

## TARIRO: HOPE AND HEALTH FOR ZIMBABWE'S ORPHANS



### *2017 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.*

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## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear friends,

I am honoured to once again present Tariro's Annual Report to you. This year has been full of achievements for our students and the Tariro program as a whole.

Thanks to the excellent leadership of our Executive Coordinator in Zimbabwe, Simbarashe Kanyimo, the Tariro program has been able to:

- Significantly increase funding and in-kind donations from sources within Zimbabwe, showing the community support for our program
- Pursue new grant opportunities, including one that we hope will create an income source for the program and our families through poultry farming
- Establish a social worker as a permanent part of the Tariro team, significantly increasing the psychosocial support we can offer our students
- An increase in school and home visits, allowing Tariro to provide more focused support for our students' academic needs
- Grow the performance opportunities for our music and dance ensemble, including at two weddings

On the US side, we are grateful for the continued support from grant organizations that have supported us for many years, faithful volunteers, and the many marimba and mbira musical ensembles who host benefit concerts for Tariro every year.

Behind the scenes, I am especially proud of our new website, especially the beautiful new pictures showing our students involved with the Tariro program. One new feature on the website is "Fundraising Resources", which our supporters can access to download Tariro brochures and background material for your own fundraisers to support Tariro. Another administrative change is a new platform for online donations – accessible from our website [www.tariro.org](http://www.tariro.org) – which lowers the transaction fees. That means more of your donation goes directly to supporting our students achieve their dreams of finishing their education and breaking free of the cycle of poverty and hardship they were born into!

Thank you for your continued support for Tariro! You are changing the future, one girl at a time.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Davis

President, Board of Directors

## TARIRO TODAY: A SNAPSHOT

Founded in 2003, Tariro is dedicated to empowering and educating young women and girls in high-density suburbs of Harare, in order to prevent the spread of HIV and AIDS, early marriages, and teenage pregnancies. Across the last 14 years, Tariro has supported more than 350 girls to complete their secondary education by covering costs for all required school fees and related educational expenses, including uniforms, essential school supplies and products for hygiene and menstrual needs. This comprehensive support helps to improve school attendance. Additionally, a significant number of students we have supported over the years have gone on to enrol at tertiary institutions. **In 2017, Tariro supported 43 students. Of these, 9 were in tertiary institutions, 28 in secondary school, 5 in primary school, and 1 placed in a special-needs school.**

To best support the girls' educational environment, Tariro provides a range of additional services to our sponsored students; including music and dance activities, mentoring, career guidance, and psychosocial support. Tariro also has a lending library which is readily accessible to the girls.

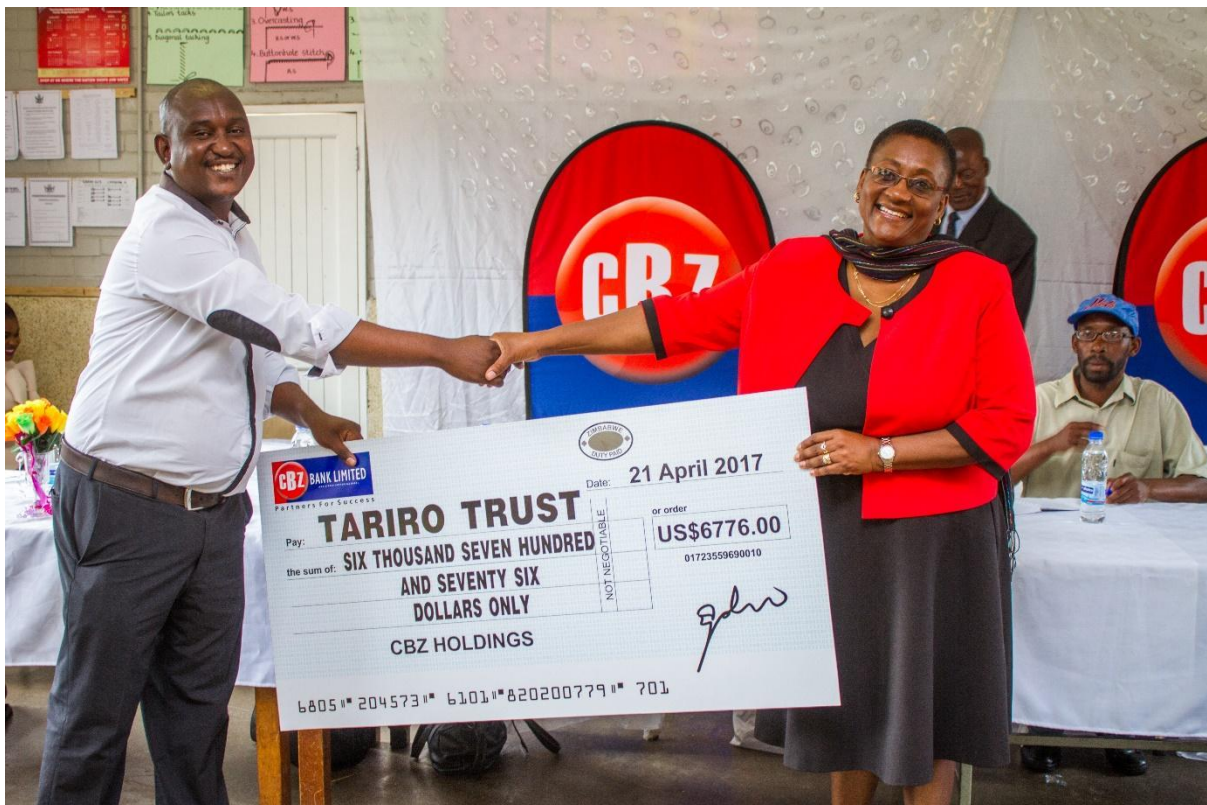


*Some of our girls receiving menstrual hygiene products and school supplies*

Towards the end of the 2017, Zimbabwe saw significant political change. The nation, with the support of the army, pressured the long-serving president Robert Mugabe to resign, and it saw the inauguration of Emmerson Dambudzo Mnangagwa as the new president. With a new president at the helm, there is a glimmer of hope that the economic situation will change for the better. The country, however, is still experiencing profound economic challenges, which have led to significant job losses, unprecedented levels of poverty, and increasing numbers of youth dropping out of school. Historically, the girl child has disproportionately been impacted during times of social and economic crises: Not only is there often an expectation that girls should leave their education to attend to household duties or assist other family members, at times girls have been encouraged to

enter into early marriages in order to acquire a much-needed dowry. Additionally, it is common for parents and communities to believe that a boys' education is a better investment as their opportunities for entering into the workforce and/or financially supporting the family is greater. According to a 2013 report from the Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency (ZimStat),<sup>1</sup> in Zimbabwe's urban areas, 1 in every 5 girls is dropping out of school. Further, at least 4 out of 10 secondary school-aged girls and 1 out of every 10 primary school-aged children are out of school.

In 2017, Tariro actively sought and secured partnerships and sponsorships for students enrolled in tertiary institutions, allowing us to support more girls in secondary and primary school. We received significant support from CBZ Holdings, who had previously awarded Tariro a grant in 2016. We were also able to secure generous donations from Edgars Stores and OK Fife Avenue and generous in-kind support from individuals, including menstrual hygiene products, toiletries, school bags, and Christmas presents for our students. Prior to 2016, most donations were from US foundations and individuals, so this diversification in funding sources is greatly welcomed, and we are grateful for their ongoing assistance.



*Our Coordinator receiving a cheque from the CBZ Group Marketing and Corporate Affairs Executive Mrs Gwatiringa*

Despite the financial and economic crisis that the country faced and continues to face, 2017 was a good year for Tariro in terms of expansion and growth of the organisation. Early this year we recruited an intern Social Worker who added significant value to program operations. For the second consecutive year, Tariro received donations from corporates and individuals in Zimbabwe. The support helped Tariro recruit more students. And our music and dance group continued to shine at events where they performed in the community, including two weddings, one of which was at Wild

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<sup>1</sup> The 2013 Education Report is available here:

[http://www.zimstat.co.zw/sites/default/files/img/publications/Education/Education\\_Report.pdf](http://www.zimstat.co.zw/sites/default/files/img/publications/Education/Education_Report.pdf)

Goose Lodge where they performed alongside one of Zimbabwe's leading musicians, Oliver Mutukudzi.

Tariro continues to give hope to many girls who face a bleak future by ensuring they access education and various life skills. It is encouraging that the girls we support have been doing well and excelling in their studies in tertiary institutions. Our hope is that we can be able to reach out to more orphaned and vulnerable girls in all of Harare's high-density suburbs and beyond.



*One of our beneficiaries, Trish M, giving her testimony at the CBZ cheque presentation function*

# 2017 BY THE NUMBERS

Figure 1: Students Supported with School Fees

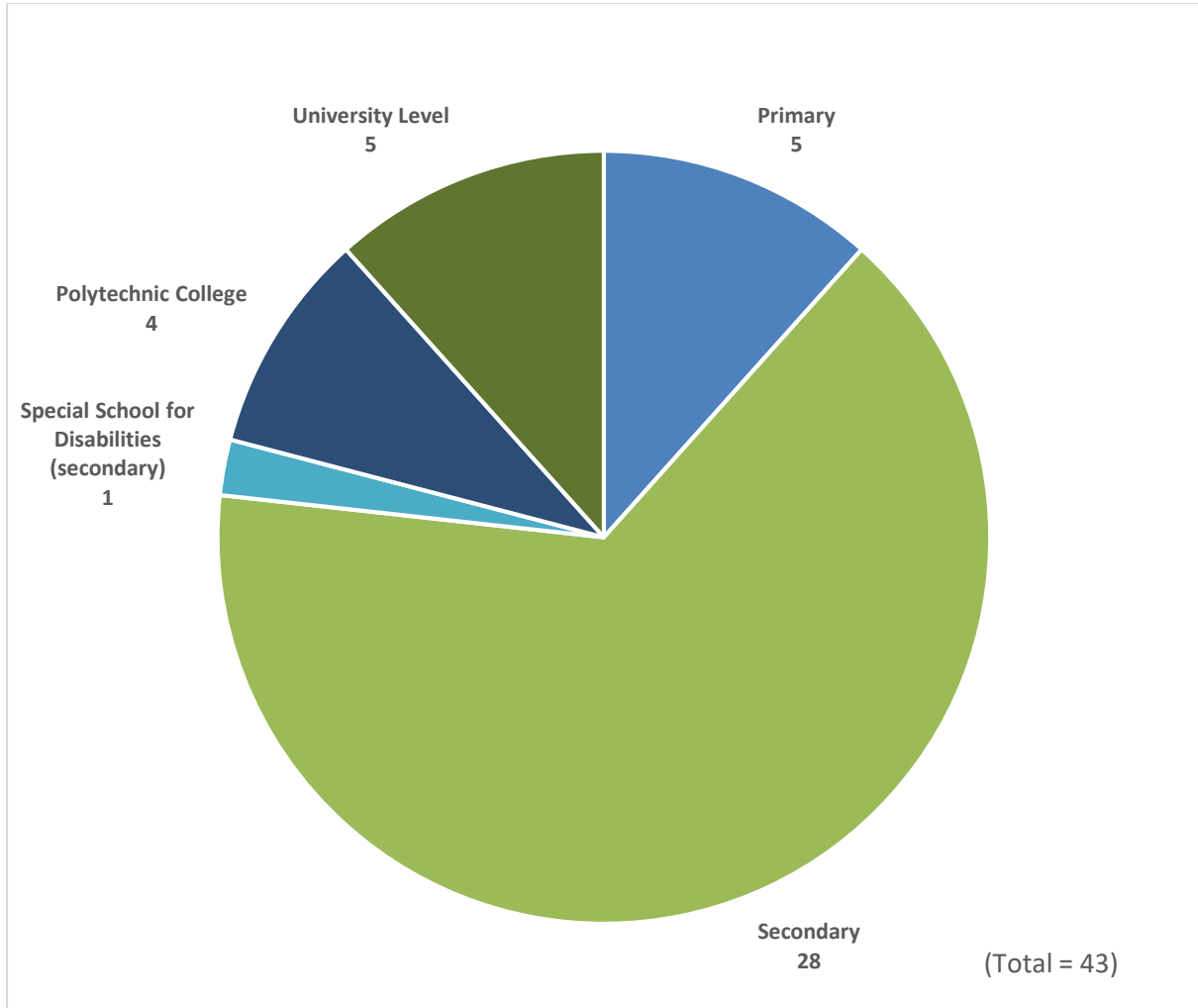


Figure 2: Additional Academic Support

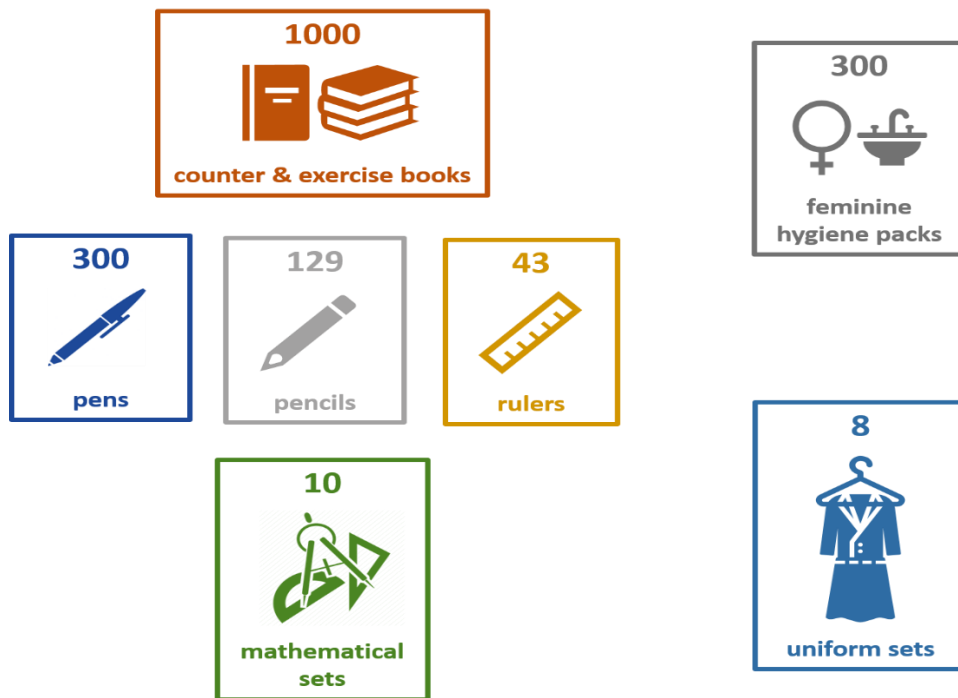
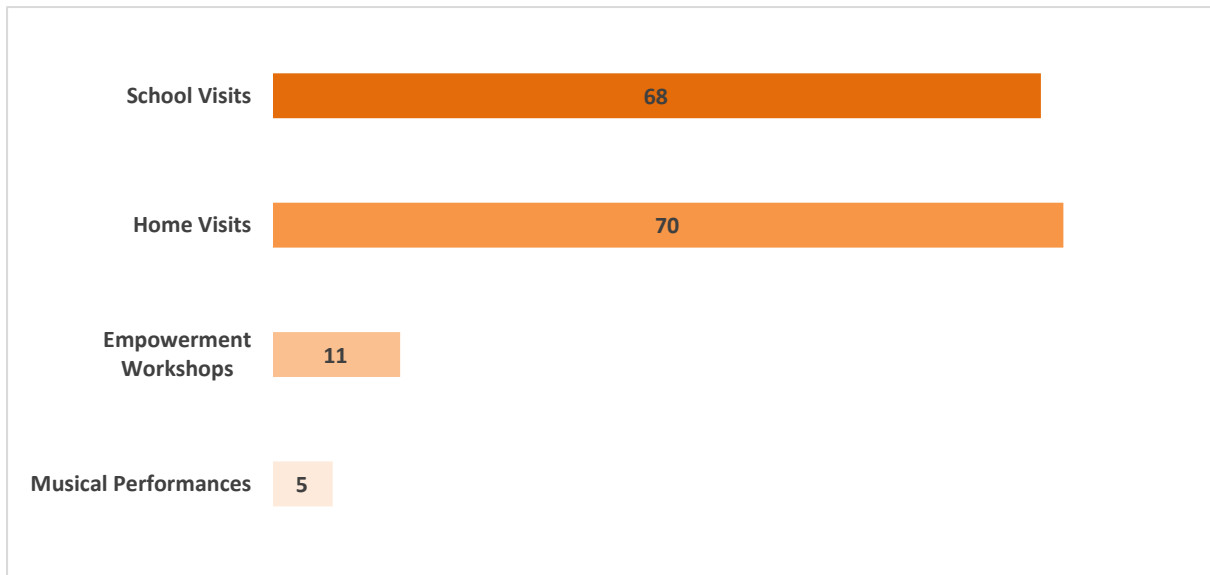
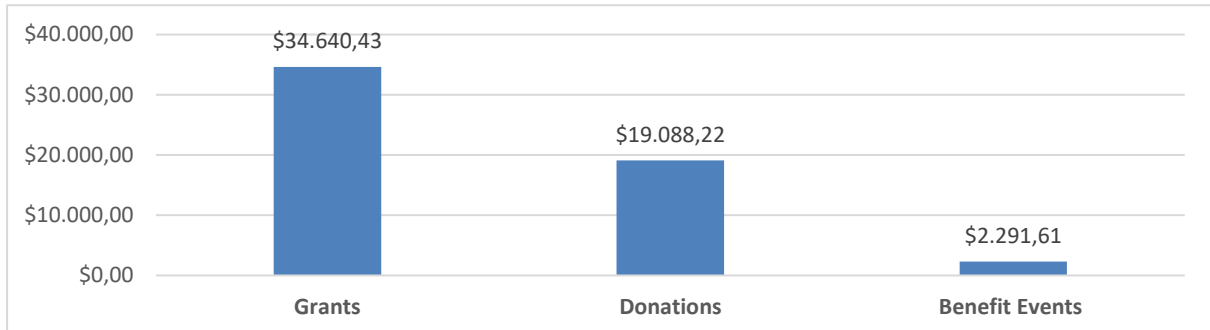


Figure 3: Psychosocial Support

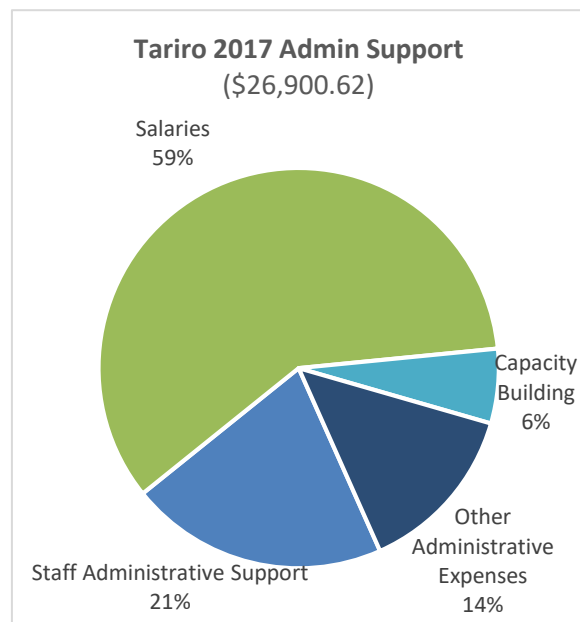
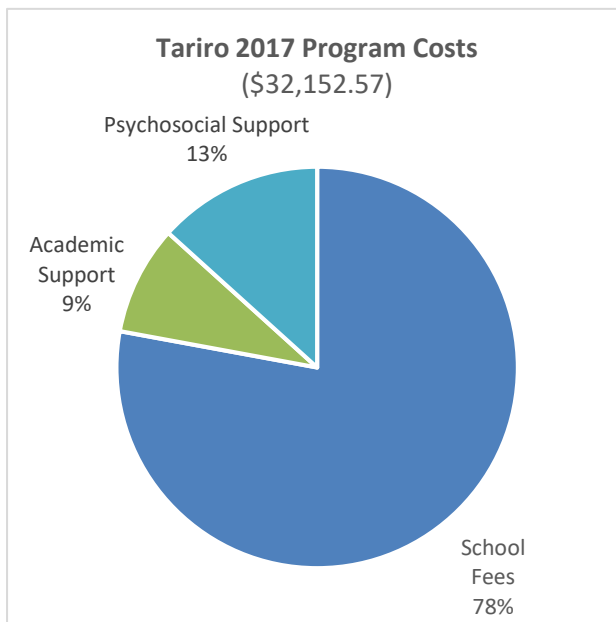
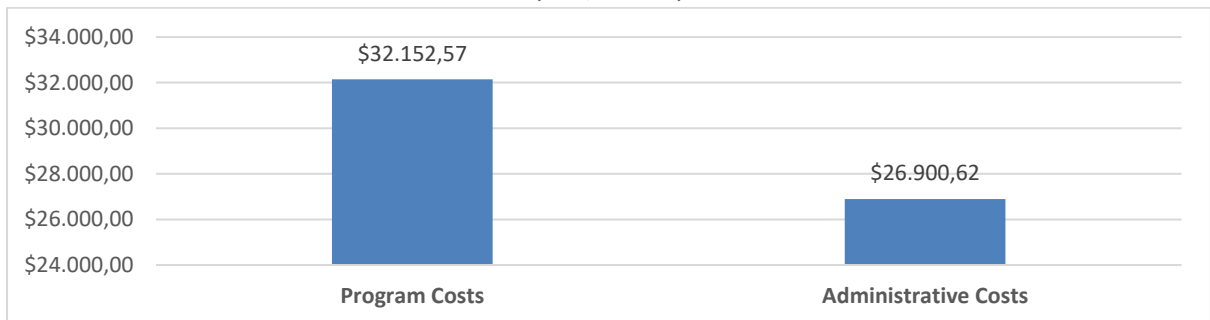


## 2017 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

### Tariro 2017 Income (\$56,020.26)



### Tariro 2017 Expenses<sup>2</sup> (\$59,053.19)



<sup>2</sup> Tariro income for 2017 totalled \$56,020.26 and program expenses totalled \$59,053.19. Tariro drew \$3,032.93 from our reserve.

## 2017 HIGHLIGHTS

### Our Students

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#### Tertiary Students

Tariro prides itself on the hard work, dedication, and success of its students. To cap a good year for Tariro, three of our students successfully completed their tertiary studies, obtaining excellent grades. Politeness N. obtained a first-class degree in Tourism and Hospitality Management from the leading university in Zimbabwe, the University of Zimbabwe (UZ). Tariro K. graduated with a class 2.1 degree in Social Work from the Bindura University of Science Education. Pamela K. successfully completed her National Diploma in Rural and Urban Planning studies at the Harare Polytechnic College. Pamela was the only girl in her class who managed to complete her studies.

Three new students enrolled in tertiary institutions in 2017. Morleen began her studies in Business Studies with UZ and she hopes to eventually major in Marketing Communication.



*One of our students, Morleen, has always shone like a beacon and is now a first-year student at the University of Zimbabwe*

Gillian M. enrolled at the Harare Polytechnic where she is studying towards obtaining a National Diploma in Chemical Engineering. Gillian has also been very helpful in mentoring Tariro's Ordinary Level students in Mathematics and Science. Winston N.<sup>3</sup> enrolled at the Midlands State University and is pursuing degree studies in Local Governance.

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<sup>3</sup> Winston is the son of Tariro's former librarian, who passed away while working for Tariro. Tariro has continued to sponsor her children's schooling, together with a private sponsor covering part of Winston's university costs.

Florence M. successfully completed her internship in Purchasing and Supply and will finish her studies at the Harare Polytechnic in 2018. Edwinner S. also successfully completed her industrial attachment in August 2017 and is now in her final academic year at the Bindura University of Science Education where she is studying for an honours degree in Social Work. Pride R. is in her second year at the Midlands State University where she is studying Banking and Finance. Her results to date have been exceptional.

### High School Students

In 2017, Tariro had 28 students in high school, with two students – Brenda M. and Bertha M. – sitting for their Advanced Level Examinations. We are proud to note that both were selected as student leaders at their respective schools. For the second year running, Bertha won the Best Student in Accounting award.

Five students – Natasha M., Brenda S., Prisca K., Jessie N. and Tinotenda M. sat for their Ordinary Level Examinations this year. 21 students were in Forms 1-3 at various schools in Harare. One student, Norleen C., was enrolled in Form 3 at Danhiko Special School.

### Primary School Students

This year we supported five students in primary school and all were actively involved in our music and dance group. Four of the five students wrote their Grade 7 examinations in 2017.

*Thanks to the support of all our donors, Tariro supported 43 students in 2017 and all our students have been exemplary in their behaviour and are doing well in their studies. It is our wish to reach out to more young women and their communities.*

For more biographies and information about Tariro, please check our website [www.tariro.org](http://www.tariro.org)



*Some of the students we support forming a heart, which represents love*

## Other Support to the Girls

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### Mentorship opportunities

In 2017 senior girls graciously took on mentoring roles to the junior girls in our program. The mentorship program has been very fruitful as most of our students who wrote their Ordinary and Advanced Level Examinations did exceptionally well.<sup>4</sup> We are very thankful to the senior girls who played a significant role in paying back to Tariro through the mentorship program!

### Tutoring

Tariro ensured that all students writing their examinations in 2017 had access to extra tutoring during the holidays. Tariro paid for their vacation lessons, which proved to be a worthwhile investment as our students did exceptionally well.



*Tilda (in grey top), one of the senior girls, tutoring Brenda, who sat for her Ordinary Level examinations in 2017*

### Library Access

Tariro has a lending library housed at Chembira Primary School and it is readily accessible to the girls. The library is staffed by the girls themselves, and plays a significant role as a community gathering place where the girls receive social support by meeting discuss various issues. We are hoping to upgrade the library, with the addition of a computer and internet, so that our students can access eBooks and other online resources.

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<sup>4</sup> In fact, our O Level pass rate was 75% compared to a national average of 26.35% and our A Level pass rate was 100% compared to a national average of 82% (averages according to the Zimbabwe Examinations Council)

## Other news from this past year

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### Stakeholder Engagement

Tariro believes we can never go it alone. The community, parents, guardians, teachers, school authorities, and peers are critical in ensuring our students get and can do their best. Key to Tariro's programming has been stakeholder engagement, and it has paid off. In 2017, we saw a number of individuals supporting our cause by making cash or in-kind donations to Tariro. School authorities, notably at Chembira Primary School, have generously allowed us to use their premises for our activities. Through home visits we have maintained our engagement with guardians and parents. Our work has been well received by the community and with their support we can reach out to more orphaned and vulnerable girls.

### Traditional Music and Dance

Traditional Music and Dance has continued to be essential to Tariro's psychosocial programming. It allows the girls not only to develop their music and dance skills, but also offers them an opportunity to build community and team spirit, to develop their confidence, manage stress and overcome challenges in their lives. Through music and dance the girls learn key life skills, and 2017 saw a number of new members joining the group. In 2017, the girls were invited to perform at a number of public and private events. During the CBZ Holdings cheque presentation ceremony, the girls put on a captivating performance. In February, the group also performed at a culture expo in Mbare and they again gave a scintillating performance that won the hearts of many who attended the expo. A clip of their performance was shown on national television and two of our girls were interviewed. The group also received rave reviews in one of the national newspapers, *Newsday* (<https://www.newsday.co.zw/2017/05/02dance-ensemble-shine-culture-expo-2/>).



*Our music and dance group performing at a function*

In July, the group performed at the High Glen Schools Merit Awards held at Highfield Primary School. In August, the group performed at the Harare Agricultural Show where they stole the show with their impressive choreography. In December, they performed at two wedding ceremonies with one of the couples donating a generous \$800 and sanitary hampers to Tariro as a token of appreciation for the splendid performance by the girls.

### **Psychosocial Support and Protection**

In 2017, for the first time Tariro recruited an intern social worker, Brenda Panganayi, to assist the Coordinator in psychosocial support activities. The intern played a crucial role in counselling by carrying out home and school visits, coordinating monthly student meetings and facilitating sexual and reproductive health and rights sessions with the girls. We believe psychosocial support is critical in shaping the character of the students as well as their perception of life. We managed to integrate our psychosocial initiatives into wider systems such as existing community support mechanisms, formal and informal school systems, and social and health services.

Psychosocial support empowers individuals, families and communities to tackle problems facing them and it helps build individual awareness and confidence. It is key to building the community cohesion which is essential for adaptation and the transformation of problems into opportunities for sustainable progress.



*The girls involved in a psychosocial activity*

### **International Visitors**

In 2017, we had the honour of a visit from the founder of Tariro, Professor Jennifer Kyker, an Ethnomusicologist from the University of Rochester, United States. It was a very enriching

experience for the girls, and Jennifer took the girls through a host of activities during her time in Zimbabwe.

### **Fundraising Initiatives in Zimbabwe**

We were excited to receive a generous grant of almost \$7,000 from Zimbabwe’s largest financial services group by asset base, CBZ Holdings. This is the second year of support from CBZ through their corporate social responsibility initiative. The grant from CBZ Holdings enabled Tariro to pay at least two terms’ (semesters) fees for 12 students (six in tertiary institutions and six in high school). The CBZ grant also helped us recruit more students into the program, with the number growing from 30 in 2016 to 43 in 2017. We sincerely hope CBZ Holdings will continue to support our cause and that many corporate companies in Zimbabwe will follow suit.

Edgars Zimbabwe, a leading one-stop-shop for the widest range of great quality clothing, footwear and accessories, donated \$300, which contributed to the payment of examination fees for two of our Ordinary Level students.

OK Fife Avenue Supermarket donated grocery hampers to our students. Nyarie Purvis donated satchels to all the 43 girls. Amazing Grace Makusha also donated Christmas presents to the girls. It is wonderful that the community is recognising the work we are doing in educating and empowering the girl child and are willing to be play an active role in our initiatives. Thank you!



*Pictures showing some of the donations we got last year*

### **Our New Website**

In 2017, we redesigned and relaunched our website. We now have a new look and more information about our program and our students! Check us out at [www.tariro.org](http://www.tariro.org).

### **Our New Office Space**

We have moved offices to 194 Baines Avenue at a co-working space for Impact Hub. The new offices are easily accessible and provide a valuable platform for networking. A number of people who visit the co-working space have appreciated the work we do and have promised to help where possible.

## PLANS FOR 2018

*Educate a boy, you have educated an individual.*

*Educate a girl, you have educated the whole village.*

*African Proverb*

In 2018 we will continue to uphold our mission of educating and empowering the girl child. We plan to reach out to more girls in need and increase enrolment from our current 43 students to 50, including more students at the primary level. We are hopeful that we will gain extra funding from other corporate entities in Zimbabwe and we also intend to apply for grants that will enable us 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. The program will also enable us to reach out to the wider community through peer education.

In 2018, we hope to initiate an income generating project in the form of a poultry farm. We have so far not been able to secure funding, but it is a venture we will continue pursuing. The goal of this project is two-fold: 1) Provide a way for Tariro to generate some of its own income, and 2) Teach our students entrepreneurial and business management skills, skills that will serve them well as they move into the workforce after completing their education.

After a successful year having a social worker intern onboard in 2017, we have renewed the program and have again hired an intern for 2018. We hope to expand the psycho-social support we can offer our students, and through the social worker's efforts link our students and their families with community and government support to ease their severe poverty.

We also sincerely hope that in 2018 Tariro will generate more partnerships with like-minded organisations, sponsors and corporate entities, particularly in Zimbabwe.

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](mailto:tariro.board@gmail.com).

### **International Board**

Elizabeth Davis, President (Munich, Germany)

Barb Roberts, Vice-President (Victoria, Canada)

Karen Nyawera\* (New York, USA)

Joanne Ailwood, Secretary (Newcastle, Australia)

Lauri Benblatt (Washington, USA)

Vallerie Sangaka, Treasurer (North Carolina, USA)

Chiedza Mufunde\* (Kigali, Rwanda)

Stephanie Bengtsson\* (Vienna, Austria)

Tessa Wood (Colorado, USA)

### **Zimbabwe Board of Governors**

*(Harare, Zimbabwe)*

Easter Chigumira\*

Tamara Jones\*

Tafadzwa Muzhandu\*

Tatenda Chizanga\*\*

\*Denotes our members who are from Zimbabwe

\*\*Denotes members who are Tariro alumnae