

AUGUST 2020

FOSA NEWSLETTER

News from the Fairfield Children's Homes



A LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

By Jeff Matheny

Fairfield Outreach &
Sponsors Association
(FOSA)

Before I begin, I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support of FOSA and the children at Fairfield Children's Home. In the face of a global pandemic, we are eternally grateful for the many loyal donors who continue to help provide care for these incredible children.

While people here in the US are facing challenges from a variety of situations, conditions in Zimbabwe are unfortunately continuing to decline.

During my visit last Fall, we noticed the difficult and time-consuming process required to make purchases of simple, basic items. The "official" exchange rate and the cash rate were constantly changing. Bank transfers could take days, and by the time you purchased your items, transferred the money and waited for verification, the goods you had reserved were usually already purchased by a cash customer.

In light of these challenges, Cecilia, the Administrator, has done an amazing job utilizing grants and other sources of income to provide for the needs at Fairfield. Because of this, she has requested that FOSA hold the funds we would have normally sent in 2019 in our US bank account to insure its safety. You can find additional updates from Cecilia on Page 4 of this newsletter.

Since the beginning of 2020 we have made two large disbursements of funds and anticipate that more requests will be forthcoming. At this time, we are concerned that the economic situation may become worse and that food costs may rise dramatically. The FOSA Board will continue to support Cecilia to the best of our ability and assist her as she provides a loving and nurturing environment for the children we have all come to know and love.

Once again, we thank you for your ongoing commitment, support, and prayers as we strive to provide the best possible opportunities for those at the Fairfield Children's Homes.

Sincerely,
Jeff Matheny

LOOKING TO SPONSOR?

NGONI, AGE 15

Ngoni Needs a Sponsor!

Ngoni is a 15 year old girl looking for a sponsor! She is attending Hartzell High School and her favorite subjects are Math and English. When she grows up she wants to be a journalist! Her favorite color is purple and she hopes to one day travel to America.



**Find out more about sponsorships at
<http://fosakids.org>**

FCH WELCOMES NEW GUIDANCE COUNSELOR!

RACHEL SAUNYAMA

Education is at the forefront of our priorities at Fairfield, and we have long hoped for someone to help guide the children in identifying their goals and support them as they plan for their futures. We are excited to share that, Rachel Saunyama, who recently completed a master's in education, is now assisting with that process!



Mrs. Saunyama and Cecilia Thobani, Fairfield's administrator, are coordinating closely to best provide that assistance to the children. This involves Mrs. Saunyama not only working with the children directly, but also jointly with their mothers. She is currently coming in to work (prior to COVID) with the children in small groups. At this time, she is primarily working with 8th grade and up, tutoring, identifying their strengths, and assessing their needs. This work establishes the trust needed to aid in the guidance process.

FOSA and Fairfield are delighted to welcome Mrs. Saunyama as part of the big team who loves and cares for the FCH children!



WAYS YOU CAN SUPPORT FAIRFIELD

SPONSOR A CHILD

For \$30 a month, your sponsorship money will help provide a child with everything they need to grow, flourish and succeed.

DONATE

Make a one-time donation that will support Fairfield's children and facilities.

FUNDRAISE

Help spread the word about FCH by raising funds at your church, local hangouts and online. Contact us for more information about how you can start a campaign and advocate.



FCH Mothers at Sensory Processing and Integration Seminar

UPDATE FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR

BY CECILIA THOBANI

ADMINISTRATOR, FAIRFIELD CHILDREN'S HOMES

Since the Coronavirus pandemic began we have seen a significant drop in local donations for the Home as people are not able to move freely for fear of spreading the virus. The ability to fundraise has also been interrupted due to the lockdown.

The Home has not been spared from the lockdown, which has affected a lot of Zimbabweans and the world at large. The Home is working very hard to keep children and staff safe. Staff who live off site are no longer able to work at the Home and currently no one is allowed to visit.

All the House Mothers and ancillary staff remain isolated at the Home with the children. The mothers have not been able to go for off days since lockdown began and they understand the situation since a main aim is to protect the children and us all.

The children are busy working in the garden, fetching firewood, playing games and doing their chores. They are encouraged to wash their hands frequently. We have also asked one of our grown children, who is now married, to sew masks for the children and the caregivers.

On Saturdays we have a Zoom meeting for 1 hour 30 minutes, which is organized for us by Higherlife foundation, a non profit organization founded by Mr Masiyiwa.

All staff and children are well at the moment. So far there has not been any COVID cases in Mutare, the city our home is situated.

Prior to lockdown, representatives from the children's homes in Manicaland Province had a three-day seminar to learn on how to handle traumatized children we receive in our homes and how to better identify traumatized children in need of help.

Lastly, we were given a grant to drill a solar borehole that is now in use. We will be cutting down on electricity and also we will be able to have water even if there are power cuts, as is the norm in our country. We are now working on getting another grant for solar lighting.

Sincerely,

Cecilia

FAIRFIELD ALUMNA
LIZZIE CHIKOTORA



Have you seen our
new website?

Check out www.fosakids.org
to see our new look!



My how she has grown! Lizzie is now married, and with her in the picture is her son and daughter. She lives in Mutare with her husband and children. They own a car parts shop and Lizzie is a tailor, and she was gracious enough to sew masks for the children's home during the COVID pandemic.

Lizzie completed her o'level education and she came out with 2 subjects. She then enrolled at a vocational training college where she completed her fashion and designing course.

OH, THE PLACES THEY'LL GO!

Fairfield's Annah Makore finished her first year of college!

She's pursuing a degree in Fashion Design.



COVID-19 UPDATE

ZIMBABWE

The Coronavirus has brought a lot of hardships for the people in Zimbabwe. The country is struggling to test people for the virus due to equipment and infrastructure shortages, which means that a lot of cases are going undetected. With this comes the fear that the virus will sweep through the country, which lacks the financial and health provisions to keep it under control.

Like many people in the US, many Zimbabweans have had to adjust their lives to stay at home. Among those having to stay at home are our children and staff at FCH. Most of our children attend Hartzell High School Hartzell Central Primary School. This disruption in their academic schedule has meant them moving to classes online, which is very unrealistic for many students. Unlike the US, where WiFi is readily available, having WiFi installation in Zimbabwe is very expensive, and aside from cost, there is no guarantee that it will work.

The virus has also magnified some problems such as running water, which is essential for hygiene. Shortages of electricity and power cuts mean that any schoolwork must be completed whenever the electricity is turned on, which often means early in the morning or late at night. Additionally, isolating in place has been important during COVID-19, however, isolation is not possible due to shared spaces with other children and mothers.

Many Zimbabweans do not have significant savings and cannot afford to be off work, and the little work they find feeds them on a day-to-day basis. Unfortunately, this means that the fear of starvation is just as prevalent as catching the virus.

As the world continues to face these hardships, both at home and abroad, we pray for the health, safety and wellbeing of our Fairfield family.

A LETTER FROM COLLEGE

BIGGIE MATANDA



Greetings to you FOSA, a non profit making organisation which is a reinforcement pillar for Fairfield Children's Homes in Old Mutare in Zimbabwe. My name is Biggie Matanda and I am a student studying accounting as my degree programme. I am learning at Africa University, a place where future leaders are made. To be at Africa University is the greatest dream which came true. It is a wonderful place and where Ubuntu and Pan-Africanism is supported. Being at Africa University helped me to know different cultures of African people through community building. Moreover, I did French as a second language in first year, although it was not easy; I managed to pass and it was interesting studying the course. Furthermore, Africa University is known to be a United Church related institution which makes it unique with other state university all students attend the church service on Sundays. The choir at AU is so excellent; they are ranked among the highest by United Methodist congregates.

“ So you are targeting the right choices by investing in us and you keep our face smiling and happy. ”

During my free time I do some debates and discussions with my friends for fun, but it will mean a lot in my life. University is different from high school; high school is the key to unlock the doors for university level. It is different from high school because at university level one is expected to be more mature and act like a future leader. This has helped me in my career which I want to pursue being a chartered accountant. One is expected to be professional and be business-minded. Contrastingly, at high school level we were treated as little ones and we were more protected and highly monitored by our teachers. Unfortunately, at university level one doesn't need to be instructed to do good things, but the good morals should be at one's finger tips and is expected to put it into practise to show the degree of maturity.

However, by learning ethics as a course, I managed to put myself up to practise good morals. Some of the challenges we face as orphans studying at Africa University is the issue of needing other basic necessities, like updated laptops to use as for me. I do accounting information systems which needs the latest laptop version to practise and do my online assignments like in finance and in other future documents like licences and passport. Moreover, there is the issue of jobs shortages after acquiring my degree programmes; jobs are not easy to find here in Zimbabwe.

Furthermore, in accounting I must not rely on my undergraduate programme, but I must keep on studying other courses like ACCA to be a professional accountant. Finances will be needed for the off campus workshops and trips to reinforce my undergraduate degree. However, all in all, I salute you because you are playing a pivotal role in our lives. One is not able to meet all needs in life, but has a targeted need to satisfy. So you are targeting the right choices by investing in us and you keep our face smiling and happy.

Thank you,
Biggie

THAT'S ALL FOR NOW...



FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK FOR MORE UPDATES!



A CLOSING PRAYER

By Rev Eric Mulanda

Former FOSA Board
Member, Senior Pastor at
Mount Hope UMC



“ In a time like this, it is urgent to pray. Prayer is how we actively practice believing, so simply, so confidently, that God has the whole world in his hands. It's where we “let petitions and praises shape our worries into prayers, letting God know our concerns” (Phil. 4:6–7, The Message). Prayer is never the last resort of God's people. It is our first point of action and we should pray without ceasing (1 Thessalonians 5: 17). Below is a prayer that I am inviting you all to pray with me, and continue to pray.

Dear Lord Jesus Christ, I do pray in one accord with my brothers and sisters for all in direct patient care; give them strength for their service and strength to ask for help when they are in need. I do pray for all the sick; bring them to full health and restore them to those who love them. Pray for all those isolated in their homes; sustain them in joy and peace. I pray for all those who have died and those who grieve their loss in isolation; comfort them in their sorrow. I do pray for decision-makers at all levels; send them your wisdom and good counsel to serve their communities. I do pray for homeless; orphans and widows send them what they need right now. I do pray for all who do think of others and help them right now financially and spiritually to be blessed, strengthened and receive joy in their giving. I pray for this world to be healed from COVID 19 and I have faith in you, that through you, everything I have asked for today will be answered.

In Jesus' Name, Amen.



2019 ANNUAL REPORT

A LOOK AT THE NUMBERS



8 Homes

8 mothers
1 Administrator



63 Children

9 Under Age 6
26 in Primary School
28 in High School



82% of Children Sponsored

11 unsponsored
52 sponsored



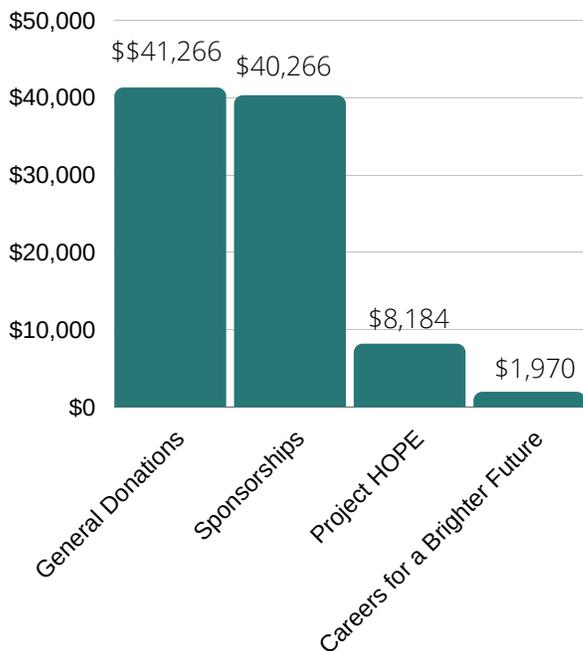
\$93,096 Donations



13 Board Members

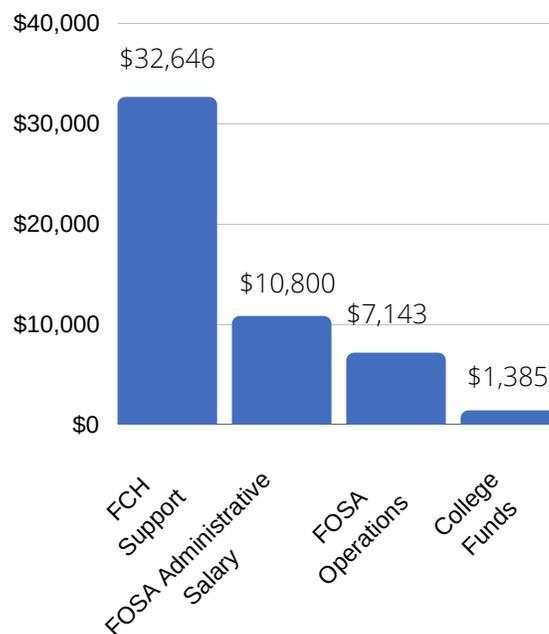
2019 Income

\$93,096



2019 Expenses

\$57,974



*Note: Board Members are not compensated. FOSA pays for one part-time administrative assistant.