

# King George VI Centre September to October Newsletter 2021



**The Prom!**



KGVI Form 4s had an amazing evening organised by Precious and supported by KGVI alumni and our wonderful friends in the catering world. Thank you!

### WISH LIST

- Medical treatments for children
- Therapy fees
- Support for classroom assistants for children who can't write
- Plaster of Paris (pop) for children post-surgery
- Prosthetics for children post-surgery
- Bus fares for day scholars – ongoing
- Boarding fees for bursary students-ongoing
- Practical skills training for learners
- Food packages for children going home in December

### REHABILITATION

It was so good to have the children back although they came in slowly as families had problems finding bus fares and boarding fees. The therapy team were worried about the setbacks for many of the children who had not had therapy for so long. So many children have developed new problems that could have been avoided.

### COUNSELLING

Many of the children have come back with sad tales of abuse and neglect and we are running intensive counselling sessions to help them talk through the problems. How they are enjoying all the entertainment and interaction they find at KGVI



### COVID

Over 20% of Zimbabwean adults have been vaccinated with the Chinese vaccines as these are the only one available in the country. Sadly children are yet to be vaccinated and there have been some outbreaks in schools. KGVI has a strong policy and children are checked at least four times a day. So far this vigilance is paying off.



VID-20210628-WAO  
009.mp4

Click on this little video to watch a message we prepared for some friends in Germany. Precious is doing a wonderful job with these special messages.



### NEW STAFF

We held a very successful induction workshop for all the staff members who have started at KGVI over the past 2 years. Surprisingly we ended up with 15 staff. The therapy team in particular has had to take on many new members which is always difficult when team building. Still we seem to have a group of young and eager new staff. Here is the winning team from the Know KGVI quiz.

### CARE COTTAGE

Our little cottage is complete and ready to receive the first parents and children. We had some wonderful donations from the Bulawayo public to help us equip the cottage. The whole project will fall under the Occupational Therapy department who will make good use of it when there are no families in residence.



### LESSONS

Sadly the children are only attending school every other day which means they can never catch up with the lessons they have missed over the past 2 years! It was sad to say goodbye to one of our most devoted teachers. Teachers are paid such low salaries they can't even afford to pay transport to schools. The result is far too many teachers are leaving the profession! We are also desperately short of class assistants – a position no longer supported by the ministry!

Sad faces as the kids say goodbye to their favourite teacher! These confident young ladies all had great speeches to honour Mrs Gavhera at her farewell.

## SPORTS

Samantha and the boarders are enjoying weekend sports events. We have a team of volunteer coaches who make sure that every child enjoys some activity. Thanks to our German friends who brought these smart uniforms



## VOCATIONAL TRAINING

The OT department is training some of the seniors in vocational skills which will help them earn some money when they leave KGVI. These include shoe repairs, bead work and mat making

## MEDICAL

It is so sad to have to report that the health facilities in Zimbabwe have almost totally broken down unless you have real money – USD! We are struggling to get proper medical support for the sick children we have had to help this term. We may have to try and raise money to get them into the only private hospital before we risk lives. What a sad position for the country which used to have some of the best health facilities in Africa.

## IGPs or SBUs

### Income Generating Projects or Strategic Business Units!



Every spare part of our gardens is now under cultivation. This is our new butternut crop



Our new broiler house is now in use. Here are our broilers under the watchful eye of our lady gardener



Construction of our raised garden beds which can be used by wheelchair users and which will be promoted for income generation for our school leavers



Construction of the broiler house. It's good to see our former pupils, Brighton and Anesu, doing so well in the Maintenance team.



Our other IGP is to bring paying outpatients for therapy. Re-tiling and re-painting was many years overdue in our physio! **We are so grateful for support to refurbish the physio and for support for all our other money making ventures.**



We arranged a tour for our Management committee members to see all our new IGPs/ SBUs! Below they are looking at our Raised Bed project which will be operated by Luckmore (on the tricycle). It is our hope that these beds will be a possible money making venture for some of our school leavers.





