

# KIDZCAN NEWSLETTER



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November 24th's thrilling match at Queens Sports Club was more than just a win for Zimbabwe. It was a victory for hope and resilience.



### A Heartfelt Tribute to Dr Orphard Mupanemunda

We are delighted to shine the spotlight on our champion, Dr. Ophard Mupanemunda, a loyal friend and dedicated supporter of KidzCan Zimbabwe since its inception



## Breaking Barriers: Faith-Based Communities Join the Fight Against Childhood Cancer

In a ground-breaking move, KidzCan has partnered with faith-based communities to tackle childhood cancer head-on. This innovative collaboration ensures that no child is left behind in the fight against childhood cancer.



## From the Director's Desk



As we approach the end of the year, I am filled with immense gratitude and hope. At KidzCan Zimbabwe, we have witnessed not only the devastating impact of childhood cancer but also the remarkable resilience and bravery of these young warriors.

Childhood cancer is a story that touches us all, and your corporate and individual support has been crucial in giving these little ones a chance at life. We can only achieve what we do because of your generosity. Every donation, share, and prayer makes a difference.

With the New Year on the horizon, I am excited about the opportunities it holds. The upcoming Orange Month will be a vital platform for raising awareness and funds. Join us as we continue our mission to conquer childhood cancer. A New Year, New Opportunities

"As we journey into the New Year, remember that every sunrise brings new opportunities. Let's seize them to make a difference in the lives of children fighting cancer." - Unknown

### Heartfelt Thanks

We deeply thank our Board of Directors for their tireless guidance and unwavering support.

We thank our media partners, including community radio stations and mainstream outlets, for amplifying our voice and mission.

To our stakeholders, survivors, government representatives, and supporters: your partnership inspires and strengthens our cause.

And to our dedicated staff, nurses, doctors, and volunteers: your selfless commitment makes a world of difference in the lives of children battling cancer.

Together, we can conquer childhood cancer!

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year. May your holiday season be filled with love, laughter, and hope.

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## KidzCan Zimbabwe Trains 115 Healthcare Workers in Gweru



It was time for a group photo, after the session between KidzCan staff and the Gweru City Council staffers



Trainees check the eyes for Retinoblastoma during a practical training session



Sister Charity Kawadza during one of the training sessions



The KidzCan Team and senior members of the Gweru City Council

In a major boost to the fight against childhood cancer, KidzCan Zimbabwe Children's Cancer Relief recently conducted a comprehensive training program for 115 healthcare workers in Gweru. This initiative aims to enhance the skills of healthcare professionals in early detection, treatment, and management of childhood cancer.

The training programme, which is part of KidzCan's efforts to streamline the referral system, focuses on the top three cancers most prevalent in Zimbabwe: Blood Cancer (Leukaemia), Kidney cancer (Wilm's Tumour), and eye cancer (Retinoblastoma). Empowering healthcare workers with the knowledge and skills to identify and manage these cancers aims to improve treatment outcomes and save more young lives.

Facilitating, Gweru Provincial Health Director, Dr Larry Nyoni, emphasized the importance of this training, saying, "Early detection and treatment are critical in the fight against childhood cancer. This training program will enable our healthcare workers to provide timely and effective care to children with cancer."

KidzCan's Nurse and Health Coordinator, Charity Kawadza, and Programmes Manager, Pamela Makanjera who coordinated the logistics facilitated the training. The program brought together healthcare workers from all clinics in Gweru, including those from the Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP), Prisons, and the Airforce of Zimbabwe.

This training program is part of KidzCan's ongoing efforts to improve childhood cancer care in Zimbabwe, aligning with the World Health Organization's (WHO) Global Initiative for Childhood Cancer (GICC). The GICC aims to increase the survival rate of childhood cancer to 60% by 2030, a significant improvement from the current approximate survival rate of 20%.

Notably, this program resumed after a four-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic. KidzCan Zimbabwe is committed to making up for lost time and working tirelessly to improve childhood cancer outcomes in Zimbabwe.

By empowering healthcare workers and improving the referral system, KidzCan Zimbabwe is taking a crucial step towards creating a future where every child with cancer has access to timely and effective treatment.

# September Childhood Cancer Awareness Spotlight



Daniel Mckenzie talks to some ladies in Harare's 1st Street during September Awareness Month



StarFM DJ Nikki, interviewing Sister Charity Kawadza at Cnr 1st Street and Nkwame Nkrumah Street

1. StarFM DJ Nikki, interviewing KidzCan Executive Director Daniel McKenzie.
2. Franciscar Mariponde - KidzCan Social Worker and a volunteer help a passerby wear a bandana.
3. Franciscar hands out a pamphlet to a motorist
4. KidzCan Volunteers pose for a photo
5. Sister Charity Kawadza uses a pamphlet to explain to a passer by
6. Nikki interviews a care giver and



**StarFM Breakfast Show**  
 September ended on a high note with a successful 3-hour outside broadcast of StarFM's popular Breakfast Show, hosted by renowned presenters Nikki and Ephraim Tagu. We emphasized the vital importance of EARLY DETECTION & TREATMENT in combating childhood cancer.

**A Stunning Statistic**  
 A staggering 80% of childhood cancer cases can be cured with timely intervention! However, many Zimbabweans remain unaware of childhood cancer's existence.

**Educate, Detect, Save Lives**  
 KidzCan Executive Director Daniel Mckenzie stressed: "Knowledge of childhood cancer is crucial for early detection. By educating ourselves and others, we can significantly improve treatment outcomes and save lives... Children do get cancer, and when detected early, there's a higher chance of survival," said Mckenzie.

**Reaching the Community**  
 During the broadcast at First Street and Kwame Nkrumah, our team distributed informative fliers and engaged with motorists and passersby. This marks our second outside broadcast, following last year's successful event.

**Strategic Partnerships**  
 The StarFM Breakfast Show, popular among motorists, provided an ideal platform to amplify our message. We're grateful for the support of Mashholdings. Together, let's spread awareness and fight childhood cancer! Learn more about childhood cancer







Grace arrives at the Rainbow Children's village with her mom walking on crutches

## Against All Odds: Grace's Courageous Battle with Cancer

At 14, Grace Tom's life took an unexpected turn. A seemingly harmless pimple on her left leg transformed into a relentless health ordeal. Little did she know, her journey would be marked by twists and turns, testing her family's resilience. "We thought it was just a pimple," recalls Patience, Grace's mother. "But as it grew, so did our worries."

Desperate for answers, they embarked on a series of hospital visits, facing financial hurdles at every turn. A biopsy at Chitungwiza Hospital came with a hefty us\$600 price tag, forcing them to seek alternative options.

In their desperation, they opted for a private surgery, based on an X-ray and removed the tumor without confirming the presence of cancer through a biopsy.

It wasn't until they sought help from Sally Mugabe Hospital, with the support of family, that the unthinkable was confirmed: non-rhabdomyosarcoma, a soft tissue cancer, Stage three.

The diagnosis led to a referral to Parirenyatwa Hospital, where KidzCan stepped in, providing a lifeline of hope. Through KidzCan's partnership with the Meikles Foundation and Round Table, they found comfort in the Rainbow Children's Village, providing housing and support during her treatment.

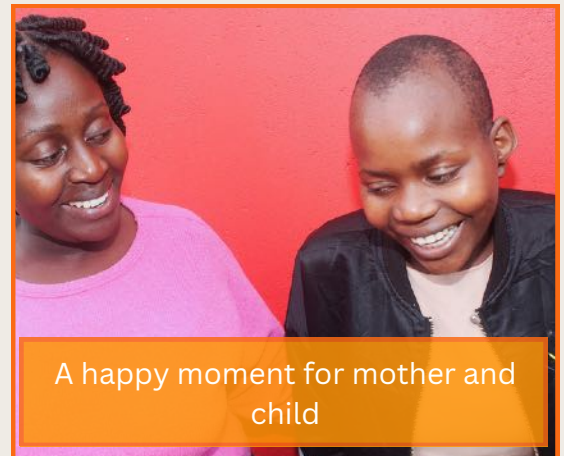
"KidzCan is God sent," Patience exclaims. "I couldn't afford the treatment costs. This support is therapeutic, comforting, and welcoming."

Grace's journey has not been easy. In 2022, when cancer struck, she was in Form 1. Now, at 16, her education is on hold as she battles for her life.

Despite this, Grace's dreams remain sure-cocked! "I want to become a Social Worker, to help others like me." She says with a palpable resolve in her eyes. Grace has completed five cycles of chemotherapy and 33 sessions of radiotherapy. The sweetest news: no amputation is required, as the cancer hasn't affected her bones.



Grace showing so much resilience and determination while receiving treatment



A happy moment for mother and child



Grace at the Rainbow Children's Village after her review

"KidzCan has made all the difference," Patience emphasizes. "The food, the interaction with fellow caregivers... it's a temporary escape from the sickness."

"Stories like Grace's remind us that there is a future for kids with cancer," says KidzCan Executive Director. "This is what our founder, Andrea Whatman, envisioned - a world where children have access to life-saving treatment and care. With early detection and treatment, there's a higher chance of a cure. This is what we live for."

### A New Chapter Unfolds

As Grace continues her courageous battle, KidzCan remains steadfast in support. Together, we will face the challenges ahead, fueled by hope, resilience, and the unflinching dedication of caregivers like Patience. Join us in cheering on Grace and her family. Your support can make a difference in their journey.

### Support KidzCan's Mission

Help families like Grace's access life-saving treatment and care. Donate today and be part of their story.



## Know something about cancer palliative care

Care given to improve the quality of life and help reduce pain in people who have a serious or life-threatening disease, such as cancer. NCI

### Cancer Stage

Refers to the extent of your cancer, such as how large the tumor is and if it has spread. NCI

### Metastasis

The spread of cancer cells from the place where they first formed to another part of the body. NCI



A total of 253 childhood cancers were recorded in 2017, 151 cases in boys and 102 cases in girls. National Cancer Registry.

### The top 3 childhood cancers in Zimbabwe in 2017 stood as follows:

#### Blood Cancer (leukaemia)

Accounting for 21% of all childhood cancers.

#### Eye Cancer (Retinoblastoma)

Making up 14% of childhood cancers

**Kidney Cancer (Wilm's Tumour)** 13% of childhood cancers.

## Raising Awareness for Childhood Cancer:

### KidzCan Zimbabwe Partners with Hellenic Academy.

KidzCan Zimbabwe was privileged to distribute September Gold Ribbons at Hellenic Academy's annual Zimstock 2024 event, marking Childhood Cancer Awareness Month. The Gold Ribbon is a symbol of childhood cancer awareness, representing hope, resilience and support for children fighting cancer. It was a timely opportunity to continue our awareness program, leaving no stone unturned. We appreciate Hellenic Academy's kind gesture and ongoing support.

Some of the KidzCan supporters who passed through our desk



## Beyond Barriers: Empowering Children With Cancer



Our Director, Daniel McKenzie, sparked meaningful conversations at the 2024 St. Jude Global Alliance Convening with his presentation, "Kutaurirana." This global gathering united partners to share knowledge and strengthen collaboration in the fight against childhood cancer.

A highlight of the event was the breakout session, "Global Voices and Patient Education," which underscored the vital role of patient-centered education in global pediatric care.

This convening embodied the collective commitment of partners worldwide, working tirelessly to ensure that no child faces cancer or blood disorders alone.



From Left : Daniel Mckenzie (KidzCan Director) Deputy Minister of Information Hon Marupi , A beneficiary and Sister Charity Kawadza (KidzCan Health &Awareness Coordinator)

## Historic Leap Forward: KidzCan's Inaugural Media Workshop



Paediatric Surgeon and KidzCan Mr Mbuyeyesango addressed the journalists

September 2024 marked a major milestone in the childhood cancer fraternity as KidzCan hosted its inaugural media workshop at the Rainbow Children's Village. This groundbreaking event brought together 16 media houses and 22 journalists from print, electronic, digital, and freelance backgrounds to focus on the critical issue of childhood cancer. Guest of honour, Deputy Minister of Information, Publicity, and Broadcasting Services, Hon. Omphile Marupi, reinforced the importance of media involvement in highlighting the plight of children with cancer. "I urge the media to help kids by telling their story. Your voices are powerful, and by sharing their experiences, you can make a tangible difference in their lives," he appealed.



Daniel Mckenzie takes the Deputy Minister Hon. Omphile Marupi on a tour of the village

Renowned surgeon, Mr. Mbuyeyesango, delivered a powerful call to action, urging authorities to allocate more resources to combat childhood cancer. "It is imperative that we channel more resources towards childhood cancer. I implore the media to tell it as it is, so that the necessary resources are poured into this critical area," he emphasized. Media specialist, Wendy Nyakurerwa Matinde, encouraged journalists to take a proactive role in sharing the stories of children affected by cancer. "Report with empathy, and do community-based stories that give a voice to the voiceless. You will be instrumental in raising awareness and driving change by doing so," she urged.



The Deputy Minister and some members of the KidzCan team during the media workshop

The other speakers included oncologist Dr. Kuona, who provided valuable insights into childhood cancer and blood disorders, and a courageous mother who shared her heart-wrenching journey with her son Brandon, who bravely battled Wilm's Tumor. As we move forward, KidzCan remains committed to harnessing the power of media to amplify the voices of children with cancer. By working together, we can create a future where every child can access the care and support they need to thrive.



Frank sits near a sofa at home before undergoing chemotherapy



A joyful Frank sits with his happy mother at the Rainbow Children's Village during one of his visits to Parirenyatwa hospital

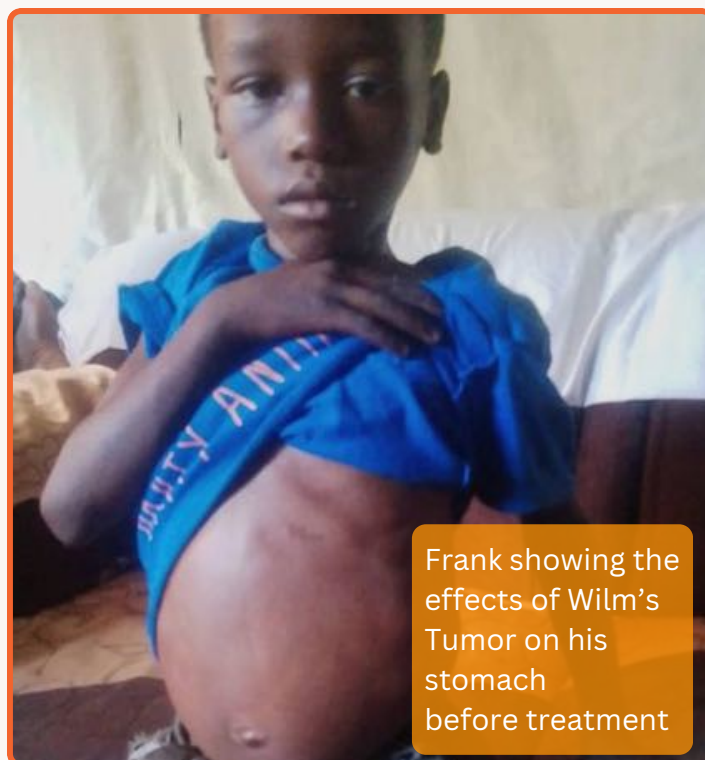
## Frank's Miracle!

For Frank, a 7-year-old boy from rural Gokwe, 347km West of Harare, Zimbabwe, life took a dramatic turn when his parents' marriage crumbled in South Africa. Left in the care of his loving maternal grandparents, little did they know their selfless devotion would become his lifeline.

As Frank's health began to decline, his grandparents sold three cows and a goat to fund desperate searches for answers. They consulted local prophets and traditional healers, visited clinics and hospitals in Kadoma, Chademoyo, and Bulawayo, but Wilm's Tumor, (Kidney cancer) the silent enemy, remained undiagnosed.

"I was losing hope," Frank's mother recalls, her voice trembling. "I quit my job in South Africa, relinquishing my breadwinner role, to return home and care for my son. But this meant joining my aged parents, who now had nothing, in shouldering the financial burden. We relied on the kindness of relatives in Harare, hundreds of kilometres from poor Gokwe, but even their love was tinged with fear. Due to lack of knowledge, many believed cancer was contagious, and that Frank's presence put them at risk."

The stigma and isolation were crippling. "Staying with relatives was never easy," Frank's mother remembers. "We felt like a burden, struggling to make ends meet in an unfamiliar city." Upon arrival at Parirenyatwa Hospital, Frank's condition was dire: emaciated, swollen stomach, and retracted testicles causing excruciating pain.



Frank showing the effects of Wilm's Tumor on his stomach before treatment

His mother's words paint a heart-wrenching picture: "He couldn't speak, only stared at me when I talked to him. I thought I'd lose him." Then, KidzCan stepped in, shouldering the financial burden of Frank's treatment. Through their home at the Rainbow Children's Village, they provided a safe haven, alleviating the family's struggles.

"At Rainbow Children's Village, we finally found solace," Frank's mother exclaims. "KidzCan saved my son's life. Without them, I wouldn't have Frank today. They've given us a second chance." Today, Frank is defying the odds. He's undergoing radiotherapy, and his bright smile tells a story of resilience. "Frank's up and running now," his mother beams. "He's regained his speech, and his laughter fills our days."



ACCZ Deputy President Doctor Veronica Kwati during her ordination

## Faith-Based Communities Join the Fight Against Childhood Cancer

In a ground-breaking move, KidzCan has partnered with faith-based communities to tackle childhood cancer head-on. This innovative collaboration ensures that no child is left behind in the fight against childhood cancer.

At the recent ordination ceremony of Deputy President Doctor Veronica Kwati at the Apostolic Churches Council of Zimbabwe's Kuwadzana shrine, KidzCan's Communications Officer, Philip Hondokosa, emphasized the critical importance of working together.

"For us, it was a no-brainer to engage with friends in the church," Philip explained. "By doing so, we've ensured that our kids receive medical attention early, which is crucial for improving treatment outcomes and survival rates.

Our key message is that children do get cancer, and when they do, let's refer early so that it can be detected and treated early. We are saying the voice of the church carries authority, and what church leaders say, the sheep follow," said Hondokosa.



Phillip Hondokosa the KidzCan Communications Officer addresses the congregants during the event

ACCZ President Tobias Zunguzira said he was happy with the partnership as it fulfils one of the church's mandates of saving lives. "We are happy with the partnership with KidzCan as it helps us save lives through early referrals as well as curb treatment abandonment," said Zunguzira. This partnership is a significant step towards achieving the Global Initiative for Childhood Cancer's ambitious goal of raising the survival rate to 60% by 2030. By encouraging congregants to seek medical attention, we're breaking down barriers and ensuring that more children receive the life-saving treatment they need.

Historically, discussing medical treatment and vaccinations with indigenous sects has been a challenging and often taboo topic. However, through our partnership with the Apostolic Churches Council of Zimbabwe, we are witnessing a remarkable shift in attitudes and a growing willingness to engage with healthcare professionals. The seeds of this partnership were sown in May when KidzCan Zimbabwe and the Apostolic Churches Council of Zimbabwe signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to work together. This landmark agreement has enabled the establishment of a network of coordinators in all 10 provinces of Zimbabwe, ensuring early referrals to local clinics and timely medical interventions.

The influence of the church as an opinion leader in Zimbabwe's culturally and religiously diverse environment has been instrumental in promoting early detection and treatment of childhood cancer. By leveraging the church's reach and authority, we're able to provide service, and access to cancer treatment to a largely marginalised community, ultimately saving more young lives. KidzCan is grateful for the overwhelming support from faith-based communities, who have enthusiastically embraced our childhood cancer efforts. Together, we're creating a brighter future for children with cancer. Join us and let's work together to make a difference!



Some of the members of the ACCZ who gathered at the Kuwadzana Shrine to witness the ordination.



Tapiwa and mum at thre Rainbow Children's Village

## Tapiwa's Fight for a Second Chance at Life

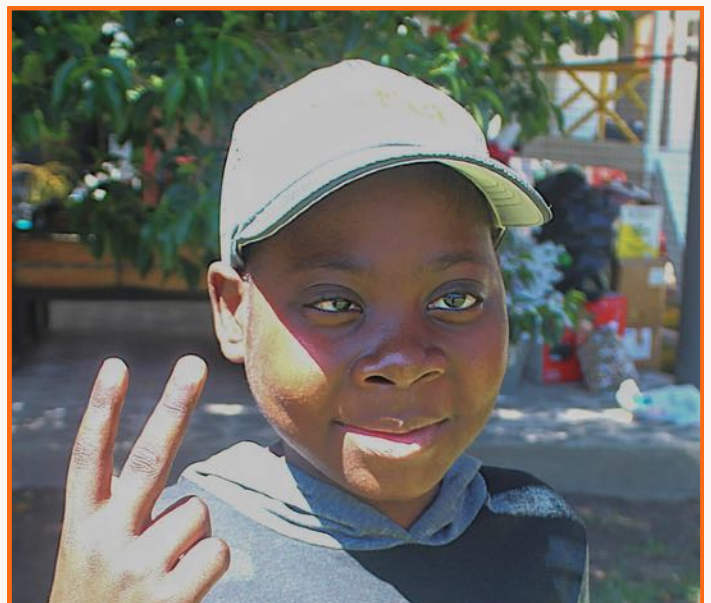
Twelve-year-old Tapiwa should be sitting in a Grade 7 classroom, his head buried in books, and his mind focused on exams like every other child his age. Instead, his journey takes a heartbreaking turn in 2022 when leukemia steals away his childhood and his dreams.

Tapiwa is a vibrant Grade 4 student in Kariba, but unexplained weakness takes hold, and his family seeks answers. Their desperate search for a diagnosis leads them across borders to Mtenderi Hospital in Zambia—twice. They sell five precious cows, their only wealth, one after the other, hoping for a cure. Yet, all they receive are misdiagnoses and futile treatments for anaemia. With no cattle left to sell and dwindling hope, a relative's advice to seek a second opinion at Karoi Hospital offers a glimmer of hope.

It is at Parirenyatwa Hospital, after years of anguish, that they finally hear the truth: Tapiwa has blood cancer. It is September, and the diagnosis comes as a mix of heartbreak and relief. At last, there is clarity. Chemotherapy begins immediately, offering a flicker of hope. When Tapiwa arrives at Parirenyatwa, he is gaunt, his body worn from years of misdiagnoses and inadequate care.

At KidzCan, we welcome him into our care, and with our support, Tapiwa begins to thrive. Proper nutrition brings back his lost weight, and slowly, life returns to his eyes.

Now in his third cycle of chemotherapy, Tapiwa has more than regained his physical strength—he has found hope. He recently shares a dream: “I want to go back to school, catch up, and one day, become a doctor to help children like me.”



A visibly happy Tapiwa a thumbs up. He is now in his xxx cycle of Chemotherapy treatment



Tapiwa undergoing Chemotheapy treatment at Parirenyatwa Ward A4 special



The ZIMOCO Showroom



Some of the friends of KidzCan from the corporate world who attended the event

### Gold Ribbon Cocktail: A Night of Hope and Gratitude for Childhood Cancer Awareness

On a memorable evening, KidzCan Zimbabwe hosted the Gold Ribbon Cocktail, a fundraiser and appreciation event, at the luxurious ZIMOCO showroom at Sam Levy Village. The venue was generously donated by ZIMOCO, free of charge, allowing KidzCan to focus on the evening's purpose: celebrating corporate partners and friends who have made a tangible difference in the fight against childhood cancer in 2024.

The event brought together esteemed guests, including board member Grant Mitchell, who emphasized, "We are proud to have partners who share our vision of a future where every child with cancer has access to timely and effective treatment. As Husqvarna, we support KidzCan because we understand who they are and what they do. It is because of this trust that we encourage you to support them," said Mitchell. Medical professionals in attendance included oncologists Dr. Loice Hlatswayo and Dr. Dondo, as well as esteemed surgeon Mr. Mbuyeyesango. Mr. Mbuyeyesango urged sponsors to continue their vital support, saying, "We must continue to work together to improve childhood cancer care in Zimbabwe. I implore our sponsors to remain committed to this cause, as their support is instrumental in saving young lives."

Ben Gilpin, from Oak Zimbabwe, was also in attendance, demonstrating his organization's commitment to supporting KidzCan's mission. KidzCan Programs Manager, Pamela Makanjera thanked all the donors and sponsors, present and absent, for supporting the work of KidzCan Zimbabwe.

"You are the lifeblood of our operations and we are so grateful for your kind support. When you support us, you make our work easier and we in turn save more precious lives," said Makanjera.

Chipo Mashingaidze, the evening's host, warmly welcomed guests and expressed heartfelt gratitude to corporate partners, individuals, and donors who have supported KidzCan's efforts. The organization acknowledged the contributions of partners whose support has been instrumental in improving childhood cancer care in Zimbabwe.

The evening also highlighted the alarming reality of childhood cancer, with 1 in 500 children globally affected and a stark contrast in survival rates between Zimbabwe (20%) and developed nations (80%). This disparity underscored the need for continued support and partnership to improve healthcare and outcomes for children with cancer in Zimbabwe. As the evening drew to a close, KidzCan Zimbabwe's team was recognized for their tireless efforts and dedication to supporting children and families affected by cancer.



NMB staff following the proceedings



Grant Mitchell



Dudu Manhenga



Ben Gilpin



Mr. Mbuyeyesango and his wife

## The Annual Christmas Handout: Bringing Joy to Brave Hearts

This Christmas, the A4 Special Ward came alive with laughter, smiles, and hope during the Annual Christmas Handout. What is usually a place of silence and struggle transformed into a sanctuary of joy and celebration, as KidzCan brought the spirit of Christmas to children and their families battling cancer.

### Matron Gawe's Heartfelt Thanks

"This visit is more than just gifts; it's a ray of light for everyone here," shared Matron Gawe of A4 Special Ward. "Thank you, KidzCan, for your unwavering support and for making this season brighter for our patients and staff."

### A Caregiver's Gratitude

For Gogo Ndlela, caregiver to her grandchild with Wilms Tumour, the handout meant more than festive cheer. "Your kindness is a lifeline," she said with tears of gratitude. "The foodstuff will sustain us during these tough times. You've given us hope when we needed it most."

### KidzCan's Commitment to Care

"As a nurse, it's heart-breaking to see children suffering from cancer, but it's also incredibly rewarding to be part of an organization that brings hope and joy to these brave young warriors," said Charity Kawadza our Awareness and Health Coordinator.



After receiving the gifts the children gathered to open and see what was inside

"The Annual Christmas Handout is just one way we show our support and care for these families. We're grateful for the opportunity to make a difference in their lives," said Kawadza. Together, We Make a Difference. We're grateful to our donors for making this event possible.

Thank you for your kindness and generosity!

Let's keep spreading love, hope, and joy—together, we're changing lives!

Below the KidzCan team, a gentleman from ZIMOCO (wearing white shirt) gave out handouts to caregivers, beneficiaries and hospital staff at Parirenyatwa Hospital





Below the KidzCan team ,Queensly recieving a signed ball from Zimbabwe Captain and man of the match Sikandar Raza while her mom looks on at the Zimbabwe vs Pakistan cricket game in Bulawayo

## Zim Cricket Scores A Six For Childhood Cancer



1. Zim Cricket President Givemore Makoni poses for a photo with gifts for cancer survivors together with Daniel McKenzie
2. KidzCan received signed t-shirts from the Zimbabwe and Pakistan teams
3. The Pakistan team and some children adorned in orange participate in the traditional Ine before the match
4. Queensly had a photo moment with Daniel and Pamela Makanjera

November 24th's thrilling match at Queens Sports Club was more than just a win for Zimbabwe - it was a victory for hope and resilience. Dedicated to KidzCan, the match shone a spotlight on the brave young warriors fighting childhood cancer and blood disorders. Sikandar Raza was the hero of the day, not only for his impressive performance that earned him the Man of the Match award, but also for his kindness and generosity.

Sikandar donated his \$300 prize money to 13-year-old Queensly, who is bravely battling a blood disorder under the care of KidzCan. This heartwarming gesture was the perfect culmination of a special day that highlighted the partnership between Zimbabwe Cricket and KidzCan.

For the second year running, Zimbabwe Cricket has dedicated a match to supporting KidzCan, having done the same with the Zimbabwe vs India match in Harare in 2023.

Daniel McKenzie, Executive Director of KidzCan Zimbabwe, expressed his gratitude to Zimbabwe Cricket, saying, "We're deeply grateful for the generosity and support of Zimbabwe Cricket.

Their kindness will make a tangible difference in the lives of children facing childhood cancer and blood disorders." The day's events were further enriched by the donation of two jerseys from the Zimbabwe vs Pakistan match, which were presented to KidzCan.

Special thanks also to Whitestone School for their wonderful support, bringing 38 pupils to be mascots for the day - your energy and enthusiasm added to the excitement!

Although the match was eventually cut short due to torrential rains, the spirit of the day remained unbroken.

Thank you to Zimbabwe Cricket, Sikandar Raza, Whitestone School, Malvin Kwaramba -the Zimbabwe Cricket Supporters Union Organising Secretary, who rallied the spectators at the renowned Castle Corner,

It was Queensly's day to shine as she recieved the \$300 man of the match award . An excited Queensly with the big cheque





## Zim Cricket Scores A Six For Childhood Cancer

Creating a raucous and vociferous atmosphere that will be remembered for a long time, and everyone who made this special day possible!

NB: The match went on to raise us\$7083 for KidzCan and some groceries which were donated during the match Zimbabwe-Afghanistan in Harare.





Nyaradzoher gift from KidzCan given during one of the handouts



Nyaradzo with her grandmother at Rainbow Children's Village



Leona Nyadombo (KidzCan ) with Nyaradzo and her grandmother in Hospital during the xmas handouts

## Nyaradzo's Brave Fight

Nyaradzo Chigidi's life took a drastic turn when a mysterious boil appeared on her knee, refusing to heal despite numerous injections. Her teachers' persistence led to a hospital visit, revealing the devastating diagnosis: osteosarcoma, a type of bone cancer.

Orphaned in 2013, Nyaradzo lives with her 74-year-old paternal grandmother, Egneta, who relies on subsistence farming. The family's financial struggles seemed insurmountable, but their love and determination remained strong. To facilitate Nyaradzo's treatment, the family made the difficult decision to sell their only cow.

Nyaradzo recently bravely underwent amputation surgery and is now on the road to recovery. Faced with this huge mountain, KidzCan stepped in and it has all been smiles as Nyaradzo keeps mending.

Egneta's heartfelt gratitude captures the essence of KidzCan's mission: "Cancer has ravaged our family;

my husband and brother-in-law had cancer. I'm overjoyed with what KidzCan has done for my granddaughter. I couldn't have managed it given my poor background. God bless you!"

KidzCan Zimbabwe: Providing Hope, One Child at a Time.

Your support enables us to continue making a difference in the lives of children like Nyaradzo. Together, let's fight childhood cancer and bring joy to those who need it most!

### WORD KNOWLEDGE



#### Early Detection

The identification of a disease or condition, such as cancer, as soon as the first signs and symptoms appear. When cancer is diagnosed early, it may be easier to treat or cure.



#### Treatment Cycle



A period of treatment followed by a period of rest (no treatment) that is repeated on a regular schedule. For example, treatment given for one week followed by three weeks of rest is one treatment cycle. When this cycle is repeated multiple times on a regular schedule, it makes up a course of treatment. Also called cycle of treatment.



**Chemotherapy:** uses drugs to kill cancer cells and stop them from growing and dividing



**Radiation Therapy:** uses high doses of radiation to kill cancer cells and shrink tumors

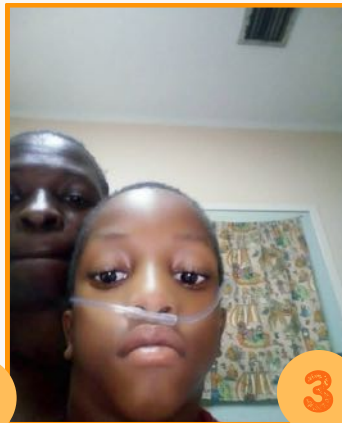
Information obtained courtesy of the National Cancer Institute



1



2



3



4

## Unbroken Spirit: Denzel’s Cancer Story

In March 2018, Denzel’s observant family noticed something unusual—his persistent night-time snoring. What began as a simple concern quickly spiralled into a parent’s worst nightmare. A visit to the paediatrician led to a surgeon, who mentioned the unthinkable: it could be a tumour. Denzel’s mother remembers the moment vividly: “I felt like my world was crumbling. I did not even know what a tumour meant, but the fear that gripped my heart was overwhelming. How could this happen to my innocent child?”

The journey that followed was filled with uncertainty, fear, and heartache. For six long months, Denzel’s family endured endless referrals, tests, and consultations with oncologists, desperately seeking answers. Each passing day brought more questions than clarity. “It was torture,” his mother recalls. “We just wanted to know what was wrong, but no one could tell us.”

Finally, after what felt like an eternity, the diagnosis came: \*Hodgkin’s lymphoma. By then, Denzel was frail, struggling to eat, and rapidly losing weight. His mother had to make the difficult decision to leave her job to care for him, plunging the family into financial strain.

But through all the pain and sacrifice, one thing remained constant—Denzel’s unbreakable spirit. With the help of KidzCan, Denzel embarked on a grueling two-year journey of chemotherapy and radiotherapy. There were days when the treatment left him weak, days when the hope of recovery seemed distant. Yet Denzel never gave up. His mother often drew strength from his ever-beaming face: “Even on his worst days, he would find a way to smile. He taught me what true courage looks like.”

Today, Denzel is living proof of the power of hope. Having just completed Grade 7, he is preparing to start Form 1 in the New Year. His future shines as brightly as his dreams.

1. A younger Denzel with his mom and father christmas at Parirenyatwa.  
2. & 3. Denzel undergoing treatment  
3. Cancer free, its all smiles for Denzel the champion. A photo taken during a cricket match Bulawayo.

When asked what he wants to be, Denzel’s answer is simple yet profound: “I want to be a doctor so I can help others who are sick, just like I was.”

On Saturday , December 2024, Denzel’s laughter echoed through the cricket stands as he cheered alongside us as we supported the Chevrons against Afghanistan. His bright smile and infectious energy exemplify his remarkable journey—a reminder that hope and determination can prevail even in the face of life’s greatest challenges.

\*Hodgkin’s Lymphoma (HL) is a type of cancer that affects the immune system, specifically the lymphatic system. It is characterised by the growth of Lymphocytes , a type of white blood cell.



Every last Wednesday of the month, caregivers gather for a psycho-social group meeting. Led by Social Worker Franciscar Maripfonde, this vital session provides a safe space for sharing experiences and emotions.

"The world of childhood cancer is complex," Maripfonde emphasizes. "Society often overlooks critical issues affecting both patients and caregivers. For instance, a caregiver may spend months in the hospital, neglecting their own needs, relationships and responsibilities. We've seen cases where prolonged hospital stays lead to marital challenges, including abandonment."

These sessions foster peer support, guided by Maripfonde's expertise, addressing the emotional toll of caregiving and promoting resilience.

Your support enables us to continue providing this essential service, empowering caregivers to cope and thrive.

# Monthly Psycho-Social Support Group



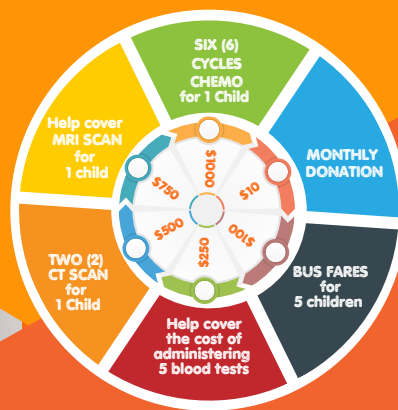
Franciscar Maripfonde during one of the monthly caregiver psycho-social group meetings at the Rainbow Children's Village



Its play time with the children at the Rainbow Children's Village



In session a psycho-social group meeting at Parirenyatwa Ward A4 Special cance ward.



**We cannot change lives but together we can make a difference**



Every child deserves a chance to live!  
Donate to KidzCan Zimbabwe today and help us fight pediatric cancer.

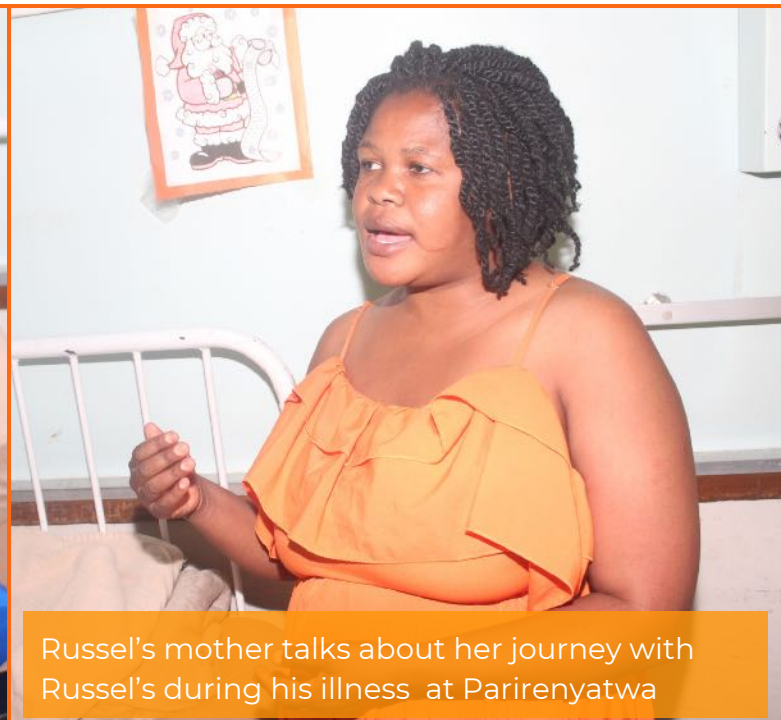
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Russel poses for a picture during the Christmas handouts at Parirenyatwa hospital



Russel's mother talks about her journey with Russel during his illness at Parirenyatwa

## A Mother's Love: Russel's Brave Battle

"The day my life changed forever is etched in my memory," says Russel's mother, her voice trembling with emotion. "My 12-year-old son, still in grade 5 due to the disease's disruptions, suffered from recurring tonsillitis for two agonizing years. We tried every medication, every remedy, but nothing worked."

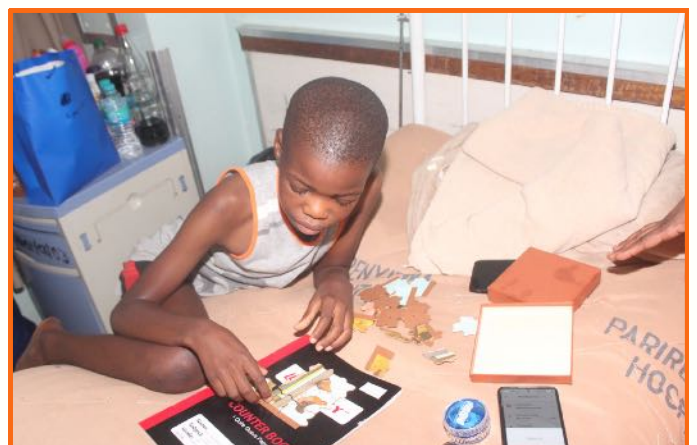
Desperation crept in as hopes dwindled. "We sold everything: our TV, cows, even sent money to Malawi for herbal remedies," she recalls. "I was desperate to save my child, but nothing changed. The financial burden was crippling; the emotional toll, unbearable."

A pharmacist's keen eye scanned the doctor's notes, advising consultation on the recurring sickness. The revelation: Russel had nasal cancer (Nasopharyngeal carcinoma NPC), a rare type of cancer that occurs in the nasopharynx, which is the upper part of the throat behind the nose. The diagnosis shook the family to its core. Nevertheless, in despair, KidzCan emerged, providing vital assistance.

"They became our lifeline," Russel's mother says gratefully. "KidzCan provided medication, food, scans, and counselling, giving us hope and reminding us we weren't alone."

Today, Russel is not alone in the fight against cancer as KidzCan's support, and his family's remains steadfast.

"Their compassion and kindness conquered even the darkest moments," his mother says. "I'll forever be grateful for KidzCan's support." Help families like Russel's access life-saving care. **Donate today and be part of their journey towards healing.**



Russel is seen joining a jigsaw puzzle while admitted in Ward A4 special



# Childhood Cancer Awareness

## GO ORANGE

*This February*



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