

# KidzCan Zimbabwe

## Quarterly Newsletter

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## From the Executive Director's Desk.

*"The day on which we can say with full conviction, that all the children of this world are our children, will be the beginning of peace on this earth" Dr. Hermann Gneiner.*

We continue to draw inspiration from these words every step of our journey. Warm regards, as we fully embrace Winter, a period that is normally characterized by high mortality in the world of childhood cancer. And indeed, we have had our fair share of the sad developments this year again. We, however, are happy for the difference we continue to make in improving the quality of life of our children through your support. We have just had a fabulous time, celebrating our Cancer Survivors Month with 24 survivors and parents who defeated cancer under our care, a huge milestone for us, through your hands. On the 19th of June held our Annual General Meeting which elected Simon Scott Elliot and Grant Mitchell to the board. It also saw Vinita Goyel stepping down and retained Garry Cross and Bob Maunsell. The last 3 months have been encouraging, with 3 of our biggest fundraising events, KidzCan Golf, The Mudrun, and Peterhouse KidzCan Walk, all living up to expectations. In April we conducted a successful siblings' program that focused on the recognition of the important role played by brothers and sisters when a family member is diagnosed with cancer. True to the adage that wound for one is wound for all, siblings stand together. Cancer in children continues to rise and is shrouded in mystery as it is deemed foreign, breeding confusion and counter-accusations leading to so much acrimony in families. Therefore, the need to raise awareness, and clear myths, and misconceptions about childhood cancer remains mammoth in a society that is largely culturally and religiously oriented. We, therefore, aim to inform and educate our communities to appreciate the importance of early detection and treatment. We appreciate the support we continue to receive from the corporate world, organizations, and individuals as we secure the future of our children. We are always glad to know that we have your back. Robby Novak once said, "If you make the world better for kids, you make it better for everyone". In the information age, we value engagement through visits, phone calls, emails, and social media platforms. In this edition, we bring you several stories on events and as usual, our children. As I write, we have just concluded our Winter Handout, which was hugely successful. We are already looking forward to the radiothon in September as well as the inaugural Bulawayo Golf. - Enjoy.

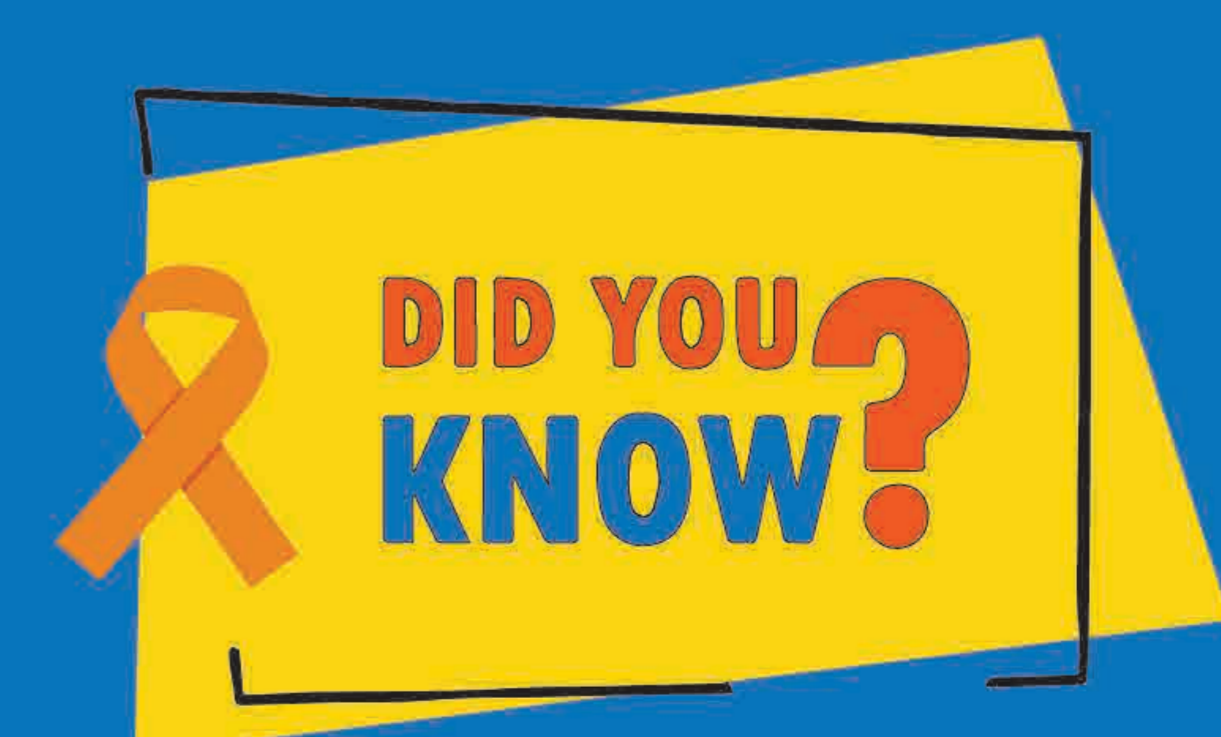
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### 7 COMMON CHILDHOOD CANCERS

- Wilm's Tumour (Kidney Cancer)
- Leukemia (Blood Cancer)
- Neuroblastoma (Nerve Cancer)
- Lymphoma (Cancer of lymphoid tissues)
- Retinoblastoma (Eye Cancer)
- Bone Cancer
- Brain Tumour



**Childhood Cancer does not discriminate. It has no eyes for race, class, location or gender.**

# Husqvarna Mudrun Fundraiser Breaks Quarter-Million Mark



The 11th edition of the Mudrun set the city of Harare alight as it roared into life at the new venue of Donny Brooke, drawing a bumper crowd of more than 2800 participants despite the chilly Saturday morning breeze. April Fools' Day 2023 was no day for fools as a host of brave men and women, boys, and girls tweaked it to raise funds for children suffering from cancer. This is an event one would never want to miss.

Speaking at the picturesque event, the brains behind the Mudrun, Grant Mitchell said the event has to date raised over a quarter of a million dollars since inception bringing it cumulatively to over us\$300 thousand this year.

"We are happy to be supporting KidzCan, because we know how important it is to support what they do.

"Thank you for coming through for a worthy cause," said Mitchell.

KidzCan Executive Director Daniel Mckenzie was appreciative of the efforts of the participants in supporting children suffering from cancer.

"We appreciate every effort you have extended towards our work. You might not have experienced cancer first hand but with the survival rate at around 20%, you probably know someone who has been affected.

"In Africa we say, it takes a village to raise a child.

"What you have done today goes a long way in making a difference," said Mckenzie.

The event which has over the years attracted a legion of corporates in support of KidzCan Zimbabwe was a marvel to watch as it has traditionally become the go-to-event, raising a massive us\$55 611, 56 in the process this year.

It moved to the lovely terrains of Donny Brooke from Jam Tree in Mt Pleasant where it was held last year, and still lived up to the lofty ideals of the expectant crowd who dived into the mud and met the desired goal of bringing smiles to the childhood cancer community.

It is amazing how fooling around with the mud can help children suffering from cancer.

## Upcoming Events:

### Rainbow Children's Village Raffle

**Draw Date:**  
**7th September 2023**

Supported by  
**AUTOWORLD**  
Rainbow CHILDREN'S VILLAGE  
RAINBOW CHILDREN'S VILLAGE FUNDRAISER  
**RAFFLE**  
USD \$1000 per ticket  
1 IN 300 CHANCE TO WIN a brand new Isuzu DoubleCab and help kids with cancer!  
Draw Date  
7 September 2023  
For Information Contact  
Tel: 0772 700 020  
Address: Stand No 14765 East Road (behind Belgravia Shopping Centre)  
Website: rainbowchildrensvillage.com/raffle

## RAFFLE DRAW EXTENSION

Thank you for entering the Rainbow Children's Village Fundraising Raffle. Your support has helped us raise funds towards phase 2 of this amazing and worthy facility, which gives underprivileged children undergoing cancer treatment a temporary home from home.

As you are aware, the date for the raffle draw had been scheduled for June 22nd, 2023 and the deadline to purchase tickets set for June 20th, 2023. Today, RCV is announcing that we are extending both deadlines in order to meet our goal of selling a maximum of 300 tickets to help these children.

The new deadline to purchase tickets is **August 31, 2023**. The winner will be announced **September 7th, 2023** during a celebration at Rainbow Children's Village, Harare. As was originally planned, an invite will be sent out to all raffle participants offering the opportunity to be a part of the celebration.

This is a unique opportunity to win a brand new ISUZU double cab, while making a difference in the lives of these children and their families. With the original deadline to purchase tickets now extended, excitement for the raffle will only continue to grow.

Thank you for being a part of it!

[www.rainbowchildrensvillage.com](http://www.rainbowchildrensvillage.com)





## Easter Handout Schweppes Zimbabwe stands out.

The much-anticipated KidzCan Easter Handout 2023 came alive in A4 Special Ward in Parirenyatwa Hospital on 26 March with Schweppes Zimbabwe sponsoring this year's event.

Corporate Affairs Executive at the beverage firm, Ropafadzo Gwanetsa said it was tradition that her organisation supports those of us who are less privileged. "We are grateful for the opportunity to partake in this noble exercise. For us it is tradition," she said.

Representing KidzCan Zimbabwe, fundraising Officer Pamela Makanjera commended Schweppes Zimbabwe, and implored society to rally resources together to ensure the arrest of the childhood cancer scourge. "Childhood cancer is curable when treated early. "We are grateful to you for the kind gesture as good nutrition is part of the best remedies in cancer treatment.

"Let us all copy the good example demonstrated here today so we can bring childhood cancer under control," said Makanjera.

Sister in charge in A4 Special Patricia Mareyanadzo was all smiles for the goods which mainly included drinks, easter eggs, and teddies for the little ones.

"No donation is small, never look at any donation as small because it really makes a difference," said Mareyanadzo. It is tradition that KidzCan Zimbabwe does an Easter handout in the ward. After all, what is Easter without Easter eggs?

## Andrea Whatman Visits KidzCan.

KidzCan Founder Andrea Whatman and Christina Zaveri recently paid a visit to the Rainbow Children's Village (RCV) where insights into the early stages of the organisation were shared. From humble beginnings, the organisation is now nestled in the Rainbow Children's Village (RCV) complex and is one of the partners making the RCV. The chat in the homey dining room was enlightening with both visitors chronicling the teething stages of KidzCan.

Christina was one of the early birds, who volunteered to pave the foundations of the organization by making it more formal administratively. Coming into the environs that KidzCan now is, they could not believe the metamorphosis the organisation has undergone, as we champion the childhood cancer story. "Ours was a more localised start until I got to a point where Christina came through and I just wanted it to be formal as the work demands kept growing. "I then enlisted the kind hand of Christina to make it more professional," said Whatman. As the two narrated, we literally saw the seed germinating and leaves sprouting toward a more formal set-up. From the days of only providing psycho-social services the basket is now full with other services like, chemotherapy drug provision, bus fare for patient and caregiver, diagnostic scans, admission and discharge packs, food hampers, bereavement assistance, awareness campaigns and now, housing through the RCV.



We are proud to welcome Mr. Simon Scott-Elliot and Mr. Grant Mitchell who joined the KidzCan Board during the recent Annual General Meeting.

# Golf Day Raises Funds.

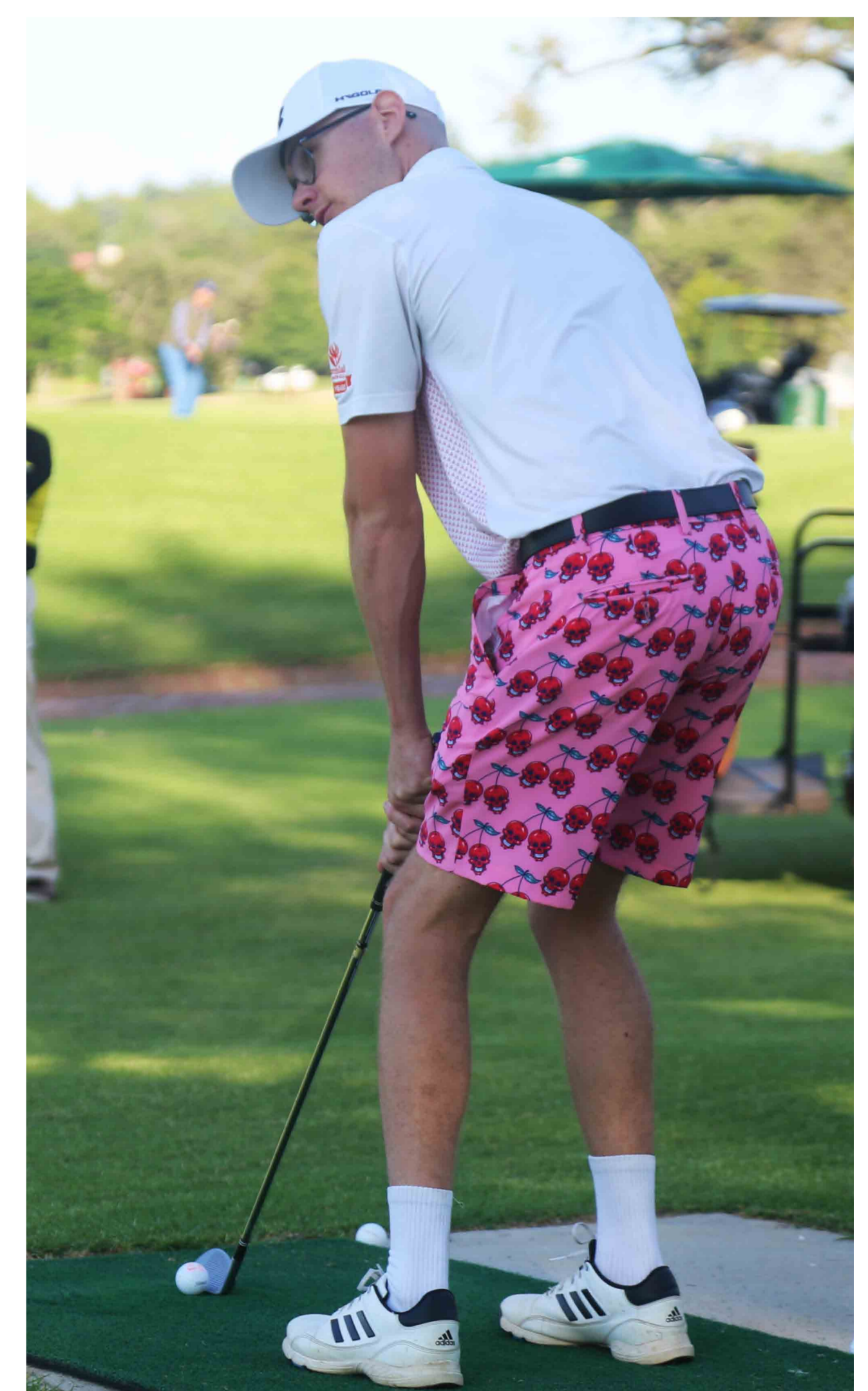
We had another great day of golf as the generous undulating terrain of the Borrowdale Brooke Estates on a sunny Friday morning, burst into life with 18 golf teams converging at the Clubhouse to play for a cause. Marinated by greens, leopard trees, cycads as well as succulents, the scene was venue for a cause that is now synonymous with saving life. The affluence that the land is famous for, was directed towards the little angels in A4 Special ward, as corporates, sponsors, and individuals battled it out on the grass, raising funds in the process. The Golf Day is an annual fundraising event towards operational costs, including chemotherapy drugs, diagnostic scans and tests, bus fares for patients, and food hampers among other services. Teeing off at 10 am, the teams manoeuvred the hilly course in the cozy neighbourhood with some dexterity that would leave a

pride of leopards green with envy. It is such determination that champions are made of! Speaking on the sidelines of the event, KidzCan founder Andrea Whatman was overwhelmed with emotion as she appreciated the clearly joyous crowd for advancing the childhood cancer story. "In the nascent stages of KidzCan, we had nothing to use for hospital visits and I would use my husband's car to deliver drugs. Thanks to the good people here present, our work continues to grow. "I am happy today that the community is coming together to raise funds for KidzCan Zimbabwe. We always strive to do our best and to be passionate in our work ethic. Our work does not just demand high professionalism, but most importantly the heart," said Andrea.

KidzCan Fundraising Officer Pamela Makanjera was equally appreciative of the generous gesture by participants and



all present. "We appreciate every individual and corporates who all with one voice have borrowed the antics of ants so well to ensure that our work can continue," said Makanjera. Winners walked away with drink hampers, jewellery, golf shirts at the prize-giving ceremony. For us at KidzCan, it was a great day of golf and most importantly, about unwinding and strengthening the existing relationships with our supporting structures. It left everyone smiling.



## Great Support for Peterhouse KidzCan Walk.



The 2023 Peterhouse KidzCan Walk came in full swing on the 14th of May, attracting 3 other schools, Ruzawi, Springdale, and La Fontaine who all came through to support KidzCan.

Speaking at the occasion KidzCan board Chair Dave Mills thanked the crowd, who included students, parents, staff, and many more for the kind support.

"I want to thank you for supporting the work we do. It is people like you, who keep us going. The work of childhood cancer cannot be done by a few individuals. It requires all of us including you, to help in a special way like you have done today," said Mills.

The Peterhouse KidzCan Walk is one of the events that raise money to ensure programming for KidzCan continues to run.



# Early Detection and Treatment Pays Off.



## Tariro Shiri.

Christmas did not bring sweets for little Tariro Shiri who woke up to unfamiliar pains on her body on the morning of December 25, 2021. This later turned out to be leukaemia.

During that fateful week, she experienced back and joint pain, pale skin, swollen tummy, and general body weakness, which prompted the observant mother to take her to Hwange clinic for treatment.

The story, which unfolded like fiction, saw her making the long trip from Hwange Clinic, Matabeleland Province, to Harare's Parirenyatwa Hospital.

Investigations a week later revealed that she had leukaemia, and was immediately initiated on chemotherapy on 13 January 2022 through the support of KidzCan Zimbabwe. She is now receiving her third cycle. She is alert, eats well and has responded well to treatment. The 7-year-old grade one pupil says she misses school. She is the last born in a family of five. Hers is one of the rare cases of early presentation, detection and treatment in a country that currently has a childhood cancer survival rate estimated to be around 20% against roughly 80% in the developed world.



## KidzCan steps in to save Thulani.

Plumtree-based nine-year-old Thulani Moyo was diagnosed with non-Hodgkinson Lymphoma in February 2021. Local clinic staff referred him to Mpilo Hospital in Bulawayo but his parents failed to take him there due to financial constraints.

Meanwhile, the growth on his neck never relented. It took him a whole year to get to Mpilo Hospital, a period that was replete with excruciating pain and suffering.

Upon the worsening swellings on his neck, doctors on 12 January 2022, transferred him to a bigger

referral hospital in Harare, (Parirenyatwa Hospital) where he is currently receiving chemotherapy through the support of KidzCan Zimbabwe, and is now on his second cycle. Thulani has responded brilliantly to chemotherapy. The bulge on the left side has completely disappeared two months after starting treatment.

Thulani's mother back home is nursing a two-month-old baby, born when he got admitted, leaving him with his unemployed father to take care of him in hospital.



## Brian Celebrates 4th Birthday.

Exactly 2 weeks before he was born, little Brian lost his father to a road traffic accident. As if that was not enough, one and half years later his mother abandoned him for South Africa, leaving him with his aged grandmother, who unfortunately could hardly take care of him due to old age. As fate would have it, his 3rd birthday, last year on 22 June, came with a new problem, cutting short the celebrations as he was rushed to the hospital after observations of pale skin, body weakness, and vomiting which investigations later showed to be leukaemia.

It took the intervention of his aunt, sister to his father, who took over and up to this day takes care of him. Upon the cancer diagnosis, Brian was immediately initiated on chemotherapy. One year later Brian has celebrated his 4th birthday and is going strong thanks to the help from KidzCan Zimbabwe. On the occasion of his 4th birthday, his aunt wrote us a hearty message\* expressing her appreciation for saving the young boy's life. The mother is rumoured to be in South Africa.

*\*Nhasi izuva rakazvarwa Brian asvitsa 4yrs ndibatsireiwo kutenda Mwari akabatwa cancer last year on 23 June abva kusvitsa 3yrs ndinoda kutenda Kidzcan, A4 special staff and doctors nemi vamwe vabereki nekundisim gtybisawo muitirwe nyasha arikupora muzukuru wangu.*

# 24 Survivors Attend This Year's Celebrations.



Survivorship is more than just living after treatment – it's an examination of the patient's progress over time, from diagnosis through treatment and beyond.

June being Cancer Survivor Month, a time we honour and celebrate those who have faced cancer and emerged as victors, we as KidzCan always leave no stone unturned in saving lives through a multi-pronged cocktail of services. Working from A4 Special Ward in Parirenyatwa Hospital, the centre of excellence in childhood cancer in Zimbabwe, in this year's edition of our Survivors Month celebrations, we called in 24 survivors and their parents/caregivers to celebrate our achievements.

It was a time to mingle, and share experiences.

Through groups that constituted the

little ones, teenagers and slightly older youths, and a 3rd of parents, participants found time for inspiration as they had time to discuss and hear from those who have already conquered.

Those present included survivors who came as far as Mutare, Goromonzi, and Victoria Falls.

Over the years we have ensured a holistic treatment of childhood cancer patients in Zimbabwe.

We had happy moments as we celebrated and formed WhatsApp groups to ensure easy networking and continuity.

Our comprehensive cocktail of services offered free of charge, includes the provision of chemotherapy drugs, USS, CT and MRI scans, blood test diagnostics, and transport allowances among other things. We also source,

and provide prosthetics, admission and discharge packs, and nutritional support in the form of food hampers. We also conduct awareness campaigns in schools, workspaces and the community, and individual plus group counselling to children, parents, and caregivers.

The latest service in this list is housing, offered through the Rainbow Children's Village (RCV), which basically is a halfway house for children and caregivers, who often come from remote areas, making it difficult for them to fulfil their appointments with doctors.

We derive some courage and inspiration from the celebrations as they are testimony to what we live for, and our commitment to saving life.



## Winter Handout Warms the Ward.



Several pediatric wards at Parirenyatwa Hospital received an assortment of Winter clothing which included jerseys, scarfs, blankets, beanies, teddies, and books. It was a day to remember for most as the traditional Winter treat coincided with a drop in temperatures.

It worked like magic as the dampened spirit of the children's ward in the face of a bleak Winter soon turned to smiles and joy as each received their allotment. It has generally been warm this year, but on this particular morning, it was so cold as if to justify our presence in the ward.

We started with A4 Special Ward for childhood cancer and proceeded to the other children's wards, the A2, A3 and C10. We appreciate every sponsor for the generous donations which really made a difference.

# The Mystery of the Tree of Life.



Perched on the South-Eastern side of the dining room, beside the mounted television set, the tree, in all its magnificent silence, yet communicating a profound message is the KidzCan mural.

The world over, people use murals to tell a story and in the Rainbow Children's Village (RCV) the tree of life, as it is affectionately known, is a feature that drives the message of the symbiotic relationship between the supporting structure and the patients.

KidzCan Executive Director Daniel McKenzie explains that the trunk represents you and me, people who have committed to holding the cancer flame alive.

"Those who support financially, donors, sponsors as well as any well-wisher. "The leaves in all their assorted apparel and hue, stand for the patients who have been assisted. "As

you can see, the hands are neatly placed over the hand guides already there," said McKenzie.

Every patient who has come through passes through the tree post to lay their hands so they can also be counted. The colourful tree smiles back every day as kids and caregivers go about their daily routines either having meals or watching TV. The tree is a powerful way of sharing the story of KidzCan, who since inception have religiously kept the cancer narrative alive, advocating, and creating hope to a population of 15.4 million people who are largely ignorant of childhood cancer. The current survival rate sits around 20% and efforts are underway to lift it to 60% as spelt out by the World Health Organisation (WHO) in the Global Initiative on Childhood Cancer (GICC).

## Siblings Speak Out.



In the world of childhood cancer siblings often get forgotten as the family turns attention to the patient. It is the sisters and brothers who often bear the brunt of the disease due to its disruptive nature both on the home and away front. In April we, therefore, set out to recognize patients' brothers and sisters, focusing on the important role they have during the patient's healing process. Tonderai Tash (23) says he was devastated when his sister was battling leukaemia. "I became the father of the house as the sickness came at a time when my father was away, detained in hospital nursing his own sickness. Life became unbearable as I soon realized my mother needed help taking care of Sibho. It was tough as relatives shifted all attention to Sibho and never looked at me as also feeling the pain that my sister was going through. "I would get home to find my mother low, the pain was unbearable yet outside I had to be strong for them. It was a huge relief when she was declared fit after a lot of hospital visits," said a jovial Tonderai. Vimbai, (18) was equally worried when her

brother, Wanita, was diagnosed with Wilms Tumour (kidney) which came at a time when she was writing her A' level exams. "I felt bad when I came back from boarding school to find my mother away in hospital with Wanita. It was the most painful part of my life. Back at school, I could not concentrate with my mind full of 'what ifs'... I knew him to be very playful, but this time around he was not there. I missed my mother and brother as every time they spent long days away from home. "It became worse when they said they had to remove one of his kidneys. It really scared me as I had no idea what it would lead to but it was a huge relief when he became better after the operation," said Vimbai.

Tinashe narrated how his life changed. "Every holiday we would take a drive to Long Chen Plaza to play in the park. When cancer visited our family, everything changed. Everyone was busy, no time to play anymore. I remember my mother would always cry. It was painful to watch. Siblings are indeed the unheralded heroes in the healing process.





# Oak Zimbabwe Backs KidzCan.

Just like a pen in the hands of the Creator, we try to offer the best to the communities we serve in a tough economic environment, often demanding nothing short of perfection. To manage this, KidzCan cannot go it alone. Oak Zimbabwe Foundation has been outstanding in pivoting our programming with not only capacity-building, but also grants that run into hundreds of thousands. Against an estimated 20% childhood cancer survival rate, Oak Zimbabwe Foundation has since 2018, been solid in backing us to tame the childhood cancer scourge. Through tangible initiatives, Oak Zimbabwe Foundation has established itself as a willing partner in strengthening the agility that we enjoy. Oak grants have been essential to Kidzcan as the funds are used to acquire subsidized chemotherapy drugs, blood and blood products, specialized diagnostics imaging, bus fare, and nutritional support to the affected. Additionally, we provide free admission and discharge packs, bereavement, and psycho-social support among other things, to our patients and caregivers who come through the public health system, and therefore, cannot afford treatment in Zimbabwe. In 2022 Oak helped us engage in an introspection of operations which resulted in the establishment of responsive mechanisms to bring efficiency to our operational systems. Through this help, we are always at our best ensuring the patient comes first.



Oak Zimbabwe Foundation is the power behind the successful completion of phase 1 of the Rainbow Children's Village (RCV) and is set to release further funds for the second phase. The RCV, is basically a home away from home in a tripartite arrangement of KidzCan Zimbabwe, Round Table, and Meikles Foundation. It is a tranquil, restorative halfway house for children and caregivers, who often come from remote areas, making it difficult for them to fulfil their appointments with doctors at Parirenyatwa Hospital which is a stone-throw away from the village. The convenience the building brings will reduce treatment abandonment and improve the quality of life for our patients. Overall, Oak has helped us create an environment where we have sick happy children being just children again, thereby enabling us to be impactful in Zimbabwe's paediatric cancer situation. We cannot fully tell our story without mentioning the monumental difference that Oak Zimbabwe Foundation has made in our efforts to save life, and for this we are grateful.

## Upcoming Events:

**Bulawayo Golf Day.**

**29<sup>th</sup> September 2023**

**Bulawayo Country Club**

**2023**  
 You are cordially invited to participate in the Inagural Bulawayo GOLF TOURNAMENT in aid of kids with cancer.  
**Bulawayo Country Club**  
**Friday 29th September 2023**  
 The competition will be a Fourball alliance. \$200 per team.  
 Great Raffle Draw prizes to be won! Grab and Go Lunch provided for all players.  
 Dress Code: Orange with a touch of gold. Prizes to be won for best dressed teams. Sponsorship packages available.  
**#ThroughTheirHands**

PAMELA fundraising@kidzcanzimbabwe.org 0775 327 528	HAZRINE hazrine@icloud.com 0773 480 784	LIANA adminbyo@kidzcanzimbabwe.org 0775 871 430
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**ACE** (0242) 443937-9  
 www.safeguard.co.zw

**Please donate and give children with cancer in Zimbabwe a fighting chance. You can donate using the following platforms**

- EcoCash** Merchant Code: 87391 \*151\*2\*2\*87391\*AMOUNT# | KIDZCAN 1. **Biller Code: 51599**
- paynow** using **Visa, Mastercard, EcoCash, or TeleCash** on [www.paynow.co.zw](http://www.paynow.co.zw)  
**NB:** Please use the email [director@kidzcanzimbabwe.org](mailto:director@kidzcanzimbabwe.org)
- Direct Bank Deposit**

	<b>USD Nostro Account</b> Bank: NMB Branch: Borrowdale Acc Name: KidzCan Zimbabwe Acc No: 260209663	<b>ZWL Account</b> Bank: NMB Branch: Borrowdale Acc Name: KidzCan Zimbabwe Acc No: 260055798
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- GlobalGiving** use the following link: [www.globalgiving.org/donate/11900/kidzcan-childrens-cancer-relief/](http://www.globalgiving.org/donate/11900/kidzcan-childrens-cancer-relief/)
- every.org** Donate Internationally: <https://www.every.org/kidzcan-zimbabwe-zw?utmCampaign=donate-link#/donate/card>