



A. STATUS

- ❖ We currently have 56 children at the Home, including those that are in place of safety. Out of 56 children, 7 of them are staying outside the Home facility. We are hoping that some of them will be independent in terms of rentals and food. The youngest child in the Home is 1 year 7 months old. The following table indicates their age ranges by school levels.

MARYWARD CHILDREN'S HOME 2022 STATISTICS		
1.	Babies	2
2.	Pre-school	5
3.	Primary	13
4.	Secondary	23
5.	tertiary	6
5.	Physically challenged	2
	TOTAL	51

B. CHILDREN'S EDUCATION:

- ❖ We are grateful that most of our children are performing well in school. Education is vital to children in need because it gives the children hope that, after completing school, one will live a good life and afford the basic needs in life. This year four of our children were enrolled into tertiary education. Paugeria was admitted into the bachelor of Commerce Honours degree in banking and investment management at National University of Science and Technology. Ropafadzo is in Harare studying Culinary Arts. She wants to work as a chef in the catering and hospitality sector. We noticed her passion when she used to prepare new dishes for her siblings. She is also learning French. Munashe and Vimbai are doing diploma in nursing.

- ❖ Seven of our children had an opportunity to do nurse aid whilst they were waiting for their ordinary level results. Unfortunately most of them came out with four subject, without Maths and science. They are now focusing on their studies, and they will do their attachment after completing their exams. However the Home is facing challenges financial problem.

C. FOSTER PARENTS

- ❖ Two of our foster parents are in the process of adopting two girls from our Home. They are working closely with the department social welfare. There is a possibility that the two children will be adopted this year. We are grateful to our foster parents who are paying school fees, taking children for holidays as well as buying clothes for the children. We continue to advocate child fostering so that our children will have a home which is permanent compared to institutional care where termination of services is done at the age of 18.

D. OVERAGED CHILDREN

We have quite a number of overaged children who were weaned from our Home but still supported financially by the Maryward Sisters. The issue of reunification does not apply especially to most of our children who were dumped at a tender age with no traceable relatives. We take responsibility to educate them but at times our efforts are hampered by socio-economic challenges. The burden comes back to the Home because we cannot afford to let them experience abandonment for the second time. This means we end up renting them out so that we don't go against the law but we are really facing challenges in terms of finances.

E. REUNIFICATION

- ❖ One of our former children discovered her mother who dumped her 29 years ago when she was 5 days old. The DNA test was done. The mother and daughter resemble each other. In August the daughter will join her biological mother and her siblings.
- ❖ Our ten months baby was reunified with his relatives. Three weeks ago they visited us and we are glad that they are taking good care of him.

F. CHILDREN UNDER PLACE OF SAFETY

- ❖ This month we received a boy aged 2 and a girl aged 15 years. The boy was dumped by her biological mother. He is under nourished and unable to walk. These days he has gained weight now he able to crawl and smile. The girl is 15 years old and is not able to write a full name. Just imagine the girl has joined the home and is going for grade 1, after three years she will be discharged before finishing school. This means the child is charged but the burden is carried by the home

G. CHALLENGES

- ❖ The home is struggling in terms of finance. Our store rooms are almost empty. I feel stressed especially when start thinking on how much I will be able to feed, clothe, and pay school fees. This is the first time I have to admit that the office was becoming heavy.

- ❖ The fees for the children was increased. We are also paying a lot for extra lessons one subject costs \$10 per month. The children need more stationary as well as new searchels.
- ❖ Most of overaged children are not financially independent. The sad part is that some have already graduated but they are not getting jobs. We urge our friends abroad to assist in whatever way you can so that the girls and boys become independent. We do appreciate the effort and support you are doing for these kids and we still seeking for your support.

INFORMATION

- ❖ Tendai is now working at King Solomon hotel as an IT assistant. He is now staying on his own
- ❖ Tariro got a job at Zimbabwe Broad Casting. She will be starting on the first of August. Currently she is looking for a room to rent.
- ❖ Tapiwa is taking his first profession on the 6th of August. He is preparing to be a priest.

EXPRESSION OF GRATITUDE

We would like to express our gratitude to you our friends for the essential role you play in the lives of children in our home. Thank you very much for your benevolent help.

Concluding Remarks

Once more, thank you so much and God bless you and your families.

We wish you all God's blessings

Thank you.

Sr Aleta Dube CJ.