

# Oasis in Zimbabwe



Dear Friends,

Newsletter May 2017

**Hello from Oasis in Zimbabwe! Welcome to our May 2017 update — we hope you enjoy hearing our news.**

We have been thinking about times when we can make a new start and when good things happen which we can celebrate.

**When have you decided to make a new start?**

**What are you celebrating right now?**

**Tanaka** The Tanaka team has been celebrating that we have been able to open a home for girls aged 6-16 to stay with us for a few weeks, while Social Services try to find their families.

We opened the home in February and so far we have had eleven girls come to stay. They have all been glad to have a safe place to sleep and to eat three meals each day.

The girls have been learning to read and write, and to do some Maths. They have also been playing volleyball, doing lots of drawing and colouring, and growing vegetables in our garden.



**Have you ever grown vegetables in your garden or at school?**

*With love, the Oasis team in Zimbabwe*

## Self-Help Groups

We have lots of women who save money together in groups. We call them Self-Help Groups. As well as saving money, the groups are good friends together.



In February we had heavy rains in Harare, and some of the houses were swept away. So the women in the groups made bricks to re-build one family's house. Now they have a new start in their new home.

**If you could build a new house, what would it look like?**

**PSP** A lot of the children in our Pre-Schools are often ill, sometimes because they do not have enough food to eat. This means they cannot learn well and they fall behind in school. In March, our Pre-School team took nurses to lots of our schools to see which children were ill and give them medicine so they can feel better.



We have a lot of different schools so the staff and the nurses had to drive around for three weeks to get to them all. But it was worth it, because most of the children are now feeling better and they are able to learn more at school.

**When you feel ill, does it stop you from learning in school?**

**Central** We have had a new start at our Oasis centre since Christmas, because all our building work has been finished! We had a new front wall and a new car park built, and in one of our buildings we had new floors, new ceilings, new toilets and lots of painting.

All the work has made the buildings look much better, as you can see in this picture of 'before and after':



**Do you like the new look of the building?**

## Skills Training

In January we celebrated with the group of our girls who finished our sewing course last year. They came to Oasis for a year, and then they wrote their exams before Christmas. All of them got very good marks and we were very proud of them.



The graduation was a wonderful day to celebrate all the girls' hard work.

Two girls were given 'Best Student' awards because they worked so hard. One of the girls makes very nice clothes and sells them to lots of her friends. She has been able to save up enough money to buy a small car with her mum, which they are using as a taxi!

**Do you think you would like to be able to make your own clothes?**

***We hope you have enjoyed hearing our news!***

