



**ST CHRISTOPHER'S CHILDREN  
WITH DISABILITY**

**ANNUAL  
REPORT  
2021**



St Christopher's  
Children with Disability  
Rehabilitation and Day Care Centre



### **Governing Board**

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Dorcas Madzivire

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Marcia Cannon  
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#### **Founder/ Director**

Patricia Kamabarami

#### **Volunteer Staff**

Chipo Mudavanhu  
Esilda Biza  
Moreblessing Gwauya  
Gladman Chikwari

# Message From the Chair



**D**ear Donors, Partners, Families, Hatcliffe Community, Friends, and Volunteers of St Christopher's Children with Disability,

I am very proud of the achievements of St Christopher's Children with Disability (SCCD) in 2021, which are testament to our strength and resilience as an organisation. Our unwavering commitment and creativity to improve the lives of our children with disability and their families ensured provision of practical, physical, and psychosocial interventions including referrals to a range of other services that are based on needs that are appropriate, sustainable, and accessible.

We are inspired daily by the impact we are making in Hatcliffe. Despite the interruptions caused by COVID-19, during which we had to comply with lockdowns and COVID-19 safety measures, we saw our beneficiaries grow from 74 in January to 104 in December 2021. We were mentioned as the most impactful project in Hatcliffe, by the Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare and the Northern District Combined Taskforce on Orphaned and Vulnerable Children. This growth and impact are gratifying. We managed to deliver good-quality and consistent services because of your steadfast support. We are very grateful for your continued generosity and assistance to offer effective services which focus on support needs of our children with disability and assistance to their families.

St Christopher's Children with Disability is committed to child safeguarding values, which are deeply embedded in our organisation. We sought to conduct the affairs of SCCD within the principles of transparency, integrity, and accountability to best serve the interests of the children, their families, and other stakeholders. We managed ethically and with the appropriate attention to risk management, in accordance with the best practices.

In this report you will see examples of how your support and donations have been used to implement a range of activities including early intervention strategies to address problems in the early stages, rehabilitation, social, health and referral services which assist children to achieve, maintain or improve functioning, reach optimal health and become as independent as much as possible. We provided assistive technology devices, prosthetic and orthotic care. We promoted social inclusion, build psychosocial support systems that empowered our children and their families by addressing health, social and inequity. We continue to transform lives holistically, positively and sustainably.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Director, Patricia Kambarami at +263 775 058 642/+263 773 536 311 or at [director@stchristopherschildren.com](mailto:director@stchristopherschildren.com) Thank you again, for your support and participation in resource mobilisation for these most vulnerable children and their families, changing their lives and giving them hope.

Dorcas Madzivire  
Interim Chairperson  
St Christopher's Children with Disability

# OUR MISSION VISION AND VALUES

## MISSION

- To provide accessible and sustainable therapeutic services and assistive technology devices to all children with disability in Hatcliffe.
- To enable children with disability to participate in social, creative, and recreational activities
- To provide psycho-social support to children and to their families
- To empower through education and raising awareness of the rights of children with disability and their families and the social responsibility of the community to help eradicate disability superstition, stigma and discrimination.

## VISION

St Christopher's Children with Disability aims to be the leading Rehabilitation and Day Care Centre in the service of every child with disability and their families in Harare.

## VALUES

**Respect:** We will recognise the inherent dignity of every child with disability, their families and community.

**Integrity:** We will be professional in our approach to children with disability, guided by a strong Child Safeguarding Policy and Code of Ethics in our dealings with their families, the community and our partners.

**Empathy:** We will have empathy, as we reach out to children with disability, their families and community.



# Measuring Our Impact

In 2021 more than 90% of the parents of children with disability in Hatcliffe and surrounding rural communities reported a loss in income due to economic collapse and COVID-19 lockdowns. Hence, majority of families' primary focus was entrenched even deeper to just meet daily basic needs, rather than paying for rehabilitation and health services. This situation further left the target group's rehabilitation and health needs to be provided by civil society organisations, donor agencies and well-wishers.

As such, we continued with our work to mitigate the effects of poverty on our children with disability and their families. Our community-based rehabilitation project removed treatment adherence barriers of travel distance, cost of travel, inconvenience and stress. We brought services to the community for improved health and rehabilitation as well as positive social and economic outcomes for 104 children and their families. Our integrated approach is transforming health, social and economic outcomes in Hatcliffe and the environs.



## Early Intervention

We implemented early intervention strategies to address problems in the early stages when caregivers suspect that 'something is not quite right' and they have had a diagnosis of disability. The project of 21 children was facilitated by 2 trained and qualified facilitators whose role was to reach out by means of home visits to families with children with disability. 8 new caregivers were given the guidebook 'A Simple Guide to Early Intervention.' Together with the facilitators they read and applied sections of the book relevant to the child's developmental disability, how they can be effective in the lives of their children and consequently change their own lives by easing uncertainties and fostering a sense of empowerment. Facilitators' key roles were therefore, to help caregivers feel less helpless, empower, and motivate them, assist children to achieve, maintain and improve function, become independent as much as possible and promote social inclusion.

In 2021 facilitators made 100 home visits. Our most vulnerable children benefited from at least two home visits per month. During the COVID lockdowns, home visits were replaced by regular WhatsApp communication. Despite the high data cost between July and September, 36 phone call follow ups were made to caregivers. This was not only to encourage them during the times of low economic activity, but to ensure they remained committed to the project and routines, as set by facilitators.

## Therapeutic Services



Cerebral palsy is a condition that affects movement and posture, and which causes activity limitation. Disorders of cerebral palsy are often accompanied by disturbances of sensation, perception, cognition, communication and behaviour, epilepsy, and secondary musculoskeletal problems. 95% of our children suffer from Cerebral Palsy. Ministry of Health and Child Care (MOHCC) is our primary institutional partner in this project as we strive to increase, maintain or improve the functional capacities of our children. MOHCC provides us with at least 6 health professionals every week which include physiotherapists, occupational therapists, speech and language therapists (when available) and rehabilitation technicians. A total of 62 therapy sessions were conducted throughout 2021 with an average of 12 children receiving treatments every

week (except during COVID-19 lockdown). Therapists also made referrals to specialist doctors at the referral hospitals before the Medical Outreach project was set up.



## Medical Outreach

Our Medical Outreach in partnership with University of Zimbabwe Medical School, Children allowed improved and effective access to a medical specialist and other health care professionals. The children's needs were identified and addressed in a coordinated fashion, saving scarce resources, better and timely access to information, psychosocial support, efficient referrals, and enhanced caregiver satisfaction. This project started late in the year and as a result 6 children benefited from this intervention in 2021.

## Medical Support Fund

Families of children with disability cannot afford the rehabilitation and health costs associated with the special needs of their children without outside support. Medical costs for children with disability entail a range of immediate and long-term economic, social, and psychological costs all of which have implications for the well-being of the children, the family and society. SCCD tried to break this cycle of poor health and poverty by setting up a Medical Support Fund in late 2021. We facilitated surgery of 1 child at Harare Children's Hospital, and another child was treated for head infection.



## The Education Support Fund

The Education Support Fund was reviewed and approved for implementation in 2022. St Christopher's Children with

Disability recognises that education remains largely inaccessible and costs much more for special needs children than all other children. The Education Support Fund will facilitate school placements in collaboration with relevant authorities and assist with related expenses such as transport, school uniforms and books.

## Assistive Device Distribution, and Rehabilitation Equipment Donations



Assistive devices help children to improve functioning and promote well-being and independence. Access to assistive technology services and products is limited in Zimbabwe due to prohibitive cost and weak promotion of public-private partnerships which could significantly reduce prices through local manufacturing. There is therefore a large unmet need for all types of assistive products for children in Hatcliffe. To help fill this gap, SCCD succeeded in distributing 23 paediatric wheelchairs, 6 paediatric walking frames and 1 pair paediatric fore-arm crutches and 2 children were fitted with . (We also assisted 11 adults with wheelchairs, 5 with fore-arm crutches and 2 with under-arm crutches).



We received a wide range of rehabilitation equipment from our local partner which included 1 standing frame, 1 treadmill, 1 stationary bicycle and 3 corner seats which further strengthened our capacity to provide and sustain care for our children. St Christophers Children with Disability has been fortunate to create valuable linkages with organisations and partners in and outside Zimbabwe, who have supported this project.



## Nutritional Feeding Project, Food and Clothes Distribution Projects

Nutritional Feeding and Food Distribution projects are aimed at combating problems of malnutrition and hunger. In addition to food deficit, some of our children with cerebral palsy have craniofacial anomalies (cleft lip and or palate disability) and suffer from elevated risk of nutritional deficiency because of oral motor feeding and swallowing problems.

Improved nutrition, good health, stronger immune system, and more energy in children results in decreased stress levels for the caregiver. We train caregivers to effectively feed her child, train in correct seating or positioning to control muscle spasms in the case of children with cerebral palsy and teach the caregiver how the child can feed her/himself, if possible. We provided 102 nutritionally balanced meals throughout 2021. We handed out 150 food hampers and distributed clothes to 16 new-born babies.



## SCCD, Caregiver, Family and Community Engagement Strategies

### Therapy Session Inception Workshop

In April we held a Therapy Session Inception Workshop which was attended by St Christopher's Children with Disability, 2 partner representatives and 6 MOHCC health professionals. This workshop provided the opportunity to clarify and agree on the effective procedures of our Therapy Outreach partnership in Hatcliffe.

## Parental Support Groups Meeting

In November we held a Parental Support Group workshop. It was well attended by 43 parents, 4 Therapists, a Paediatrician, 4 Volunteer staff members and 2 community leaders. The workshop highlighted COVID-19 awareness and overview. After a few months under lockdown the workshop aimed to address issues related to children and caregiver interaction. Caregivers spoke openly about the challenges they faced caring for their special needs children. They were given guidance by all health professionals present.

Templer Foundation representative spoke on how to use the 'Simple Guide to Early Intervention' and the importance of setting achievable goals for a child with disability. Takeaways from this workshop included play therapy, factors contributing to recovery and behavioural issues of children with disability.

Under the theme 'Every Child can Learn Something', we observed changes in caregiver behaviour as they care for their children; increased visits to health specialists, strengthened bond between caregiver and child including keen interest to understand diagnosis and prescriptions. An awareness that a child can learn to be independent in the areas of feeding, dressing and toileting has been a key motivating factor of parent's involvement in their child's development.

The experiences of caregivers, families, health professionals, volunteers and the community help to measure the overall performance of the services we offer. The benefits of this collaboration are significant. This group also discussed opportunities for livelihood support projects, which address their situation of poverty and need.



## Community Engagement



SCCD engages in meaningful and consistent participation in activities that support and improve the well-being of the wider community of Hatcliffe. As stakeholders, we are members of the Northern District Combined Taskforce which is the district response to such issues as orphaned and vulnerable children, care and treatment programmes. SCCD formed linkages with Child Case Workers (CCW) under the Ministry of Public Service and Social Welfare, who identified 8 children with disability and referred the caregivers to our services.

In December, we partnered with Rotary Clubs of Harare West and Borrowdale Brooke and a private sector company, Nyaradzo Group for a Tree Planting Day which was well attended by 20 stakeholders, including 5 Hatcliffe community leaders.

SCCD attended virtual celebrations of the International Day of Disability in December, whose theme was 'Leadership and Participation of Persons with Disabilities toward an inclusive, accessible and sustainable post COVID-19 world.'

## Partner, Individual, Public and Donor Engagement Strategies

Collaboration is necessary for funding. However technical support as well as input from our health-care professionals who are familiar not only with the needs but the structural, institutional, and professional challenges of providing access to quality care, helped us meet the healthcare needs of our children with disability. We continued to engage partners, individuals, the general public, existing donors, and potential donors through telling impact stories, use of multimedia tools, sending personalised 'Thank you' messages and ongoing development of a membership programme.

## Awareness Raising

St Christopher's Children with Disability is engaged in sensitisation of parents and family members, community and general public on the educational and social inclusion rights of children with disability during gatherings, home visits, therapy sessions and medical consultations.





## Christmas Party

Our year ended with a fun filled Christmas party which was attended by 50 caregivers, 15 family members, 60 children and 5 Hatcliffe community leaders to acknowledge our achievements and in particular celebrate caregiver resilience and commitment to the project. All attendees were fed with a two course Christmas lunch and were entertained with dance and music. All the children received a gift of toys and sweets.

### 2021 Christmas Party in Pictures



# Statement of Revenue, Expenses, and Net Assets for the Year Ending in December 31, 2021

## Revenue

Income from Donations	\$4,702.00
Other Income	\$2,427.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$7,129.00</b>

## Expenses

General Expenses	\$2,808.00	47%
Operational Cost	\$2,958.00	50%
Finance Cost	\$189.73	3%
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$5,955.73</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Surplus/Deficit**                      **\$1,173.27**

## Assets

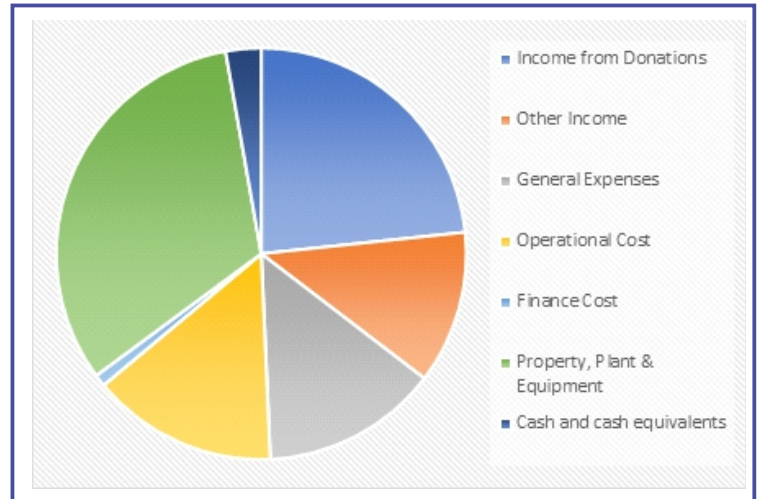
### Non-Current Assets

Property, Plant & Equipment              \$6,511.00

### Current Assets

Cash and cash equivalents              \$563.73

**Total Assets**                                      **\$7,074.73**



See the complete St Christopher's Children with Disability financial statements at [www.stchristopherschildren.com](http://www.stchristopherschildren.com)

## Please Donate

**Bank Name :** CABS  
**Branch :** Borrowdale, Harare, Zimbabwe  
**Branch Code :** 24000  
**Swift Code :** CABSZWHA  
**Account Number:**  
 1125290099 Nostro FCA  
 1010297848 Local RTGS

**We accept ECOCASH donations:**

**Merchant Code: 029253**


**<https://gofund.me/e185c742>**

**<http://stchristopherschildren.com/donate>**


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