



*Rebuilding Hope with a Vision*



# *Annual Report 2008*

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The Vision and Hope Foundation (VHF)'s focus is driven by the vision, hope and vision stated below. Every effort is made to respect, promote and uphold the values that are shared by the various stakeholders.

### **Our Vision**

We envision a society where young people enjoy their economic, social and cultural rights and walk in their full potential.

**Our Hope** is Vital

### **Our Mission**

We strive to provide meaningful support, care and to empower young people and communities to develop innovative and sustainable solutions to social ills of the society and live wholesome lives.

### **Shared values and guiding principles**

#### **Values**

1. **Accountability**
2. **Respect for human life**
3. **Transparency**
4. **Team work**

#### **Guiding principles**

1. **Empowerment**
2. **Meaningful involvement**
3. **Innovation**
4. **Team work**

## Introduction

Vision and Hope Foundation (VHF) is a community based development organization established by youth from the Harare community to contribute towards the reduction and ultimate eradication of HIV & AIDS and other social ills of the society among young people. VHF seeks to promote the empowerment of young people through skills development, information sharing, counseling, training on HIV and AIDS prevention and management, lobbying and advocating for reproductive health and rights young people and above all providing basic education. It was established in 2003 and got legally registered in 2006 as a youth welfare organisation under the Youth Act of 1997.

**“Education is the most powerful weapon that you can use to change the world.”  
(Nelson Mandela)**

## Operating Environment

The past year has been a challenging one yet again for all Zimbabweans and NGOs. On the economic front, cost of living has continued to rise and has seen over 90% of the population living under the poverty datum line. The inflation rate has continued to rise and to a record of over a million. The unemployment rate was reported to over 90%. Even those employed are struggling to make ends meet. The year has closed with teachers on strike for some time and has compromised our education system. June exams were not marked and November there was no promise of having them marked by close of 2008 school term.

HIV and AIDS remain a challenge for us all. The impact of HIV and AIDS continues to be felt at all levels of our society. There is still no cure for HIV. The only way to fight is to prevent oneself from contracting the virus in the first place; and if already infected. We urge us all to play our part in reducing the spread and impact of HIV. Behaviour change is therefore called for. It starts with you and me.

The year has seen the suspension of operations of most NGOs, deregistration of some and the close of many due to rising operating costs.

## Programmes

The following programmes were implemented during the course of the year.

### 1. Orphans and other Vulnerable Children Support.

#### School fees and school related assistance

134 children from 5 schools 4 in Mbare and 1 in Epworth received school fees and levy assistance in 2008. Many of them had arrears of terms up to the whole of previous year. 13 girls and 7 boys received school stationery of 10 exercise books, a pencil and a pen each.

#### School fees/ school breakdown:

Frank Johnson primary school	11 girls 11 boys	22 children	
Nharira primary school	30 girls 20 boys	50 children	
Gwinyayi primary school	17 girls 8 boys	25 children	
Chinamano primary school	13 girls 12 boys	25 children	
Sunningdale primary school	7 girls 4 boys	11 children	
Harare High School	1 girl	1 child	
<b>Total</b>	<b>79 girls</b>	<b>55 boys</b>	<b>134 children</b>

## Feeding scheme

We bought 100 cups, 100 plates, 2 big pots and cooking sticks intending to feed 100 children at a local community centre in Mbare. By close of year we had not started implementing due to current political situation and that the staff at most local authorities were on go slow which made following up to our applications unfruitful. Hopefully we will be able to early 2009.

We have been able to develop a database for all orphans assisted and those not assisted who also need assistance.

## 2. Youth Empowerment and Support

### Youth friendly center and Information center

We received variety of materials from United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Southern Africa AIDS Information Dissemination Services (SAFAIDS), Zimbabwe National Family Planning Council (ZNFPC) and Zimbabwe AIDS Network for distribution at the information center. We also purchased 1 000 condoms from OK supermarkets. SAFAIDS gave us a set of 52 video tapes called “Tsha tsha” done in South Africa on youth sexuality and HIV and AIDS issues. We are looking forward to start showing these videos next year if we get funding to buy a television set and video recorder. Renovations at the Information Center were completed and it is now secure to put valuables like the most needed television set and a video recorder.

We could not open the youth friendly center at the clinic this year because of lack of funding. The City health department allocated us a big room at the Mbare family care clinic for that purpose.

We also opened a new safe light office at Mbare Flats where our Community Liaison Officer is now based. Young people can now also access information and condoms from there.



**New Offices at Mbare Flats**

### 3. HIV & AIDS prevention and management.

#### Open Discussions

Two hour sessions were held Friday with young people from 10 - 25 years at the Information center to discuss various issues relating to adolescent reproductive health and HIV and AIDS related issues. These sessions moved Mbare Flats office when it was opened.

We could not implement the training workshops, road shows and galas as planned due to lack of funding.

The Social services department has allowed us to use the grounds for different sporting disciplines and we hope to start next year if we manage to get the sporting equipment.

### 4. Edutainment

#### Cholera response

The programs Director, the assistant programs officer and 2 volunteers from the drama group were trained by UNICEF and Oxfam on Cholera. After the training we trained 25 young people and 10 health promoters whom we worked during the clean up campaign. After the trainings Sunrise Arts a drama group started by VHF volunteers developed a play in response to cholera mainly to educate the community on how to prevent cholera, how it is transmitted and how it can be managed. Also on health and sanitation and the benefits of living in a clean environment and to make them value it. The play was launched on the last week of December when we were carrying out a clean up campaign.

We partnered with Zimbabwe Project Trust in response to cholera. Plays and poetry are performed at their food distribution points. By end of 2008 1000 fliers were distributed, 80 posters were distributed and stuck. A total of 2000 households were reached.

Following the clean up campaign at Mbare flats, residents developed duty rosters to continue cleaning their toilets and sinks. Zimbabwe Project Trust has agreed to provide detergent jik for residents beyond 2008.

ZimRelief shipped 200 elotrans oral rehydration solutions and water treatment tablets for distribution tablets which were also distributed mostly to Mbare residents and to others from other districts. 100 of these elotrans and some water treating tablets were sent to Glen Forest clinic near Hatcliffe.



**Clean Up Campaign**



### **2008 Harare Agricultural Show Exhibition**

The agricultural show, which has been in existence for a while is the country's premier Agricultural event that gives various stakeholders in the agricultural sector and the general public the chance to mingle and share ideas on agro – business. It also attracts foreign direct investment; promote joint venture opportunities between citizens and foreign investors while stimulating a culture of entrepreneurship.

It gave us an opportunity to show case our programmes to all stakeholders and members of the public. A lot of interested was generated on the craft making project which had beautiful greeting cards and other wire crafts on display.

The theme for this year's event, which was officially opened by his Excellency the President of Zimbabwe, Robert G. Mugabe, was *"Let's unite the nation – grow food with determination."* While the theme for all the organisations that were exhibiting under Zimbabwe Aids Network stand which is were VHF was exhibiting under was *"Let's all take the lead in food production, HIV/AIDS prevention, care and treatment"*



### **Zimbabwe AIDS Network- Mini grants**

We received a P4 desktop DELL computer from Zimbabwe AIDS network small grants scheme which aims mainly to capacity build member organisations.

### **Personnel**

We engaged 2 students from Midlands State University from August to end December 2008. They served as Assistant Programmes officer and the Projects Officer respectively. Bongani Dube who served as the Assistant Programs Officer helped in developing a database for orphans and other Vulnerable Children (OVCs).

### **Conclusion**

There was a significant growth in programme coverage during the year under review compared to previous years. In the coming we are planning to start a new program "Young People We Care" Hopefully we shall be able to access funding to implement this program.

Appreciation goes to the volunteers for facilitating the work of VHF within communities, implementing partners, National AIDS Council, City Health and Social services departments, funding partners for the financial, material and moral support. They all contributed towards effective service delivery.