



# QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



## Turning the dream of mukundi into reality

The idea of mukundi came to me in 2019 when I was on my journey to recovery. This was after I had discovered that I could make a difference in the the lives of vulnerable children, at a time when I was at my lowest due to HIV/AIDS related stigmas that I had faced. This took me to work in rural Zimbabwe where I witnessed different challenges affecting orphans and vulnerable children. It was at this point my passion was fully ignited, I decided that I wanted to create environments where orphans affected by HIV/AIDS could be supported to realize their full potential. Thereafter I got enrolled in an intensive 12-month course at kanthari, a social impact leadership training institute in India. It is during this time that I founded mukundi. During the intensive training mukundi's idea for orphan care went through the phases of defining; ideation, prototyping and in some manner testing. Now as we approach the new year, 2024, we look forward to implementing our interventions as mukundi. Read more about it in the following pages>>>>>>>>



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## Our Vision and Mission

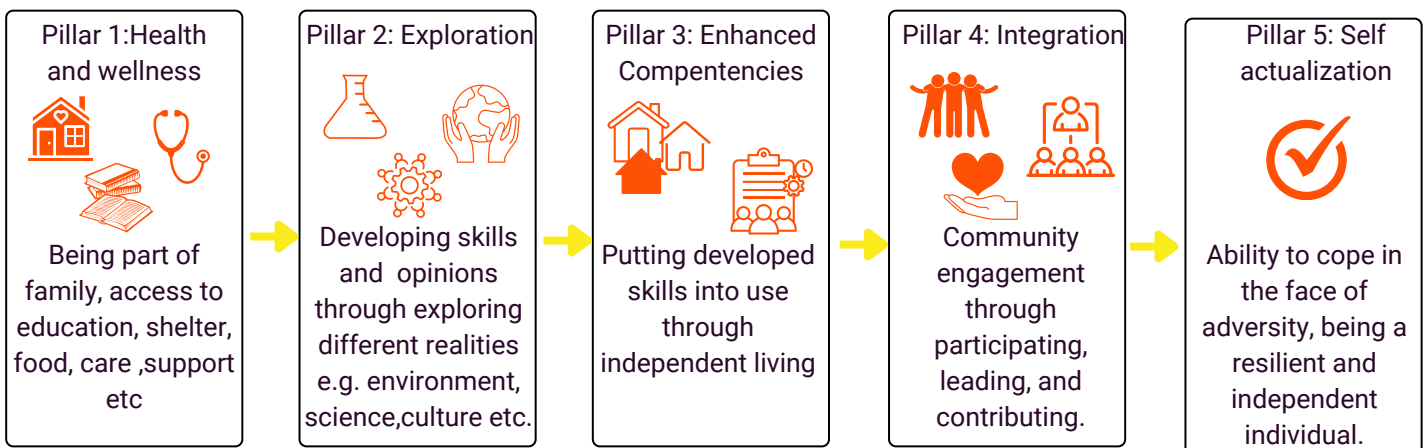
We envision a world where orphans can grow in environments, where they can realize their full potential thus enabling them to become resilient individuals with self-determined futures. It is our **mission** to create environments where orphans not only access their immediate needs but also develop the necessary skills and mindsets to navigate real-world complexities with confidence as they transition into adulthood

## The problem we are trying to solve



One in five people in Zimbabwe hold discriminatory remarks against HIV. This is happening in a country where a third of the orphan population has lost their parents to HIV/AIDS-related illnesses. In some instances, HIV/AIDS stigma and discrimination by extended family members leads to orphans becoming members of child-headed families, where one child or more becomes the head of the household. In such situations, orphans lack adequate access to their basic needs and they do not have anyone to support, care or love them. This makes them, vulnerable to sexual and economic exploitation. At times when they are taken in by extended family members, there are at risk of abuse. On the other hand, poverty in such families makes it hard for them to provide for themselves let alone the orphans left in their care. Our aim is to provide safe environments where orphans can develop skills and mindsets that help them become resilient individuals who can deal with real-world complexities. Hence the name of our organisation, mukundi, a Shona word which means one who overcomes or rises above challenges.

## Our approach to orphan care



We perceive our beneficiaries as resilient individuals who are capable of overcoming challenges. We believe our beneficiaries are not at all limited and they are capable of being independent and having a self-determined future where they might/will face problems but manage to overcome them because they are "mukundi". Our idea of orphan care focuses not only on providing immediate needs but also on the future of the individual. This will be guided by the following interlinked pillars i.e. health and wellness; exploration; enhanced competencies; integration and self-actualization. We believe that, if these pillars form the foundation of all our interventions, our beneficiaries can develop skills/mindsets that can help them navigate real-life complexities.





## Visualizing our dream project

During the training course in kanthari, I created a 3D design/prototype of mukundi. Our residence will feature an open-space design that will ensure constant engagement, thus allowing our beneficiaries to communicate their problems/achievements and through empathy be there for each other no matter the odds. The space will also provide a sense of security and belonging. Sustainable building is another critical aspect which will be included in our design. This is something I got learn more during my visit to Laurie Baker Center for Habitat Studies when I was in kanthari.

## Community engagement

HIV/AIDS is still prevalent in Zimbabwe due to a number of challenges e.g. access to preventative measures and services; stigma and discrimination; lack of adherence; healthy living; ignorance etc. Our response is to, carry out sex education which is most commonly known as Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) with young people in our area of operation. For the first phase of our pilot project, mukundi got an opportunity to carry out a sex education workshop with young people during, the Spread the Spice event, an NGO fair facilitated by kanthari. The sessions were highly interactive, and the feedback/questions we received were useful in further developing our curriculum.



## What comes next



- Registering our organization;
- Getting land for where we are to set up our project;
- Starting our residential pilot project in April 2024 where will be taking in three orphans under our care;
- Carrying out a baseline survey of our beneficiaries;
- Carrying our meeting to engage the local community and leaders to tell them more about the project.
- Implementing our intellectual fun camp project where will be exploring science in particular plant germination using art, craft, games and experiments

**Thank you, wishing you a prosperous 2024!**

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