

Oasis in Zimbabwe



Dear Friends,

Newsletter Jan 2017

Happy New Year from Oasis in Zimbabwe! Welcome to our first 2017 update — we hope you enjoy hearing our news.

We would like you to meet some more of the people at Oasis Zimbabwe, as they think about what was their best thing about 2016.

What was your best thing about last year?

What are you excited about for 2017?

Skills Training



"I am Gladys, the Counsellor for the Skills Training Project.

In 2016 my best thing was joining the staff at Oasis, where before I was a volunteer.

I also enjoyed seeing the change in the girls we work with. We teach them how to sew clothes and other things they can sell. They are more confident, they have learned to forgive other people, and they are kinder to

their families."

Do you think you changed in these kind of ways in 2016?

PSP "My name is Tanatswa. I work with the Pre-School Project and I help groups of parents to save money together, so they can start their own businesses.

In 2016 my best thing was seeing the parents who

With love, the Oasis team in Zimbabwe

have worked hard in their businesses. One bought a grinding mill, where people bring their corn and pay for it to be ground up into flour. Another lady is growing so many vegetables that her neighbours buy from her instead of going to the main city market."



Have you ever seen corn being ground up into flour?

Tanaka



"My name is Hope. I am a volunteer with Tanaka. My best thing in 2016 was getting to know the Oasis team—we are all different but I saw that all ideas were valued. I felt surrounded by people who love others and I felt included.

In 2016 I also changed my views about street children. I have

learned to include them, and show them love and generosity. I have come to accept them."

How can you include someone who is different to you today?

Central "I am Martin and I

am the Driver at Oasis Zimbabwe. In 2016 my best thing was that my brother got married, so my whole family was celebrating. I also enjoyed hearing the stories of the projects while I am driving staff around, like when I take Auntie Gladys for home visits. Another good thing was all the building



work we have had at Oasis (in the photo below). It is looking good now!"

What do you think of our newly painted building?



Meet Asha...

Asha joined Oasis Zimbabwe in October as our new Country Director. Some of you may remember her coming to speak in assemblies at your Academies last term. Here we get to know her a little:

Asha, what is your story with Zimbabwe?

"I was born in Zimbabwe and lived here until I was a teenager—I grew up in a farming area about 50 miles from Harare, where Oasis is. My family set up and ran a children's home until we moved to America for university.

What brought you back to Zimbabwe?

I always wanted to return to Zimbabwe, and in 2011 I came to set up a business called 'Mutungagore' (moo-toonga-gore-ay), which means 'reach for the skies'. I worked to help people grow enough food to eat and to sell, and I also designed clothes which could be made by women who needed sewing jobs.

How did you come to Oasis?

In 2013 one of the Oasis Skills Training girls came to work for me, sewing the clothes I designed. I started as the Country Director of Oasis Zimbabwe in October 2016. My first impressions were of a great team, with lots of potential amongst us."



Asha plants the first of our fruit trees in our garden

Self-Help Groups



"I am Tinofara, and I work with our Self-Help Groups Project. In 2016 my best thing was seeing the women in our groups work hard at their businesses. One lady was buying and selling used clothes. She was so successful that she was able to build a one roomed house.

Another lady was able to dig a well because there was no water in her area, because of the drought (no rain). Her neighbours started coming to her house and she was giving out two buckets of water per person, which was a big help.



I also enjoyed seeing the women in our groups become good friends. If one group member is not feeling well, others will visit them at home or at the hospital, and help pay for the doctor.

What do you think it is like to collect all your water from a well?

Our 2016 intake of Pre-School trainee teachers learn about teaching PE

