was born and bred in Zimbabwe and shares a

lot of similar experiences with the girls. Chiedza gave a talk on the importance of education, and also provided one-on-one conversations with the girls. Tariro girls treated Chiedza to some beautiful marimba music and cultural dance routines, and she was highly impressed by the performance!

Mentorship – making dreams a reality

In 2015 we had Tsungai Mutungwizo, a lawyer by profession, mentoring two of our students, Vimbai C. and Julia M. This year we had Patience Chinake, a Public Relations Officer at CBZ Holdings, mentoring one of our students, Morleen M., and who was also able to pay her fees for professional attire and etiquette and public speaking lessons.

In addition, some of our students in tertiary institutions mentored those in secondary school, displaying peer support and a way of giving back.

CBZ Holdings Grant

Zimbabwe's largest financial services group by asset base, CBZ Holdings (CBZ) pledged to further women's education in the country by donating \$11,263 in a grant to Tariro. CBZ paid one year of school fees for 27 girls supported by Tariro as part of its social investment in the communities they



CBZ presents a cheque for their grant during a ceremony with Tariro

operate in. This was a welcome development, and hopefully other Zimbabwean corporations can follow suit and support our cause to educate and empower the vulnerable and marginalised girl child. Tariro is centred on the idea of community – we are delighted and humbled that such a prestigious organization in the local community has noticed the work we are doing and investing in the future of our students.

Thanks to this grant, Tariro was able to use the donations from our many faithful supporters to enrol new students into our program.

Executive Coordinator's visit to USA and Canada

Tariro is delighted that our new Executive Coordinator was able to visit the US and Canada in November and December to meet with donors, Tariro supporters, and high school students to discuss Tariro programs and highlights from 2016. During his visit, Simba was hosted by long-time Tariro supporters and board members, participated in fundraising events for Tariro and for the Quilt for Zimbabwe, enjoyed beautiful mbira music from traditional music groups that have supported Tariro faithfully for many years, and gave first-hand accounts to high school students about Zimbabwe's history, the current economic situation, the particular struggle of the girl child in Zimbabwe, and how Tariro is working to improve their lives and hope for the future. The visit was really an eye-opener for Simba and very humbling to see how committed the community in USA and Canada is in helping the cause of the girls we support in Zimbabwe.

Zimbabwe Board

The Zimbabwe board has revived its efforts and participation in oversight of Tariro's on-the-ground operations in Zimbabwe. We were delighted to welcome new board members to the team, including one new member who got stuck in straight away helping with interviews for our new Executive Coordinator and a former beneficiary of Tariro, Tatenda Chizanga. The Executive Coordinator is actively involved in supporting the Zimbabwe board's work.

Plans for 2017

2017 sees us continuing with our mission of educating and empowering the girl child. We plan to reach out to more girls in need and aim to increase enrolment from our current 30 students to at least 50 girls during 2017.

We have also hired a social worker to join the Tariro team as an intern in 2017. The intern is a student currently studying social work at one of the local universities and will be instrumental in increasing Tariro's psycho-social support for our students and their families. Tariro is firmly committed to a holistic approach to success. We believe that our girls will not succeed if we only focus on school work – we also have to look at their family and community life and help them mitigate the effects poverty is having on their success at school.

We are hopeful that we will receive two grants that we applied for in 2016. The first grant will enable Tariro to expand our annual empowerment camp into a full-year program that will offer training in sexual and reproductive health and rights, career guidance and counselling, and mentoring. We are excited for the opportunity to reinforce these themes year-round.

The second grant is for a new venture for Tariro – poultry farming! The goal of this project is two-fold: give Tariro a way to generate some of its own income and teach our students entrepreneurial skills and business management – skills that will serve them well as they move into the workforce after completing their education.

We also sincerely hope that 2017 will see Tariro creating more partnerships with like-minded organisations, sponsors and the corporate world, particularly in Zimbabwe.

“An empowered woman is a productive woman, a health seeking woman, and therefore a woman who can be entrusted with the survival and well-being of herself and her family.”

Toyin Saraki

The Board of Directors of Tariro is actively involved in Tariro's success. We are a diverse, international group with a love for Zimbabwe. We are sincerely grateful for your support! Please contact us if you have fundraising ideas in your own community or if you have any questions about Tariro.

Email us tariro.board@gmail.com.

International Board

Elizabeth Davis, President, Munich, Germany
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Chiedza Mufunde*, Secretary, Washington, DC, USA
Vallerie Sangaka, Treasurer, North Carolina, USA
Stephanie Bengtsson*, Vienna, Austria

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Zimbabwe Board of Governors in Harare, Zimbabwe

Easther Chigumira*
Taadzwa Muzhandu*

Tamara Jones*
Tatenda Chizanga**

*Denotes our members who are from Zimbabwe.

**Denotes members who are Tariro alumnae