

# Tariro: Hope & Health for Zimbabwe's Orphans



## 2018 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.*

# Contents

- Letter from the President ..... 2
- Update on the Political & Economic Situation in Zimbabwe ..... 4
- Tariro Today ..... 5
- 2018 By the Numbers ..... 6
- 2018 Financial Summary ..... 8
  - Tariro Income 2018..... 8
  - Tariro Expenditures 2018..... 9
- 2018 Highlights ..... 10
  - Our Students ..... 10
    - Secondary School Students..... 10
    - Primary School Students ..... 10
    - Tertiary Students..... 11
  - Other Support to our Students ..... 12
    - Provision of Psychosocial Support ..... 12
    - Library Access..... 13
  - Other News from the Year ..... 13
    - Traditional Music and Dance Ensemble..... 13
    - International Visitors ..... 14
    - Fundraising Initiatives in Zimbabwe ..... 15
      - The Young Women’s Poultry Project ..... 15
- 2019 Plans ..... 17

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Tariro Supporters,

Thank you for your faithful support! This year, we celebrated 15 years serving young women and girls in the high-density suburbs of Zimbabwe. The Tariro Board and I have never been more proud of our students. It was a great year: two of our students graduated from tertiary institutions across the country and two of our students did exceptionally well in their Ordinary Level examinations. Another student switched to a vocational program after completing her O-Levels – an exciting development for Tariro. In consultation with her teachers and parents, Tariro agreed to support her in a program that would equip her with a dependable, economic skill.

The most significant development in 2018 was that we were able to launch our poultry project with our students! The Young Women's Poultry Project teaches our students entrepreneurship and is a source of income for our program. The project was made possible courtesy of the United States Embassy through a grant from United States President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). We are hopeful that the poultry project will be a dependable source of income in Zimbabwe and that our students and their families will learn business skills through the program that they will be able to benefit their families.



*The Young Women's Poultry Project is up and running, thanks to generous support from PEPFAR*

Another significant development in 2018 was the severe economic downturn that began in the second half of the year. For the second time in Tariro's history, we are facing serious economic upheaval with skyrocketing prices for commodities and fuel. We are making strategic decisions, such as buying supplies in bulk and limiting the number of new students enrolled, to insure ourselves against the rising costs in Zimbabwe, and to make sure our budget is not over-extended while we continue to provide holistic, quality support for our students.

Despite the financial and economic challenges that the country continues to face, our work of educating and empowering girls continues to be recognized by corporations and individuals in Zimbabwe. ZB Bank is a new corporate sponsor in Zimbabwe, Nashua donated a heavy-duty photocopier/printer, and we again received cash donations from CBZ Holdings.

There are so many girls worldwide who cannot go to school while they have their period because they do not have access to feminine hygiene products. Making sure our students can always go to school is a core part of Tariro's program. We are very grateful for the donation this year of a full year's supply of sanitary pads for our students! We received sanitary pads from an American philanthropist, Chanita Foster, a donation that has helped Tariro weather the rising costs for sanitary ware in Zimbabwe. In 2019, we will be investigating options for washable feminine hygiene products for our students.

The Tariro Music and Dance Ensemble continues to make us proud. This year the ensemble performed twice at the Harare Agricultural Show and at a wedding, where they received a monetary donation. Four of our students also participated at the Dreams Marimba Camp, made possible by scholarships they received from Dreams Marimba. The ensemble is a source of pride and confidence for our students.



*The Tariro Music and Dance Ensemble perform regularly in and around Harare*

Tariro is a Shona word that means hope, and true to its name, Tariro continues to bring hope to many girls who could have dropped out of school. Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all of the darkness. Despite challenges and problems these girls continue to face, their future now looks bright.

Thanks to Tariro and its supporters and donors, Tariro gives hope to our students that they will be okay despite the current economic situation. Thank you for your continued support.

Elizabeth Davis  
President, Tariro Board of Directors

## UPDATE ON THE POLITICAL & ECONOMIC SITUATION IN ZIMBABWE

General elections were held in July to elect a new president and members of both houses of parliament. The election process was peaceful, but the main opposition party, MDC Alliance, claimed that the ruling party ZANU-PF and the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) had rigged the presidential election results to declare Emmerson Mnangagwa as the winner. Within days after the election, there were protests by MDC Alliance. The army opened fire on demonstrators and bystanders and six people were killed.

A few months after the election, the economy deteriorated rapidly. Cash shortages that started in 2016 have left bank account holders unable to access funds and companies unable to pay their workers, stoking fears of a repeat of Zimbabwe's economic meltdown and hyperinflation nearly a decade ago.

The country is still without a fixed currency, operating primarily with US dollars. Prices of basic commodities have skyrocketed, and the shortage of foreign currency has triggered shortages of fuel and medicines. Zimbabwe is experiencing a significant shortage of US dollars, partly due to a consistent trade deficit. Poverty and unemployment are endemic in Zimbabwe, driven by the shrinking economy.

With Zimbabwe experiencing profound economic challenges, the poor are the hardest hit. A stalled and sluggish economy has a domino effect, the ripples of which extend to all areas of life. The number of school dropouts has significantly increased and the number of students seeking assistance is on the rise.

Tariro's office continues to receive a significant number of students seeking assistance – many more than we are currently able to support.

## TARIRO TODAY

Founded in 2003, Tariro is dedicated to empowering and educating young women and girls in high-density suburbs of Harare, Zimbabwe, in order to prevent the spread of HIV and AIDS, early marriages, and teenage pregnancies.

Over the last 15 years, Tariro has provided a comprehensive range of services, including paying students' school and examination fees, purchasing uniforms, school supplies, and feminine hygiene products, providing textbooks through a lending library, offering academic support services such as tutoring, and empowering our students through monthly health education sessions and an annual week-long conference on HIV prevention and Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights.

More than 350 young women have passed through Tariro's program, with 99 percent completing their secondary education and many continuing to tertiary education at Zimbabwean universities and polytechnic institutes.

Thanks to your generous support, and under the excellent leadership of our Executive Coordinator, Simbarashe Kanyimo, Tariro was able to support 51 students in 2018:

- 33 in secondary school
- 6 in primary school
- 11 in tertiary institutions
- 1 at a vocational-tech school

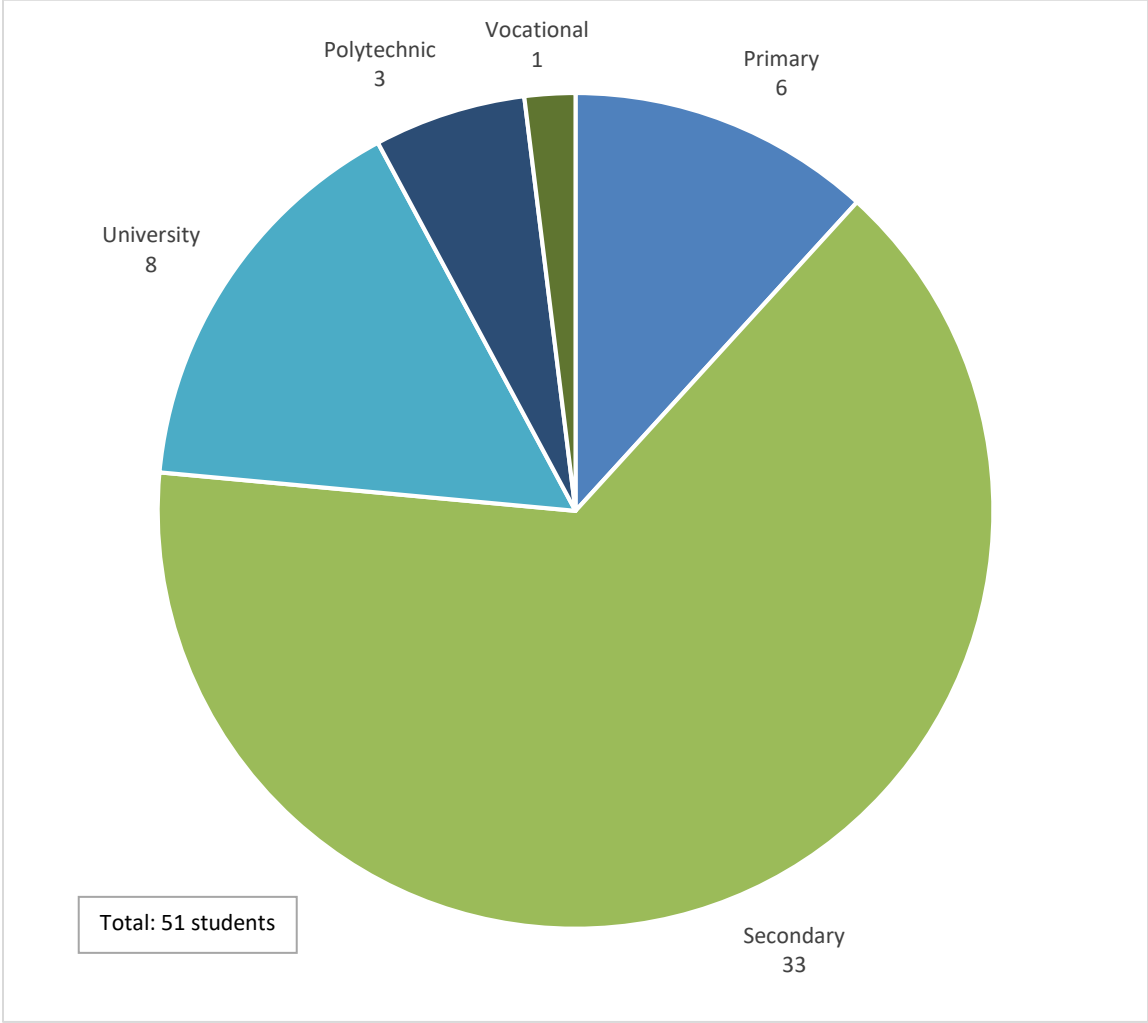
The importance of education in low- and middle-income countries cannot be overstated. Education can be the catalyst needed to pull families and communities out of the cycle of poverty. Knowledge gives children the power to dream of a better future and the confidence needed to pursue a full education, which in turn will help generations to come. Education also makes a significant difference, in day-to-day life, contributing to improved nutrition, healthcare and gender equity.

Without Tariro, it is unlikely our girls would ever be able to complete their education, and they would stay trapped in a cycle of poverty. Tariro is so proud to be making that kind of difference in our students' lives!

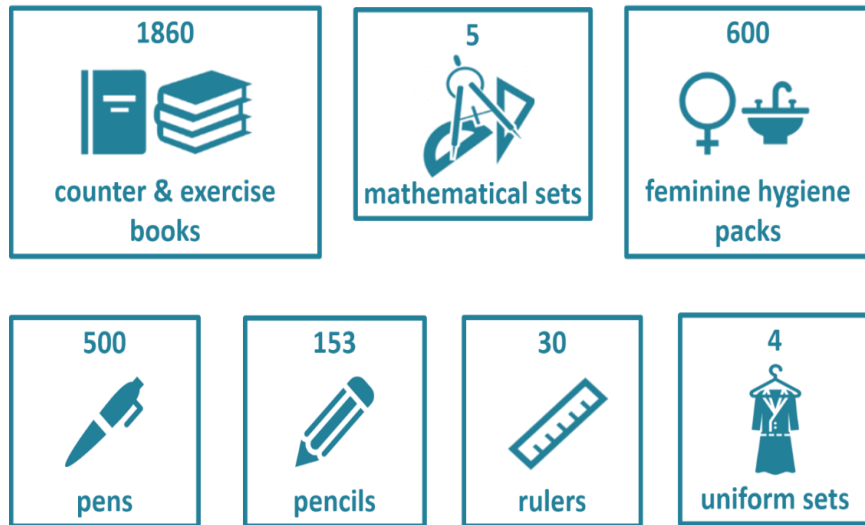
**Thank you for your support!**

2018 BY THE NUMBERS

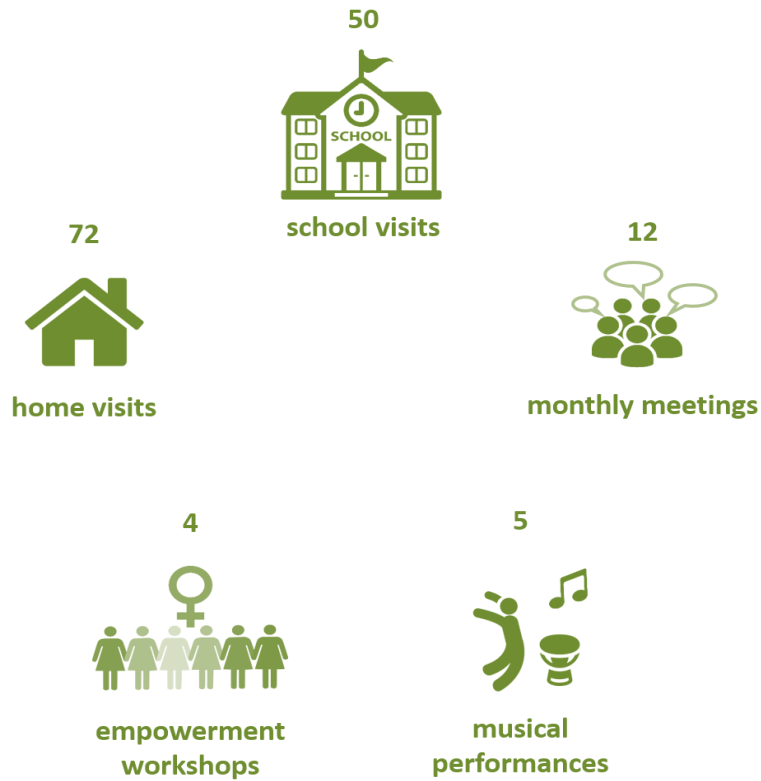
Figure 1: Students Supported



**Figure 2: Additional Academic Support**

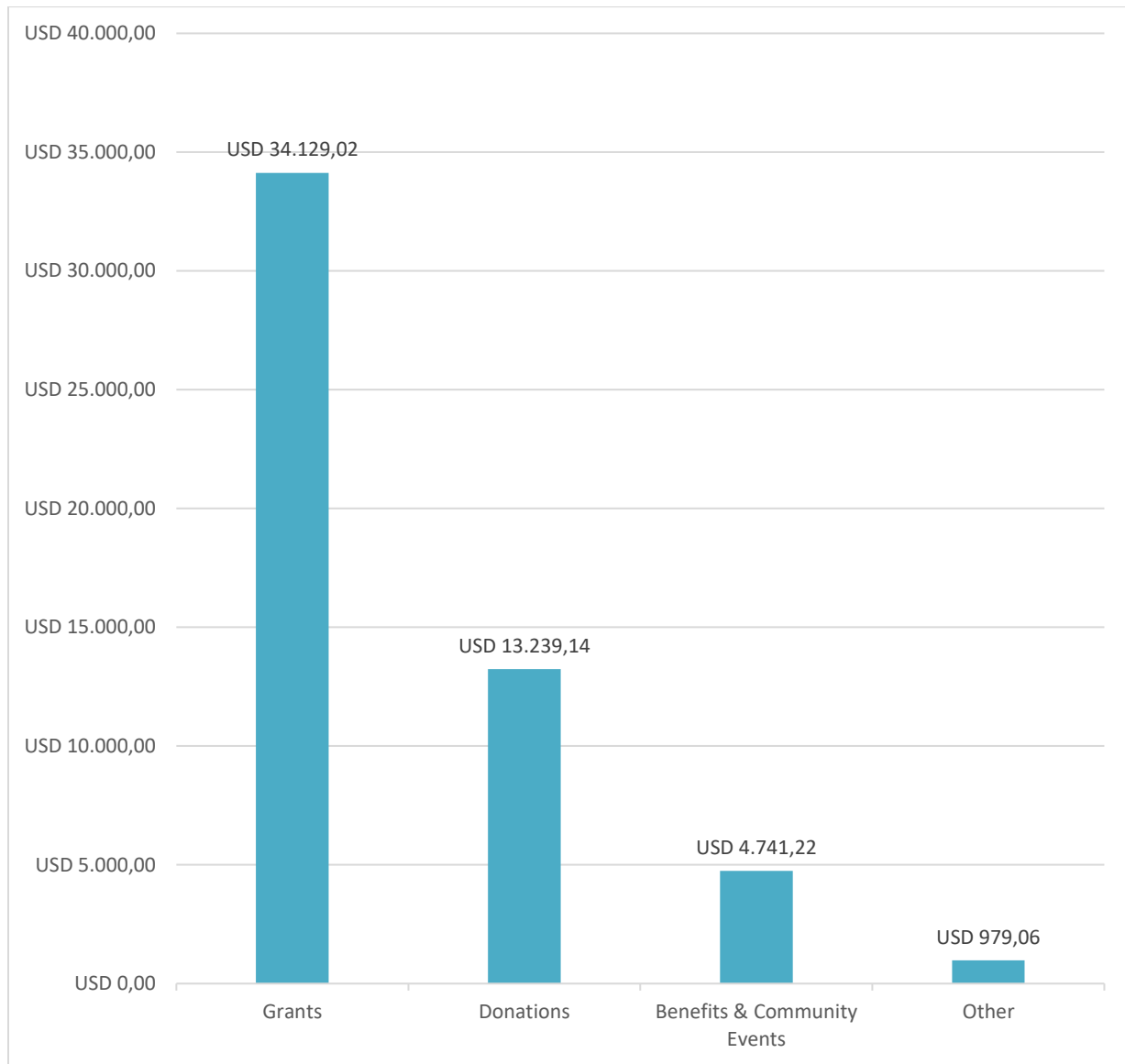


**Figure 3: Psychosocial Support**



# 2018 FINANCIAL SUMMARY <sup>1</sup>

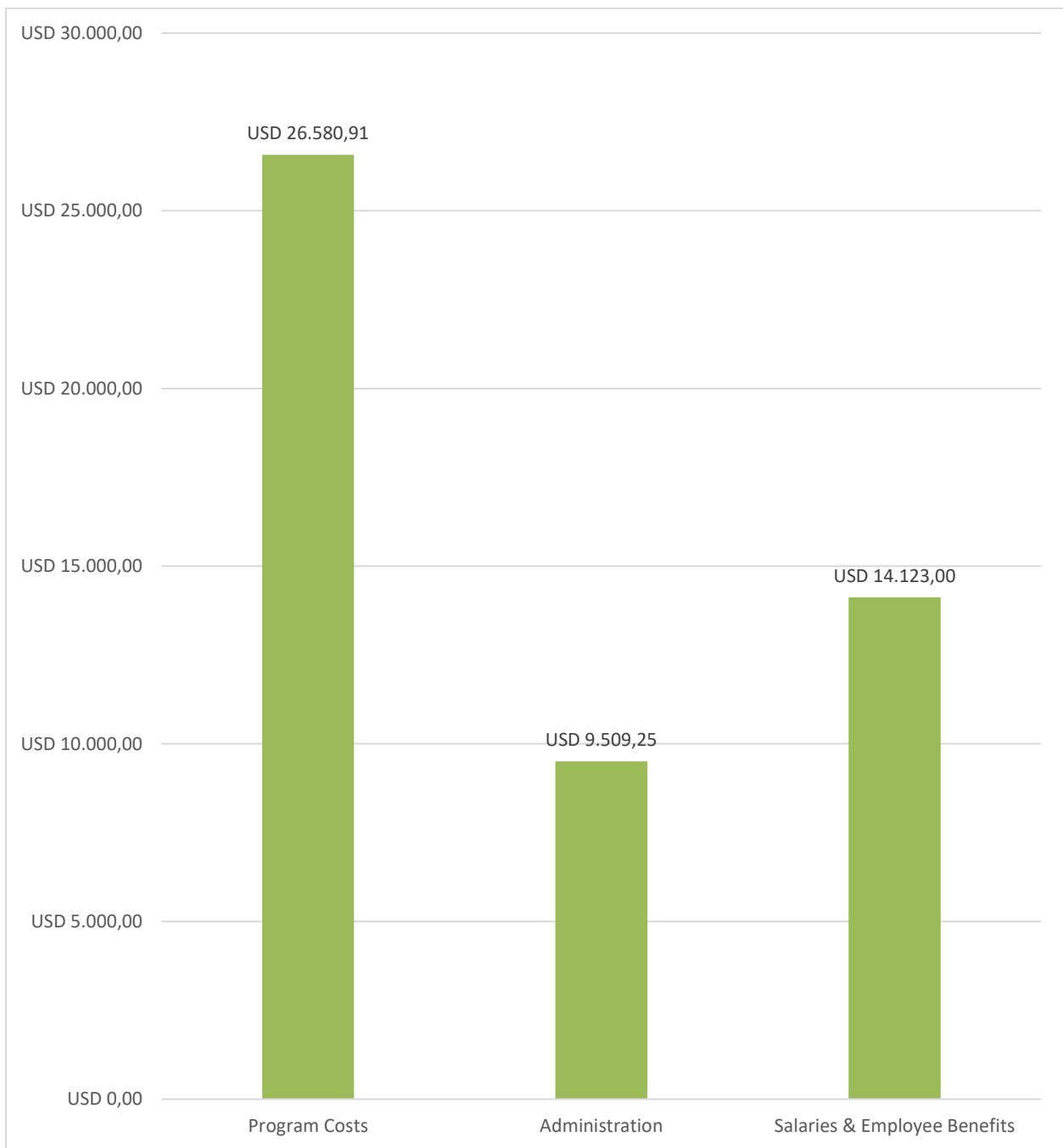
## Tariro Income 2018



(TOTAL INCOME: USD 53,088.44)

<sup>1</sup> **Note:** The Young Women’s Poultry Project was initiated in 2018 with generous support from the US Embassy in Harare. The project teaches life skills and entrepreneurship, as well as being an income-generating initiative for Tariro. The US grant was for USD 6,337.60, and total expenses for this start-up year were USD 9,956.60. The difference was subsidized by Tariro’s reserve funds. For more details about the Young Women’s Poultry Project, please see pages 15-16 of this report.

## Tariro Expenditures 2018



(TOTAL EXPENDITURES: USD 50,213.16)

## 2018 HIGHLIGHTS

### Our Students

---

#### *Secondary School Students*

In 2018, Rufaro M., Fadzai M., and Nyasha P. sat for their Ordinary Level examinations, and Tilda M. sat for her Advanced Level examinations. Their results were good, and Tilda has now enrolled at the Chinhoyi University of Technology, where she is studying Production Engineering. The students who sat their exams last year received their results early this year. Brenda S. and Prisca K. did exceptionally well in their Ordinary Level examinations, scoring A grades in more than 6 subjects.



*Tilda M. has enrolled at the Chinhoyi University of Technology, after sitting her Advanced Level Exams*

23 other students are at various secondary schools located around Harare, the majority of whom are doing well in their studies. Four of our students are prefects at their respective schools. Tariro is assisting students in examination classes with payment for extra lessons. In addition, our tertiary students are mentoring our students at the secondary level.

#### *Primary School Students*

During the course of the year, we were able to increase our outreach in primary schools, and, for 2018, we supported six students in primary school. One student wrote her Grade 7 examinations and passed all her subjects with good grades. She will be progressing to Form 1.



*Some of our primary students pose for a photo, Makanaka M., Hazel M., Lestancia K., Anesu H., and Tanaka N. (L to R)*

### *Tertiary Students*

While Tariro's primary purpose is to support students in completing their secondary education, in recent years we have tried where possible to continue our support for students who have excelled at secondary school to continue their studies at the tertiary level. We are proud to announce that two of our students successfully completed their tertiary studies and are graduating this year. Jane J. graduated from the Midlands State University with a Bachelor of Science (Honors) degree in Human Resources Management, and Edwinner S. graduated from Bindura University of Science Education with a Bachelor of Social Science in Social Work. Edwinner is now employed as a Social Worker by St. Johns Ambulance Association, where she did her internship during her third year of university.



*Our proud graduates, Jane J. (left) and Edwinner S. (right)*

Pamela K., who last year successfully finished her studies at the Harare Polytechnic College, graduated this year with a National Diploma in Rural and Urban Planning. She is now self-employed, designing housing plans in Mazowe.

Two new students enrolled in tertiary institutions in 2018. Bertha M. enrolled at the University of Zimbabwe, where she is studying Accounting, and Vimbai M. is now studying Sociology at Midlands State University.

Our other students currently enrolled at the tertiary level are Winston N. and Pride R. at Midlands State University, Morleen W. at the University of Zimbabwe, and Nicole M. and Gillian M. at Harare Polytechnic College.

---

## Other Support to our Students

---

### *Provision of Psychosocial Support*

Because of their background, Tariro students require more than payment of school fees and provision of educational support materials to stay in school and to thrive. The majority of our students are adolescents, which is a period of significant change and can therefore be a challenging time when it comes to their education. Recognizing this, we provide additional psychosocial support to our students, something which makes Tariro so unique.

Besides frequent home and school visits, Tariro has introduced a mentoring program. The mentoring activity is a Tariro strategic initiative meant to motivate our students as they pursue their education until completion. They are exposed to positive role models, information, knowledge and the skills to enable them to make informed decisions and at the same time cope with the stress of various emerging issues as they grow up. In the spirit of giving back, our post-secondary students play a key role in mentoring our primary and secondary students. They also participate in different activities in their communities during the school holidays and are now required to do 120 hours of volunteer work.

Educating women and girls about reproductive healthcare and their rights regarding marriage empowers them to make decisions about their lives. Early marriage and pregnancy cut educations short and often lead to underweight and undernourished children, as well as domestic violence. When girls stay in school longer, they are less likely to marry before age 18 and have children early, and they're more likely to find rewarding work after leaving school.

Central to our psychosocial programs is our social work intern. For the past two years, we have engaged a social work intern to work with our students, and the intern's contribution to the program has been very welcome. The inclusion of a social worker has seen an increase in face-to-face and group counselling sessions, as well as more meaningful and impactful school and home visits, and this has positively affected how our students deal with challenges.

As part of our psychosocial program, we also held a Mental Health Awareness workshop for the students to raise awareness about the importance of mental health.



*Some of the students doing group work during the Mental Health Awareness workshop*

### *Library Access*

The Tariro library housed at Chembira Primary School has continued to provide the girls with access to reading material. More than just providing access to books, the library is a place where the girls gather to explore, interact and imagine. This year the library received a donation of secondhand books from ZB Holdings staff.

## **Other News from the Year**

---

### *Traditional Music and Dance Ensemble*

Our traditional music and dance group have continued to shine and have connected with various artists and celebrities, both locally and internationally. They have performed at many functions and have received rave reviews from the media. This year, they performed at the Harare Agricultural Show where they gave a great performance and were invited back to perform on the show's closing day. The group has also played a crucial role in our fundraising drive as they have performed at weddings for a donation.

Together, music and dance form a universal language that allows us to communicate across cultural and linguistic boundaries. This universal language brings people together and evokes deep feelings at the core of the shared human experience, including empathy, social connectedness, and cooperation.

The girls performed at a Vessels of Love function held at Impact Hub Harare during Mother's Day. The function was held in honor of 25 single mothers chosen from the community. The music and dance group has also performed at the Spar Athenitis fun day in May and June treating shoppers to some uplifting marimba music and dances.



*Our music and dance ensemble performing at the Vessels of Love function, which was held for single mothers*

Four of the girls were part of the Dreams Marimba Camp. The camp, the brainchild of renowned drummer and marimba player Blessing Chimanga, seeks to groom and nurture marimba players, create confidence in marimba players and help boost morale in playing the instrument as well as raising awareness of marimba as a musical instrument in Zimbabwe and internationally.

### *International Visitors*

In 2018, Tariro had the honor of hosting three international visitors: Kelly Orphan (United States), Ted Wright (Canada), and Chanita Foster (United States). Kelly Orphan and Ted Wright are both seasoned marimba players, and the two play a crucial role in coordinating fundraising activities for Tariro in their respective countries. Kelly Orphan comes by her claim to global citizenship in music and in life via her

family's Armenian roots, her African education, and years spent performing in the Bay Area world music scene. Kelly is moved by music, dance, art, gardening, cooking and noticing what is real and seeing the good. Ted Wright's love for Zimbabwean music began with Victoria's Marimba Muzuva in 1993. He has been a teacher of marimba, mbira, chipendani, and gumboot dancing for many years, and has travelled to Zimbabwe several times, studying and performing with many of Zimbabwe's top traditional musicians. In addition to Muzuva, his musical projects have included the world beat improvisational ensemble Spirit Gate, mbira quartet Choto, and Zimbabwean roots dance bands Zimfusion and Jambanja. Ted organizes the annual Zimbabwean music and dance gathering Nhemamusasa North and runs workshops, works with school groups, and teaches ongoing classes as director of Bopoma on Vancouver Island, British Columbia, Canada. The two visited our music and dance ensemble's group practice sessions and taught the girls exciting new marimba songs, which they are now perfecting, with the help of our seasoned music and dance instructor, Daniel Inasiyo.

Tariro also hosted Chanita Foster during her visit to Zimbabwe. Chanita is a passionate entrepreneur and owner of Wife Material Custom Jerseys, Rockstar Publishing, Rockstar Rascals, Divine Diva Photography and Urban Christian RockStar Properties LLC. Chanita Foster also founded The Beyond, the Game Foundation, a nonprofit group that donates supplies and enhances the morale of over 300 orphans and young women living with HIV in Swaziland. She donated 500 sanitary pads to Tariro.

### *Fundraising Initiatives in Zimbabwe*

For the third year in a row, Tariro received a generous grant of almost USD 6,500 from Zimbabwe's largest financial services group by asset base, CBZ Holdings. CBZ Holdings has been very supportive of education assistance programs, and the grant they awarded enabled Tariro to pay fees for five tertiary students, one student at Danhiko Special School, and seven students in secondary school.

Nashua Zimbabwe donated a refurbished heavy-duty printer/photocopier to Tariro. Founded in 1986, Nashua Zimbabwe has grown to be the leader in office automation tailored solutions in Zimbabwe, providing sales in office equipment, a hassle free monthly rental option inclusive of technical support as well as consumables and software services. The printer/photocopier is proving very useful, as we can now photocopy study materials for our students, in addition to regular office use.

Tariro also received a donation of a thousand dollars and an assortment of second-hand library books from ZB Bank Limited (ZBBL). ZBBL is the flagship of ZB Financial Holdings Limited, a large Zimbabwean financial services provider whose shares are traded on the Zimbabwe Stock Exchange under the symbol ZBFH.

We are grateful for the corporations who have recognized the value of our work, and we sincerely hope our relationship will extend beyond this year.

### *The Young Women's Poultry Project*

As part of Tariro's efforts to generate income to support our program, we have explored a number of options to raise funds through program activities. Thanks to a generous grant from the Embassy of the United States of America (awarded through the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, PEPFAR),

Tariro has been able to set up a small poultry business to raise additional funds to grow the program. In addition to raising much-needed funds, the Young Women’s Poultry Project allows us to equip current and former students and their families with key entrepreneurship, farming, and environmental sustainability skills and funding to become self-sufficient. The project is being undertaken in partnership with Chembira Primary School, Glen Norah.



*The Young Women’s Poultry Project provides our students with the opportunity to build key skills and a sustainable income*

## 2019 PLANS

In 2019, as we have done since 2003, we will continue to uphold our mission of educating and empowering the girl child, primarily at the secondary level. We have asked our tertiary students to donate their time to support Tariro's program with mentoring and voluntary work. We are eager to see how our successful tertiary students will contribute to our younger students' academic success.

Our plans to initiate an income-generating project in the form of a poultry farm have been realized and, in 2019, we hope to scale up the project so that it is fully self-sustaining. Proceeds will be used to support the Tariro program and support our students and their families in setting up their own small business ventures.

We will again engage a social work intern for the 2019 year. Our psychosocial support program has grown from strength to strength, thanks to our engagement of the interns over the past two years. We hope to fully implement a year-long Empowerment Program with our students in 2019 with monthly workshops, journaling, and mentoring.

This upcoming year, Tariro is looking for an opportunity to engage with other new partners working at educating and empowering the girl child. We will also seek partnerships for our music and dance ensemble and try to get them as much exposure as possible.

*The Board of Directors is actively involved in Tariro's success. We are a diverse group of local and international women with a shared 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 of Directors**

Elizabeth Davis, President (Munich, Germany)  
Barb Roberts, Vice President (Victoria, Canada)  
Jo Ailwood, Secretary (outgoing) (Newcastle, Australia)  
Vallerie Sangaka, Treasurer (outgoing) (North Carolina, USA)  
Asja Basko, Secretary (incoming) (Munich, Germany)  
Shefali Rajan, Treasurer (incoming) (Munich, Germany)  
Lauri Benblatt (Washington, USA)  
Stephanie Bengtsson\* (Paris, France)  
Chiedza Mufunde\* (outgoing) (Kigali, Rwanda)  
Karen Nyawera\* (New York, USA)  
Kathleen Smithers (Newcastle, Australia)  
Tessa Wood (Colorado, USA)

### **Zimbabwe Board of Directors**

Easther Chigumira\*  
Tatenda Chizanga\*\*  
Tafadzwa Muzhandu\*

\* Denotes our members who are from Zimbabwe

\*\* Denotes Tariro alumna