



# KidzCan Zimbabwe

Quarterly newsletter

Vol 1.2

March 2023



## KIDZCAN HAS MOVED

To KidzCan Zimbabwe:

The Rainbow Children's Village

111 East Road, Belgravia, Harare, Zimbabwe.

Behind the Belgravia Shops



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## From the Executive Director's Desk



Greetings to you all our valued stakeholders. We have started well, with all our programming going according to plan, even exceeding our expectations. We have added to our fold new members as our work continues to grow and this has streamlined and rejuvenated our operations. Our awareness campaigns in schools, churches, workspaces, and the community in general have continued, as we recognize that childhood cancer requires a holistic approach, with early detection remaining paramount. I am delighted to announce that we are now fully settled in the Rainbow Children's Village (RCV) behind Belgravia Shopping Centre. It has been an eventful three months with the biggest news, the announcement on the 15th of February of KidzCan joining the St Jude Global Alliance, a move that places us high on the world map in childhood cancer issues. To have a link with the citadel of excellence speaks volumes of how highly privileged we are as an institution, and it shows our efforts are not going in vain. We all wait with bated breaths to see the far-reaching fruits of this partnership which will see us get the much-needed stamina in human capacity building and resources. The childhood cancer narrative will never be the same. We appreciate all partners and donors, local and abroad, and we specially mention the National AIDS Council (NAC) for its fortitude in supporting child cancer drug procurement and funding diagnostic scans for yet another year. Orange Month

has lived up to its billing with more schools coming on board to support us. We commend all who have joined us this year as we seek to arrest the childhood cancer scourge. We had the inaugural patients' reception at the RCV on the 9th of February and so far, we have had a cumulative 36 patients and caregivers staying in the home at respective times. The facility has made a monumental difference in bringing world-class comfort to our patients in terms of nutrition, lodgings as well as the requisite mental wellness requirements. It is through your support that we continue to provide these services. We might all require a new phone, car, or house but these little angels we support, are only asking for one thing: to survive. Once again, I want to thank my most amazing team for their hard work and dedication in a dynamic environment that often requires multitasking. None of the above successes can be registered without a supportive board, and for that, I am grateful. As we enter the next three months, we are full of hope and confidence that together we can bring more joy to families. I also look forward to the beginning of Phase Two of the RCV building with great joy and anticipation of achieving the desired goal of the World Health Organisation's (WHO) Global Initiative on Childhood Cancer, (GICC) to raise the survival rate to 60% by 2030. I will conclude by saying: "Children with cancer are like candles in the wind who accept the possibility that they are in danger of being extinguished by a gust of wind from nowhere and yet, as they flicker and dance to remain alive, their brilliance challenges the darkness and dazzles those of us who watch their light" -Author Unknown. Food for thought. We will continue as KidzCan to think outside the "House" and not out of the "Box."



**KidzCan Zimbabwe becomes the first St. Jude Children's Research Hospital Global Alliance partner.**




KidzCan Zimbabwe is proud to join the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital Global Alliance. We join more than 180 esteemed members from more than 68 countries around the world. This opens the door to our foundation for international networking and support, educational opportunities and the inspiration of a globally shared mission – finding cures and saving children, everywhere.



## Paediatric Cancer Superhero



"Strong women don't play the victim. Don't make themselves look pitiful and don't point fingers. They stand and they deal." – Mandy Hale.

This month of March we appreciate one of our own, Andrea Whatman, who founded KidzCan Zimbabwe and championed the childhood cancer narrative of Zimbabwean children. She is our unsung hero. Those who have met her, know how always, she is so full of life and positive energy. She is just inspiring.



With gratitude and thanks, in the next edition we will feature in full, Oak Foundation, who have been a long term partner with us.

# So, Who is KidzCan?

**K**idzCan Zimbabwe is a humanitarian Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) focusing on childhood cancer. Mrs Andrea Whatman, a cancer survivor herself, founded the organisation and registered it in 2009. KidzCan provides free services to childhood cancer patients who come through the public health system. The services include supplying the patients with chemotherapy drugs, CT and MRI scans and transport allowances among other things. The institution also sources, and provides prosthetics, admission, discharge packs, and nutritional support in the form of food hampers as good nutrition is at the core of treatment. The organisation conducts awareness

campaigns in schools, workspaces and the community, and individuals plus group counselling to children, parents, and caregivers. KidzCan has now introduced housing to the basket of services available, 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. The organisation serves up to around 800 patients annually, of which new cases are roughly 350. With Leukaemia (blood cancer), Wilms Tumour (kidney cancer) and retinoblastoma (eye cancer) being the most prevalent, the cancers come in many different forms.

The organisation urges parents to expeditiously look out for any minute symptoms in children as the diseases are on the increase. Thus, early detection is key as it facilitates early treatment. Timeously detecting the disease not only saves lives but also resources, and spares families of the agony that comes with having a sick family member. Remember it is easier to uproot a small tree than a big one. You might know that cancer is very expensive to treat, so given Zimbabwe's constricted economic space, there is need for more support financially, towards all services mentioned above. KidzCan continues to lobby government, partners and the general community to help with not only



financial support, but spreading awareness as well. Children can only be brought for treatment when people know about the existence of cancer. When it comes to cancer everyone has a role to play because cancer does not wait and knows no boundaries. The fight is for us all. It could be anyone's child.

## Fresh Start for KidzCan Staff



KidzCan Zimbabwe Staff attended a two-day retreat from 20-22 January where various issues were discussed including work plans for the 2023 calendar. The team reviewed issues including preparations for completing office relocation to the new premises at the Rainbow Children's Village (RCV).



It is from such exercises that Team KidzCan maps the work that has over the years, brought game-changing inventions in the programming. The team, though

lean in structure, has registered huge successes in a country whose survival rate hovers around 25 percent, and through synergies born out of multi-tasking and wide awareness campaigns it is expected to rise to at least 60% by 2030. The team, headed by Executive Director Daniel Mckenzie, includes Finance and Administration Manager Gift Marunda, Nurse and Health Coordinator Charity Kawadza, Finance and Administration Officer Nyarai Machinda, Fund-raising Officer Pamela Makanjera,

Social Worker Fransisca Maripfonde, two Logisticians Prince Madombwe and long-serving member Dingu Banda, and Admin officer Bulawayo office, Liana Alufaneti. This year, more members have been added to the fold: Communications Officer Philip Hondokosa, Camryn Hunter on the ICT desk, Hailey Joseph as Housekeeper, Kudzai Mtomba as Chef, Leona Nyadombo heading the front office, and two assistants to the housekeeper, Trish Kundiona and Alucia Batisai, both mothers to survivors. What a Team we have!



There is a future.  
**KidzCan**  
ZIMBABWE  
CHILDREN'S CANCER RELIEF

# GOLF TOURNAMENT

# 2023

**You are cordially invited to participate in the annual GOLF TOURNAMENT in aid of KIDZCAN ZIMBABWE!**

**The Borrowdale Brooke Golf Club**  
**FRIDAY 28TH APRIL 2023**

**ENTRY FEE**

**\$200 PER TEAM**

- The competition will be a 4-ball stableford alliance with 2 scores to count on all holes.
- Great prizes to be WON!
- Halfway snack and a light meal during prize giving to be provided.

**AN EVENTFUL DAY FOR ALL, RAFFLE, ISLAND GOLF AND GRAB & GO LUNCH FOR ALL THE PLAYERS.**

**#THROUGHTHEIRHANDS**

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


1. **EcoCash**  
**Merchant Code:** 87391 \* 151 \* 2 \* 2 \* 87391 \* AMOUNT#  
**KIDZCAN 1. Biller Code:** 51599

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2. **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)

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3. Direct Bank Deposit
 

<p><b>USD Nostro Account</b>                      Bank: NMB                      Branch: Borrowdale                      Acc Name: KidzCan Zimbabwe                      Acc No: 260209663</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"> NMB BANK LIMITED</p> <p><b>ZWL Account</b>                      Bank: NMB                      Branch: Borrowdale                      Acc Name: KidzCan Zimbabwe                      Acc No: 260055798</p>
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4. **GlobalGiving** use the following link:

[www.globalgiving.org/donate/11900/kidzcan-childrens-cancer-relief/](http://www.globalgiving.org/donate/11900/kidzcan-childrens-cancer-relief/)

# When We Go Orange, We Go Orange!



So how did Orange Month start? Well, history has it that in 2009 the famous girls from Chisipite Girls High, mischievously were caught up, in what then seemed to be a scandal. They infamously pitched up on the schoolyard dressed in orange, which was uncharacteristic, given the strict school rules that Chisi was well known for. KidzCan Executive Director Daniel McKenzie explains, “During those days the Chisi head, who ordinarily was a disciplinarian took the girls for punishment and in the end, the girls decided to donate to KidzCan Zimbabwe as a way of making good their misdemeanour.” Little did they know that they had given birth to a cause that would save lives in the future.

Today Orange Day is celebrated across the country with schools, mostly in the private sector, opening their arms in support of children suffering from cancer. “They come dressed in orange and contribute at least a dollar, which money is then sent to KidzCan Zimbabwe. “This is a gesture that goes a long way in keeping our programs on their feet. “With the proceeds, we offer various services free of charge to paediatric cancer patients who come through the public health system,” said McKenzie. The extended donation program started as a fluke but then turned out to be noble as it invoked a sense of good citizenry and was therefore turned into a one-day event. The day has been further extended across the whole

month of February, and even beyond, allowing schools to pick any day to have their event that raises funds for kids who have cancer in Zimbabwe. “The beauty of Orange Month is that it teaches them to be responsible citizens as they help fellow children... it is kids doing something for kids. “This is critical because cancer knows no boundaries and does not wait,” said McKenzie. McKenzie explained that schools have become great friends for KidzCan not just as fundraising centres but for spreading awareness as well. It is through everyone’s hands that the services can be availed especially as the organization works towards raising the survival rate to 60% by 2030 as spelt out in the World Health Organisation’s (WHO)

Global Initiative (GICC) on Childhood Cancer. Orange Month augments resources needed to combat childhood cancer in a nation that knows little about the disease. This calls for vibrant awareness campaigns. “Even a well-to-do family can find the going tough when faced with cancer,” said McKenzie. In schools, every year, Orange month has become something kids look forward to and brings fun to it with some wearing their most beautiful attire in orange. For them it is an opportunity to paint the school orange, a colour that spreads warmth, hope, and love, remember it comes in February, a month of love.



# Making a Difference



Sometimes it takes one man to change the world and, in most cases, if it requires many, it starts with one. It was Vasco Da Gama who ignited the West's fortunes in the East. Was it not Steve Jobs who pioneered the personal computer era? Yes, with Steve Wozniak, Jobs founded Apple Inc. in 1976 and transformed the company into a world leader in telecommunications. Widely considered a visionary and a genius, he oversaw the launch of such revolutionary products as the iPod and the iPhone. Today

the world revels in such great inventions. In Zimbabwe, we have our own heroes doing wonders for us. Late last year (2022) we met Mr Clifford Welch, who, then expressed interest in making a donation to KidzCan Zimbabwe. He volunteered to play father Christmas and for sure he came through and we had a fantastic day in A4 special Ward for childhood cancer. It was during this time that he promised to do a shavathon (A fundraising event involving shaving of the head/beard for a worthy cause) He quickly galvanized his support arsenal and in no time, to our surprise, raised a whopping US\$4385. When asked what pushed him to do it Mr Welch had this to say, "My mother died from lymphoma. I then thought of doing something for the children as opposed to the older folks so that they can actually start their lives and live their lives more fruitfully. This is most important for my mother, and daughter who has also done a lot of work for KidzCan as well. "I thank KidzCan for the opportunity and everyone who has

sponsored me so I can shave the beard," It is true that one can resist everything in this world, except the smile and happiness of an infant. If you have lived in Zimbabwe during such times, you will know this is no mean feat. It can only be a great man with a palpable big heart, love, and humility who can do this. Imagine if we had 10 Welches? How about a 100, 1000? Zimbabwe's population is about 15.4 million according to the last census. The world population is eight billion! How about everyone contributing \$1 each towards childhood cancer in Zimbabwe? But then we have only one Clifford Douglas Welch. Thank you, Sir. We are inspired!



## Walking For a Cause



If you are walking on your two and every part of your body functions normally, count yourself fortunate, and spare a thought or at least a cent for the less privileged ones. Surely you can do something about kids suffering from cancer.

It was for this reason that Hartman House came up with the idea of the KidzCan walk where parents and kids found themselves on the trot, walking for a cause!

KidzCan Director Daniel Mckenzie thanked the enthusiastic bumper crowd for heeding the call to walk for such a noble cause especially given the proliferation of childhood cancer which is robbing the nation of future leaders.

"We are grateful for what you have done today, walking for a cause.

"KidzCan is a cancer relief organisation that helps children with free chemotherapy and diagnostic scans and tests among other things," said Mckenzie

He implored the Hartman family to also watch out for early signs and symptoms of childhood cancer some of which, in the case of eye cancer can easily be picked by taking a flash photo of the kid's eyes. Any differences in the eyes should prompt the parent to seek further investigation.

The five-kilometre walk started on the school grounds, out along 7th street extension into Borrowdale Road meandering into the neighbourhood of Alexander Park, Harare.



*"Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement. Nothing can be done without hope and confidence."*  
- Helen Keller



# A Woman With a Golden Heart

Her smile is infectious and when she talks, an aura of love pervades the room. To the unsuspecting, you would never think she has a burden that she so graciously carries. She is indeed the gift that keeps on giving. This is 67-year-old Susan Wasa who has committed to taking care of her 3-year-old grandson Tinashe, who can neither talk nor walk. Tinashe cannot do what his counterparts do. We are always taking for granted how we can easily walk into the other room or lift our hands with ease. This is not so with Tina, as his grandmother call him. In December 2022 his situation was further compounded by the discovery of a huge bulge on his left side that caused his tummy to swell up and seemed to weigh him down. This turned out to be Wilms tumour, cancer that attacks the kidney. This was a new problem, having earlier been blind due to an eye condition which impaired his vision for the better part of his three years of existence. Recently he was successfully operated on at Sekuru Kaguvi eye unit in Parirenyatwa Hospital and that sort of eased his

problems as sight was restored. But he could not celebrate too quickly as this is when Wilms tumour reared its ugly head. Tinashe's father recently suffered a stroke and the mother is equally bedridden with an undisclosed illness. This meant that Susan had to set aside her retirement bliss to take over by ensuring that she makes all the necessary treatment errands with the boy. But she was never alone in her walk to getting the best treatment and care for her grandson as KidzCan, through the RCV, was ready to welcome her with a warm embrace for Tinashe, by intervening to lessen the burden, thus becoming one of the first three patients housed at the RCV. Coming from Mutare, her aged and unemployed husband has no resources to see her through the demands of treatment. The four weeks that Susan and Tinashe have been in the RCV seem to be the silver lining on their dark cloud as he has, for the first time, managed to get off the bed on his own with a smile, a thing that has never happened in his life. An ecstatic Susan upon seeing Tinashe take his first steps



explains, "It has not been easy taking care of Tinashe because he cannot do what other kids do... It means I have to do everything for him... I am just happy that he seems to have responded well to treatment and my hope has been re-ignited... Finally, God has answered my prayer," said Susan. Mbuya Tinashe as she is fondly known, has earned the monicker 'head girl' owing to her long stay in the home. She enjoys it as she takes pleasure in orienting new tenants. She is a joy to be around with all the jokes she cracks mixed with an accent that only Manicaland in the Eastern Province of Zimbabwe can only provide. It is her love for Tinashe that is striking as she has hit a rich

bond of understanding with king Tinashe, making them inseparable. In the month of March, the international month for women we appreciate her. It is a joy and we feel buoyed seeing how kids respond fast to chemotherapy and good nutrition. The Rainbow Children's Village (RCV) is a home where children going through chemotherapy are temporarily housed during treatment sessions before returning home. It is more like a second home right next to a mother's heart really. Three partners make the RCV and KidzCan are the managing partner. The other two are Meikles Foundation and Round Table.



**DID YOU KNOW?**

**The 7 most common causes of childhood cancer in Zimbabwe are:**

Leukaemia (Blood cancer)	Neuroblastoma
Wilm's Tumour (Kidney cancer)	Lymphomas
Retinoblastoma (eye cancer)	Bone Cancer
	Brain Tumour



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**RAINBOW CHILDREN'S VILLAGE FUNDRAISER RAFFLE**

1 in 300 chance to WIN a brand new Isuzu DoubleCab and help kids with cancer!

Draw April 2023

Meikles FOUNDATION  
For Information Contact  
Tel: 0772 700 020  
Address: Stand No 14765 East Road (behind Belgrovia Shopping Centre)  
Website: rainbowchildrensvillage.com/competitions

**Husqvarna**

**MUD RUN**

**PETERHOUSE GROUP OF SCHOOLS**

**Charity Run / Walk**  
Sunday 14th May 2023

**Peterhouse Boys**  
Rugby Pavilion / Calderwood Park

Registration 8.00am / 9.30am start  
Wear orange  
Entry \$10 Adults / \$5 Children

5km or 10km run/walk  
Dogs must be on a lead  
Picnic / braai (gas) afterwards  
Catering by Duggies  
Fun with Kingdom Inflatables  
Bring a waterbottle

**KidzCan**  
CHILDREN'S CANCER RELIEF

# Pick n Pay Donates



In a move that is set to significantly improve the lives of many children suffering from cancer, Pick n Pay has handed over ZWL10 million dollars (USD\$10 695 at the official exchange rate) raised during Orange Month to KidzCan Zimbabwe. Presenting the cheque at a ceremony held at the Rainbow Children's Village (RCV) Pick n Pay Managing Director Malcolm Mycroft thanked the retail giant's customers who supported the childhood cancer initiative by buying cupcakes in February from the 60 Pick n Pay outlets dotted across Zimbabwe. "To all our customers I say thank you. It's in the DNA of Pick n Pay, to do good. "Doing good is good business. It's a privilege for us to always look after our community, always giving back to the people that support us... We are only

a conduit...Cancer does not happen in months, it happens all the time... We will continue to give because a business must care about its own people and community. A good business has a soul and a business without a soul is not a business, you got to make sure you keep the soul alive," said Mycroft. KidzCan board chair Dave Mills was appreciative of the kind gesture by Pick and Pay and expressed joy receiving the cheque and in return presented a certificate of appreciation. "Pick n Pay has been remarkable to the sustenance of our operations... This is the fourth year they have sold cupcakes. Orange month largely taking place in February, requires and enables suppliers, participants, and stakeholders to assist in raising funds for childhood cancer. This year's

contribution is amazing. "We are indeed blessed in that over the past year, I have seen many miracles at KidzCan and this is one of them," said Mills. Mills explained that the Rainbow Village is a tripartite arrangement involving the Meikles Foundation, Round Table, and KidzCan Zimbabwe. A mother resident in the home, narrated how happy and thankful she was and how KidzCan Zimbabwe has made life easy for her and her child who has cancer (neuroblastoma). "I want to thank KidzCan for all the help. I come from Bulawayo and it has always been difficult travelling the long distance, without them, I could never have afforded the expenses involved in the whole

treatment process." The funds will be channelled towards the various services that KidzCan Zimbabwe offers for free to childhood cancer patients who ordinarily come through the public health system and are underprivileged. The entity, being the sole organization dedicated to assisting paediatric cancer sufferers, assists with free chemotherapy drugs, diagnostic scans, admission and discharge packs, and bus fares to ensure patients do not miss their hospital commitments since they largely come from remote areas of the country. Housing through the Rainbow Children's Village, is the latest service that KidzCan has come up with to help children and their families.



## Delta Corp - KidzCan Showers Schools

Did you know that March is water month? At least 2 billion people in the world do not have access to safe water. We appreciate Delta Corporation for partnering KidzCan Zimbabwe in bringing water to schools. We have installed water tanks and taps in 5 schools in Harare and Bulawayo. We are heading to Manicaland. Besides providing safe water, sanitation, and hygiene water helps those going through chemotherapy. "Good hydration helps flush toxins out of the body and reduce treatment side effects, such as nausea, weakness, constipation, and fatigue," says Melissa Picchiatti, a Clinical Oncology Dietitian at Cancer Treatment Centers of America® (CTCA) in Chicago.





# RCV Admits First Patients

Twenty-five years ago, KidzCan founder Andrea Whatman, had a dream where she envisioned a world that would take care of children suffering from cancer and provide a conducive environment that accelerates healing through a practical expression of love, care, and empathy, not just to the patient but the caregiver as well. Andrea, being a cancer survivor herself, immediately set on a journey towards this dream, and on 9 February 2023 her wish came to life as three childhood cancer patients and caregivers were admitted into the Rainbow Children's Village (RCV), where children going through chemotherapy are temporarily housed during treatment sessions before returning to their respective homes. Speaking at the grand reception, KidzCan board Chair Dave Mills expressed his happiness in witnessing the first patient reception. "Today is a happy day for KidzCan and the RCV. I want to thank all those who collaborated in the formation of the RCV: the Meikles Foundation, KidzCan, and Round Table. What we have here is a product that is going to be world-class and is going to serve children with cancer for many years," said Mills. The patients

usually come from remote areas in Zimbabwe, making it a Herculean task during the winding demands of treatment which can run into not just several years but deep pockets too. This has been an experience that Samantha (not real name) has had to contend with during her arduous treatment sessions as a cancer patient. Imagine travelling 880km to Harare from Victoria Falls, a town to the Northwest of Zimbabwe by bus. This is a distance that well-to-do tourists normally use an aeroplane to cut on time as well as avoid the hazardous bumpy roads. Now, picture this, the discomfort that comes with chemo drugs, nausea, fatigue, and the general cancer-ignorant people around her who would not have any idea of what she was going through. The RCV was built to shield people like her from all that turmoil. The bus would arrive in Harare at six in the morning, early enough to allow her to squeeze through a long chemo session during the day that would end in time to allow her to catch the same bus back home. She would then arrive home the following morning. Representing Meikles Foundation, Elsa Fuchs was happy to see the children coming into the home, exhausted from




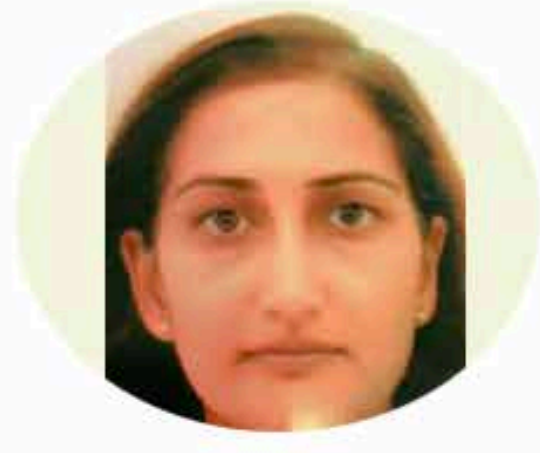

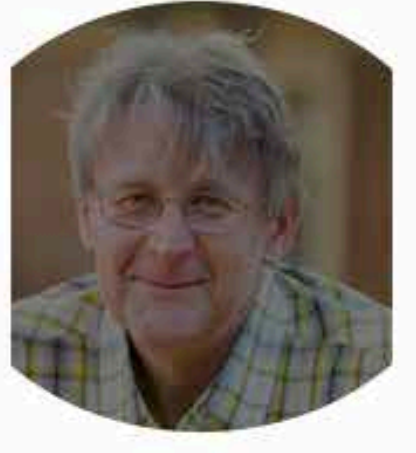



all that long bumpy traveling. "The babies being here is nostalgic to us because I remember clearly five years ago, how we sat in the office and decided to build a home and today I am overjoyed seeing it come to fruition," said Fuchs. Little did they know that they were feeding into the idea that Andrea had conceived 20 years earlier. Three years later the convergence of great ideas has given birth to what is now called RCV which is a tripartite product involving Meikles Foundation, Round Table, and KidzCan Zimbabwe. The first person according to Fuchs, to contribute was Malcolm Mycroft, Pick n Pay Managing Director who, then gave the seed money, which was enough to cover the whole

project before its buying power was eroded by inflation. It however was left strong enough to do half the job in phase one. Round Table representative, Richard Pio said it was a dream come true that brought so much joy as all came together for a worthy cause. "As a Tabler, I am incredibly proud of what has been achieved here which is going to serve so many children all over the country. Thanks to everyone who has been involved in the project," said Pio. The event was attended by invited donors and partners who sponsored rooms in the 1st phase of the project that will see a further 22 rooms erected before year-end. The home is situated along East Road, right at the end, behind Belgravia Shopping Centre.

In terms of governance, KidzCan Zimbabwe is seated on solid ground. We present the KidzCan Zimbabwe board members who are drawn from various sectors, in the corporate world. As always, we thank the board for their support and guidance.



## OUR BOARD MEMBERS

 <b>DAVID MILLS</b> <i>Board Chairman</i>	 <b>VINITA GOYELL</b> <i>Board Member</i>	 <b>UNAIWI NYIKADZINO</b> <i>Board Member</i>	 <b>GARY CROSS</b> <i>Board Member</i>
 <b>ROB MAUNSELL</b> <i>Board Member</i>	 <b>DR PAMIDZAI MADZIMA</b> <i>Board Member</i>	 <b>JACOB MUKAMBA</b> <i>Board Member</i>	

# First Male Caregiver Walks into the RCV

This is the story of Tongai Mazvo, a 35 year-old father of two who has become the first male caregiver admitted into the Rainbow Children's Village (RCV), and one in a few who are devoted to taking care of sick babies affected by childhood cancer. "My two and half-year-old daughter's sickness became so serious that I got to a point where I visited the site of my mother's grave, to ask her whether she was the one responsible, but the grave did not give me any answers. "Returning home, I realised the sickness was even getting worse as the baby kept on crying and losing weight, pushing me to confront my wife, which resulted in an altercation," said Mazvo. "She is the one who, on the advice of a popular Prophet had accused my late mother of causing the sickness. It didn't make sense as my mother died 20 years ago when I was in grade seven, long before I even got married. "Then it so happened that one day I came back home only to find the sick baby abandoned together with my 9-year-old daughter. "Like nestlings waiting for the early morning worm, the children were crying not knowing where the mother was. Little did

they know that their mother had run away from the burden of taking care of them. "I decided to take my daughter to Gokwe Clinic, where I was referred to Parirenyatwa Hospital in Harare. "The Doctors examined and discovered she had Wilms Tumour, cancer that manifests as a swollen stomach. "They also said she had kwashiorkor, another condition caused by malnutrition and as if that was not enough, she had some respiratory infection. They immediately admitted us and for one month and a week, we have been hospitalized. Upon getting to A4 Special Ward, I was introduced to KidzCan Zimbabwe, who have been taking care of the drug, and diagnostic bills. "Today, I have been discharged and will return to the hospital in a week's time. "I am grateful to KidzCan for bringing us to the RCV as I wait to go home to check on my other child whom I left in the care of a neighbour," said Mazvo. Coming from Nemangwe District in Gokwe, a remote growth point in the Midlands, in the central part of Zimbabwe, Mazvo has no other place in Harare to shelter him and his baby. His situation is compounded by his



unemployed status, having tried artisanal mining without success. His daughter has responded well to treatment. At the centre of the high mortality rate in childhood cancer in Zimbabwe, are religious and traditional beliefs which often lead to abandonment or delays in seeking early medical treatment. At times, like in this case, it results in separation or outright divorce. KidzCan Zimbabwe is the managing partner in the RCV arrangement that has two other partners, the Round Table and Meikles Foundation.

## Bulletin

### ICCD Commemorations



The Health Organisation (WHO) acting country representative Jean Marie-Dangou has made a clarion call to the nation, imploring everyone to support children with cancer as the disease is curable if everyone pulls resources together and works towards early detection and treatment. Dr. Maxwell Hove, the guest of honour, who is the Director of curative services in the Ministry of Health and Child Care at Parirenyatwa Hospital said the government was fully committed to providing excellent healthcare for childhood cancer patients. Parirenyatwa Hospital childhood cancer consultant, Prof Inam Chitsike was also in attendance during the International Childhood Cancer Day (ICCD) commemorations hosted by KidzCan Zimbabwe at the Rainbow Children's Village.

## Orange Month Childhood Cancer Awareness Campaigns

The team took the childhood cancer message to Tynwald Primary, Little Rock, Lusitania Primary, Nattie Junior School, Lendy Park in Marondera, Wise Owl Primary in Westgate, the University of Zimbabwe, Hartman, Hellenics, F.D. Roosevelt Girls High, Celebration International, Eaglesvale, Rugare Salvation Army church, St Stephens CPCA Zengeza Chitungwiza church, Chitungwiza Hospital, ZIFM Stereo, Capaltalk and ZTN interviews among others.



## NAC Golf Raises Funds for Cancer Organizations



Shot in the arm for cancer-fighting organisations as the National AIDS Council (NAC) distributes funds from the NAC Fund Raising HIV and Cancer Golf tournament. KidzCan Zimbabwe, Hospice and Palliative Association of Zimbabwe (HOSPAZ), Island Hospice & Healthcare, and the Zimbabwe Cancer Registry were among the beneficiaries of the US \$6000 donation each.