

TARIRO

Hope & Health for Zimbabwe's Orphans



2024 ANNUAL REPORT



OUR MISSION

To educate and empower young women and girls in Zimbabwean communities affected by HIV/AIDS.

OUR VISION

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

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LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Greetings from Zimbabwe! It has been a privilege for me to spend several months in Zimbabwe this year as a Fulbright Fellow, on sabbatical from the University of Rochester. For my fellowship, I am curating a photographic exhibit at the National Gallery of Zimbabwe featuring the work of a pioneering Zimbabwean photographer named Chicago Dzviti. Prior to his early death in 1995, Chicago Dzviti printed beautiful black & white photographs of Zimbabwean music and musicians, as well as images depicting rural life, women and children, and artisan crafts. With over 4000 images, his archive is now housed at the University of Rochester. Alongside the physical exhibit at the National Gallery of Zimbabwe, a digital version will be published later this year for audiences across the globe.

While I have visited Zimbabwe several times during the past few years, it has been over a decade since I lived here for an extended period. Daily life is harder than ever, with constant water and electricity shortages, multiple transportation challenges from bad roads to numerous police roadblocks, high prices for basic commodities, and limited access to food due to a recent drought. Despite these challenges, it has been immensely rewarding to interact with Tariro's inspiring students, staff members, and local volunteers during my stay.

In September, I was able to attend the graduation ceremony for two of our students – Tilda M. and Brenda S. – at Chinhoyi University of Technology. One of these students, Tilda M., was profiled a few years ago in our fall newsletter. Part of Tariro since 2010, Tilda grew up with her widowed mother and two sisters. In 2022, one of her sisters died of cancer, leaving the family responsible for two more school-aged children. As Tilda reported then, "I'm very grateful for the help in the payment of my fees because if not I wouldn't have been able to continue with school, particularly in this situation." An accomplished musician and dancer, Tilda was an enthusiastic member of Tariro's traditional music and dance group Ngoma YeKwedu, and traveled to Japan for a cultural tour organized by Zimbabwean musician Clive Malunga in 2012. It was an amazing and humbling experience to sit with Tilda's sister and widowed mother at her graduation, and to witness their immense pride in her accomplishment. Just over a month after graduating, Tilda secured an entry-level job in mechatronic engineering, her field of study. This makes Tilda the first person in her family to graduate from university, as well as the first to hold formal employment of any kind.

Thanks to your generous support, Tariro has risen to meet the challenges facing Tilda M. and all of our students this past year. As we reflect on 2024, we are reminded of the profound difference your unwavering support has made in the lives of the girls we serve. I am pleased to share with you some of the highlights of our work in this report, and I thank you again for the generosity and care you have shown for orphaned and vulnerable young women and girls in Zimbabwe.

Warm wishes,

Dr. Jennifer W. Kyker

HARARE, ZIMBABWE

TARIRO'S WORK IN CONTEXT

"More than half a million out-of-school children may fail to return to school without increased funding, and 83% of children are facing food poverty, further threatening their growth and education."

UNICEF ZIMBABWE 2024 APPEAL

As the foregoing quote from UNICEF Zimbabwe suggests, the urgent challenges confronting ordinary Zimbabweans have threatened to place education out of reach for many children. Indeed, one report suggests that 22.3% of children in rural areas and 19.7% of children in urban areas have already stopped attending school for lack of funds.¹ Over the past year, Zimbabweans have confronted skyrocketing school fees due to ongoing inflation, food shortages due to the effects of El Niño, and high, ongoing unemployment and poverty rates. With the annual costs for a secondary school student now averaging \$330, families already battling poverty are struggling to keep up.

For Zimbabwe's orphaned children, the situation is particularly dire. In the past, extended family members contributed to caring for orphaned children, but this has become increasingly challenging due to the prevailing economic hardships. Orphaned and vulnerable girls are at particular risk, as they face especially high barriers to educational access, including early marriage and exploitation. As a result, teenage pregnancies have now risen to a staggering 22%, a dramatic increase from 9% in 2016. While Zimbabwe boasts an impressive literacy rate of 94%, barriers such as inadequately funded schools, food insecurity, and a growing number of out-of-school children threaten to reverse these gains. Collaborative efforts and increased investment in education are essential in ensuring that all children, especially the most vulnerable, have access to quality learning opportunities.



¹ Food & Nutrition Council Zimbabwe. (2024). *Zimbabwe Livelihoods Assessment Committee (ZimLAC) Rural Livelihoods Assessment Report*. UNICEF. Available at: <https://www.unicef.org/zimbabwe/reports/zimbabwe-livelihoods-assessment-report-2024>

TARIRO'S MODEL

Transforming Lives Through Comprehensive Support

Tariro is dedicated to reducing HIV/AIDS transmission rates in Zimbabwe by addressing complex barriers to education for young women and girls. We partner with local schools to identify orphaned and vulnerable girls in need, and provide them with comprehensive support including school fees, uniforms, and supplies. We offer our students consistent and intensive support, ensuring each girl has the resources and guidance needed to succeed academically and personally. Our approach also emphasizes the importance of extracurricular activities, mentoring, and psychosocial support. Through our traditional music and dance group, *Ngoma YeKwedu*, for example, 15 Tariro students have the opportunity to connect with their cultural heritage, develop new skills, and interact with peers in a supportive environment. Through our tennis training program with Baseline Tennis Academy, many students are developing confidence, teamwork, and discipline, keeping them engaged and motivated on and off the court. Mentorship sessions and home visits with all students offer guidance, encouragement, and a safe space to address their challenges.



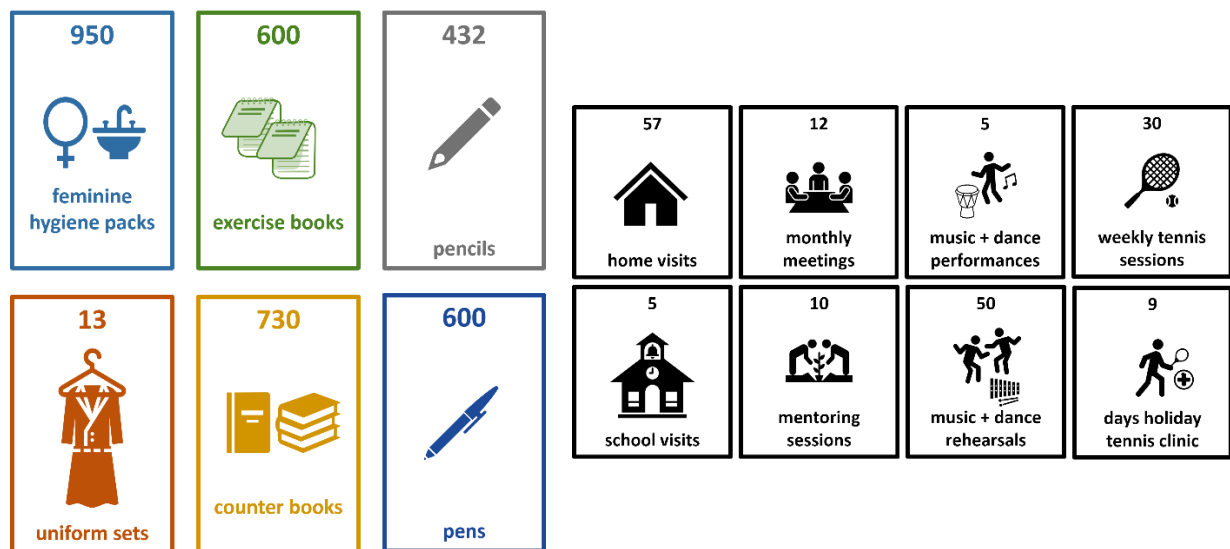
The impact of Tariro's comprehensive approach is clear. Many of our students have achieved academic success, excelling in their "O" and "A" Level exams and advancing to university or vocational training. Others have discovered their passions and talents through sports, music, and dance, which foster discipline, teamwork, and resilience. Your support enables Tariro to transform the lives of Zimbabwe's most vulnerable children, allowing them to envision possibilities beyond their current circumstances and work toward brighter futures. Together, we are making a lasting difference in their lives.

2024: TARIRO IN NUMBERS

Number of Students Supported

Enrollment level	Number of students
Primary school	25
Secondary school	21
University	8
Polytechnical institutions	2
Vocational/technical programs	2
MasterCard Foundation Scholarship	1
Professional dance training	3
TOTAL	62

Additional Academic & Psychosocial Support



2024 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Income		USD
<i>Grants</i>		33,570.00
<i>Donations</i>		25,364.57
<i>Other</i>		111.00
Total Income		59,045.57
<i>Reserves</i>		13,288.36
Total Income + Reserves		72,333.93
Expenses		
<i>School Fees</i>		20,787.00
<i>Exam Fees</i>		1,242.00
<i>School Supplies</i>		3,264.00
<i>Psychosocial Support</i>		5,228.00
<i>Salaries & Allowances</i>		17,245.00
<i>Administration Costs (Zimbabwe)</i>		3,107.00
<i>Administration Costs (U.S.)</i>		1,651.92
<i>20th Anniversary Activities</i>		820.00
<i>Other Costs</i>		5,946.00
Total Expenses		59,290.92
Remaining Funds (year end)		13,043.01

ACADEMIC SUPPORT

Enabling young women and girls to overcome barriers to education is at the heart of Tariro's work. Many students come to Tariro with significant financial arrears at school, and have missed weeks, months, or even years of school due to non-payment of school fees. Tariro intervenes in these students' lives by providing comprehensive academic support, including payment of school and exam fees and the provision of uniforms, school supplies, and sanitary pads.

Primary Students

Tariro supported 25 primary school students in 2024. 14 of our primary school students were new enrollments at government schools in Glen Norah and Highfield. Among our primary students, we are especially proud of Cheryl K., who was selected as a school prefect due to her academic strengths and leadership potential. 12 of Tariro's primary students took their Grade 7 examinations in 2024, marking an important academic milestone in their educational journeys.



Some of our primary and secondary students: Top row (left to right) – Cheryl K., Latisha F., Tammicca E.; Middle row (left to right) – Makanaka K., Rudaviro G., Melody M.; Bottom row – Tanyaradzwa T., Shalom K., Mellanie I.

Secondary Students

Tariro supported another 21 secondary school students in 2024, including 15 students enrolled in O Level study, and six enrolled in A Level study. Two students wrote their A Level exams in 2024, and both passed with good results. Another two students wrote their O Level exams in 2024, with one strong pass. Additionally, two more students re-wrote their O Level exams, although neither obtained results high enough to proceed to A Levels.

Tertiary and Vocational/Professional Training Students

Tariro supported 16 students in university study, vocational training, or other professional training in 2024. Two of these students obtained their university degrees this year:

- **Tilda M.** earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechatronics from Chinhoyi University of Technology.
- **Brenda S.** earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Supply Chain Management, also from Chinhoyi University of Technology.



(Top row) Tilda M, and Tariro's Executive Director Jennifer) and Brenda (below row) at the 2024 Chinhoyi University of Technology graduation ceremony.

Another three university students secured internships related to their degree programs:

- **Rufaro M.**, a third-year Disaster and Risk Reduction student at the University of Zimbabwe, is interning with the Gutu Rural District Council.
- **Faith B.**, a third-year Industrial Sociology student, is interning with the Harare City Council
- **Jamila R.**, a third-year Social Work student, is interning with Friendship Bench, a community mental organization.



Meet Rufaro!

Rufaro has been with Tariro since 2013, when the head of Chembira Primary School first recommended her to us. She has been a vibrant and active member of our traditional music and dance group since then and has dedicated herself to her studies, even in the face of setbacks. She is now in her third year at the University of Zimbabwe and interning with the Gutu Rural District Council, her achievements, a testament to her perseverance and the impact of Tariro's support.

Other Tariro students enrolled in tertiary and vocational/professional education during 2024:

- **Trysh M.** began a degree in Pharmacy at the United States International University in Africa in Kenya on a Mastercard Foundation Scholarship
- **Cheryl K.** began a degree in Medicine at the University of Zimbabwe
- **Natalie M.** began a degree in Pharmacy at the University of Zimbabwe
- **Vimbai M.** began a degree in Audit and Risk Management at Midlands State University
- **Natalie M.** enrolled at Kwekwe Polytechnic for a National Diploma in Accounting
- **Kudzai S.** enrolled at Kushinga Pikelela Polytechnic College for a Diploma in Bio-Technology
- **Atida M., Michelle M., and Hazel M.** were accepted by audition into a professional, three-year dance training course through Afriker Dance Trust
- **Dephine M.** completed a certificate in auto-electrics through Speciss College
- **Tadiwa M.** completed a certificate in bakery and cookery through St. Peters Kubatana, and is now employed at a local restaurant.



Trysh M. on her way to Kenya to study pharmacy on a MasterCard Foundation Scholarship

EXTRACURRICULAR & PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

Tariro's holistic approach to educating and empowering young women and girls emphasizes the importance of psychosocial support and extracurricular offerings. Foremost among them, regular home visits with students and their families are integral in enabling our students to thrive academically and personally. In addition to regular home visits, our psychosocial and extracurricular offerings in 2024 included a tennis academy, an artificial intelligence (AI) workshop, our traditional music and dance group, and mentoring sessions.



Students pictured at the beginning of the term, having received their school supplies



Meet Summer!

Summer's journey is one of true resilience and determination. Coming from a single-parent home, with her caregiver working tirelessly doing odd jobs and looking after the family, Summer faced more than her fair share of challenges, including missing out on school due to non-payment of fees. However, since she joined Tariro in Grade 5, we have had the privilege of supporting her educational journey for the past eight years, and have witnessed her going from strength to strength. She is now thriving as an A-level student and a key member of our music and dance group. Her talent and passion for the arts bring life and joy to every performance, and she is a true inspiration for us all and a testament to the power of Tariro's comprehensive model of support!

New in 2024: Baseline Tennis Academy

This year, Tariro introduced a new tennis program in collaboration with Harare's Baseline Tennis Academy. Through this initiative, 16 Tariro students were gifted racquets and received free weekly tennis lessons during school terms. In addition, they participated in two multi-day clinics held at Mount Pleasant Sports Club during school holidays. These clinics offered a unique opportunity for our budding tennis players to enhance their technique, build endurance, and meet peers from different socioeconomic backgrounds in an environment that fosters individual growth and collaborative spirit.

Tariro's tennis program emphasizes valuable skills both on and off the court. Coaches worked closely with the girls to encourage peer-to-peer support, effective communication, and a growth mindset—qualities that will serve them well in all aspects of life. The program has already yielded promising results, with noticeable improvements in the girls' self-esteem and social interactions. For many of them, stepping onto the court was a new and daunting experience, but they quickly embraced the challenge, discovering a sense of accomplishment with every skill they mastered.



Tennis students at Baseline Tennis Academy at one of the sessions

Exploring the World of AI

11 Tariro students participated in an Artificial Intelligence (AI) workshop organized at St. John's College by Woman Techmaker, in collaboration with Tadzoka Pswarayi, Impact Hub Harare, Google DeepMind, and the Raspberry Pi Foundation. Through hands-on sessions, this event introduced students to AI fundamentals and practical applications. The workshop emphasized inclusivity, with a focus on making AI accessible to all. Our students returned inspired, equipped with new knowledge, and eager to explore how technology can be harnessed to create solutions for challenges in their everyday environments. We are grateful for the partnerships that make such transformative opportunities possible for the youth we serve.



Some of the students who participated in the AI Workshop receiving their certificates from Tadzoka from Impact Hub, Harare

Ngoma yeKwedu: Traditional Music and Dance Ensemble

Tariro's all-female traditional music and dance group, *Ngoma yeKwedu*, enjoyed remarkable success in 2024. This year, artistic director Mukoma Daniel Inasiyo introduced new Ndebele dances and innovative variations on the Karanga dance known as *mhande*, showcasing Zimbabwe's cultural diversity and enriching our students' artistic repertoire.

In terms of performances, *Ngoma yeKwedu* captivated audiences at the Women in STEM Conference, an event graced by industry leaders and the Minister of Higher Education. Their talent shone during the Friendship Fiesta, hosted by Kutandara at the Zimbabwe German Society. They likewise brought their inimitable energy to a conference for professional women, women executives, and the Academy for Women Entrepreneurs, attended by the Minister of Women Affairs, Community, and Small and Medium Enterprises. Additionally, *Ngoma yeKwedu* offered vibrant performances at two schools in Harare. Their growing prominence even earned them a feature in local human interest newspaper, *H-Metro*, titled "[All-Girls Dance Group Making a Huge Splash.](#)"

Ngoma yeKwedu hosted a number of international and local visitors in 2024. Among them were members of the Taratibu Youth Association, a U.S.-based non-profit dedicated to empowering youth of the African diaspora, and members of the Kutsinhira Cultural Arts Center's youth marimba ensemble Chapwititi. Locally, *Ngoma yeKwedu* welcomed renowned Afro-fusion artist Mary Anibal and contemporary singer Chioniso Rushwaya, who encouraged Tariro's young performers to celebrate their roots.



Members of our talented traditional music and dance group

Mentorship Sessions

Through our ongoing mentoring program, Tariro students had transformative encounters with professionals in a variety of fields, reaffirming the power of mentorship in shaping the next generation of leaders. Founded by board member Vimbai Madondo and coordinated by Yeukai Guchu, our mentorship program brought in a diverse slate of speakers who generously shared their knowledge and life journeys with our students.

Our 2024 mentors included:

- Fashion designer and entrepreneur **Nothando from House of Zakar**, who shared insights into the fashion industry, donated sewing materials to all the girls, provided Tariro with an industrial sewing machine, and offered opportunities for students to study pattern making and design at House of Zakar in 2025.
- Small-scale farmers **Mr. and Mrs. Zinyama**, who introduced students to sustainable agricultural practices and opportunities in agribusiness.
- **Kudzai and Mufaro**, final-year students at Chinhoyi University of Technology, who inspired creativity and guided students in fashion design.
- Travel agent **Thelma from Troth and Travel Tours**, who emphasized the value of pursuing your passion without giving in to peer pressure.

Mentorship sessions empowered Tariro students with practical skills and valuable insights into various career paths. Through personal stories and practical advice, our mentors imbued our students with confidence and motivation, encouraging them to dream big and work hard toward their goals.



Pictured above are some of the mentors who graced our mentorship session: Nothando from House of Zakar and Thelma from Troth and Travel Tours

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2025

Look out for more great things from Tariro in 2025!



Among other goals for the coming year, we are hard at work on the following:

- ➔ New primary enrolments targeting children who have never attended school or have dropped out (collaboration with the Department of Social Development and school heads)
- ➔ Tertiary-level support for Lonelisher C. to pursue a National Certificate in Pharmaceutical Technology at Bulawayo Polytechnic, and for Makanaka M. to study Banking and Finance at Harare Polytechnic.
- ➔ Free traditional music and dance instruction for 60 girls from local schools during the August holidays, funded by a grant from Culture Fund.
- ➔ Participation in mid-year tennis competitions for students in our new tennis program, furthering their personal and athletic development.

SUPPORT TARIRO!



With your generous support, Tariro continues to transform the lives of some of Zimbabwe's most vulnerable young women and girls. Through comprehensive academic support, psychosocial support, and extracurricular offerings, we are committed to addressing the multifaceted needs of Zimbabwe's orphaned and vulnerable children. By fostering resilience, self-confidence, and a sense of identity, our programs enable students to reach their full potential. Together, we offer orphaned and vulnerable girls hope for a brighter future, ensuring that every child has the opportunity to achieve their dreams.

Please support Tariro...

...by sending a cheque to:

TARIRO: HOPE AND HEALTH FOR ZIMBABWE'S ORPHANS
PO BOX 50273,
EUGENE, OR 97405,
USA

...or by making a secure donation via PayPal:

<<<https://www.paypal.com/paypalme/TariroHopeandHealth>>>

Tatenda! Siyabonga! Thank you!

Your gift means everything and truly makes a huge difference!

We hope you will stay engaged and updated on our endeavors throughout the year!



www.tariro.org



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TARIRO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

We are a diverse, international group with a love for Zimbabwe. We are sincerely grateful for your support!

Barb Roberts, President, Canada
Miranda Waltz-Peters, Secretary, USA (outgoing)
Tendai Ngirandi*, Treasurer, France
Stephanie Bengtsson*, Austria
Fatima Vimbai Madondo*, USA
Tino Munyanyiwa*, Australia (incoming)
Tony Perman, USA
Anesu Ndoro*, USA (outgoing)

**denotes members who are from Zimbabwe*

We owe a debt of gratitude to Simbarashe Crispen Kanyimo and Daniel Inasiyo, our hardworking Tariro team in Zimbabwe, and to Jennifer Kyker, our Executive Director, and Marilyn Mohr, our trusted volunteer in the United States!

Please contact us if you have fundraising ideas in your own community or if you have any questions about Tariro.

