



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

October-December 2024

Issue 4



Child Friendly space

The beginning of 2025 represents a significant milestone for Mukundi, as it marks one year since our official inception. Reflecting on the journey, we couldn't be more excited about the progress we have made. We remain unwavering in our mission to create environments where orphans not only meet their immediate needs, but also develop the necessary skills and mind-sets to navigate real world complexities with confidence as they transition into adulthood. We understand that achieving our mission requires continuous effort. Therefore we are committed to maintaining a child-friendly and safe environment which nurtures the children's emotional, mental, and social development.

One of the major highlights in the year 2024, came during a play-break between sessions at our Information Technology themed camp held in December 2024. During this break we provided the children with simple items to play with i.e. balls and a skipping rope. Yet the creativity that emerged was nothing short of extraordinary. Left to their own devices, they turned these simple items into an improvised volleyball pitch and began playing a lively game of volleyball. The joy, laughter, and energy coming from that makeshift pitch is a great source of motivation for us in pursuing our mission.

In that moment, we realized something profound; despite all the work still to be done in ensuring a safe and nurturing environment, we are on the right path. The children's ability to express themselves freely, without fear of judgment or victimization, is something that we are determined to protect and foster. This promotes creativity, self-confidence and courage for the children to voice their opinions and showcase their talents.

As we continue to move forward, we are more inspired than ever to build on this foundation, creating more opportunities for development. In the year 2025 we look forward to, progress and most importantly joy, just as seen in the laughter of the children in the picture above.





Language themed camp

From October to November 2024, we continued with our bi-weekly sessions, where we met with our beneficiaries on Saturdays to impart reading and writing skills. Most of our beneficiaries are still in the foundational stage, where more work still needs to be done; however, there has been progress, and we are hopeful because of that. Moving forward, we are now looking into having more sessions that promote regular and independent reading, story comprehension, and critical thinking. The picture on the left was taken in one of the sessions where we made use of the hopscotch game to impart phonetic awareness

On the other hand, promoting mental and emotional well-being in our beneficiaries' lives remains our main priority. It is for this reason that we also incorporate psychosocial activities into these sessions. One of the ways we have been doing so is through art. Through our psychosocial support through art activities, what we want to achieve is for our beneficiaries to discover ways to express themselves, experience emotional release, and utilize art as a coping mechanism. Although we have managed to carry out only a few sessions thus far, this is something we are hoping to actively pursue in 2025. The picture on the right was taken during a pottery session where the children were making miniture traditional clay pots from clay.



Information Technology themed camp

We are thrilled to share that we successfully conducted an Information and Technology-themed camp for nineteen (19) of our 8-12-year-old beneficiaries. The aim of this camp was to equip our beneficiaries with the digital skills and knowledge they need to thrive in an increasingly digital world. In a time when technology is shaping nearly every aspect of life, we are committed to ensuring that our beneficiaries have the tools and confidence to navigate this digital landscape.

The I.T. themed camp was the second in a series of nine camps under our Overcoming Barriers Project. Each camp is designed to build on the last, with the overall aim to provide learning opportunities which develop skills and mind-sets which are key to facing various challenges and seizing opportunities. Therefore, skills gained in the IT camp will serve as a foundation which will allow our beneficiaries to conduct research and gather information on a variety of topics to be covered in future camps.



Throughout the camp, we covered a broad range of topics, from the fundamentals of computer hardware and software to the importance of online safety. The sessions were designed to be engaging, with interactive games, hands-on activities, and thought-provoking discussions to make the learning process both fun and informative.

By the end of the camp, we were confident that our beneficiaries gained essential skills, including basic computer operation, internet research, and an understanding of how hardware and software work together. The picture on the right was taken during a session where we made use of the spider web game to introduce the topic of networks and the internet.



One of the most heart-warming highlights of the camp was seeing the children support one another. When one child struggled with a concept, others who had grasped it would eagerly step in to offer help. This to us was a reflection of peer-to-peer support it was truly inspiring. It was also incredibly encouraging to witness how confident the children became in exploring the world of technology, especially considering that many of them have limited access to computers in their day-to-day lives. We can't wait to see how the skills and confidence they gained from this camp will help them tackle future challenges both in the remaining camps and in life beyond. In the picture on the left one of the children was providing assistance to her peers.



Christmas fundraising event

On December 19th 2024, we successfully held a Christmas fundraising party with the traditional leader of the community we are working in, and parents/guardians of our beneficiaries. During this event, we were able to meet with all of our beneficiaries' guardians/parents in one place, present the project's aims to them, and seek donations in the form of food items.

This platform allowed the parents and guardians to gain a deeper understanding of the work we do, why we do it, and it also provided them with an opportunity to give feedback on the project's impact. In the picture on the right, one of our volunteers was communicating with our guests during the event.





We also took this opportunity to award first aid certificates, provided by the Red Cross Society of Zimbabwe, to the beneficiaries who Completed their basic first aid course during the August 2024 Health themed camp.

This event also allowed our beneficiaries to showcase the learnings and skills they have gained since we started working with them. Overall, the event was a success, and in the spirit of Christmas, we concluded by giving our beneficiaries small Christmas gifts, which were generously organized by one of our supporters. In the picture on the left one of our beneficiaries receiving her first aid certificate and Christmas gift during the event.



Group photo of taken after the fundraising event with Mukundi staff and beneficiaries

What comes next?



- Making preparations for the plant germination camp which is to be carried out in April 2025.
- Continuing on with our language theme camp.
- Making preparations to provide shelter/taking in some of our beneficiaries under our care in the year 2025.

If you would like to contribute to our work you can contact us on admin@mukundizw.org or +263713437688