

KING GEORGE VI CENTRE – April 2019

Check out our latest fun video: Link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QxGvy-pw>

What a crazy, crazy difficult term we have had but we have managed to survive even though sadly our problems only get worse. However this newsletter will be more about hope than doom and gloom. The news of our first PhD - our first Doctor, and his own message to us has lifted us and given this newsletter its positive slant!

Success Stories from our KGVI graduates

Goodwell who has been in the US for the last few years has just achieved his doctorate. He came to KGVI in Form 1 and joined the Liyana band soon after. From day one he set his goals and his determination and dedication have paid off. We are very proud of our first Doctor

Nyasha first rose to fame when he played wheelchair tennis for Zimbabwe in the Paralympics. He is now working at the international Paralympics committee in Germany as well as running his own trust which supports disability sports programmes in Zimbabwe.

Precious Ncube, our own Precious, has finally achieved her dream of travelling and will be attending a women's disability leadership workshop in Oregon later this year.

Luckmore who has been assisting in the gardens since he left school, approached his head of department at the beginning of the year and asked if he could take over one of the garden areas and work it himself. His part of the garden is now the most productive and he has put the other gardeners to shame. This despite the fact that he cannot stand without support and moves around on a tricycle!

Faith who was accepted into Eveline High to do her A levels and was admitted to their boarding hostel because of her ability obtained from KGVI independent living skills

If you want to see more check out our pictorial newsletter!

Facebook message from Goodwell



- [Active Now](#)

[Goodwell J Nzou](#) Thank you for the post and most importantly many thanks to the centre for moulding me into the man I am now. There were many firsts at KG6. In summary, my world became much larger because of King George VI Centre. Kapondoro, Aneas Nyika and Katandika provided the personal guard rails that forced me to really define myself. Great teachers whom I will never thank enough for not only believing in me but for being patient with me when I asked them to grade the extra work beyond what they had assigned. Mrs Mutasa, Mrs Mhora, Mrs Mombeshora, Mr Makwara, Mr Rumhuma, Mr Mombeshora Jnr, Mr Makunike..... THANK YOU for encouraging me to compete with myself and for seeing more in me than I did not have the eyes for. Mrs Hussey you worked and continue to work very hard behind the scenes for every child that is at the centre. You went an extra mile for me and two of my very close friends because you believed in us. Thank you for implementing independent living system at KG6. It was mainly through the

standards that came with the system that helped me realize that the world owes me nothing but the other way around - I owe everything I have to the world. I do not want to write a book here. There are so many people to thank. You are all a part of my achievements and all the congratulatory messages I get from people really is for all that made it possible for me. THANK YOU!!!

Latest Arts Production – This is Me!

We were introduced to the song *This is Me* from the musical film *The Greatest Showman* by one of our friends in England. She is working with a school who are making a video around the song. This inspired us to do the same. We have had such fun working on this project and the final product is amazing. We involved singers, dancers, sign language signers and actors. The song has been echoing around the passages of KGVI and replaying in everyone's heads. It's an inspiring song for our children and they enjoyed watching the video that went with it, especially the bearded lady!

Once again the children were amazing and rose to the challenge. You will hear the deep, deep voices of some of our more retiring boys who were quite happy to sing out in the choir. Ntombifuthi and Christine were the soloists. Both shy girls but willing to sing out and be filmed. Christine, for some reason best known to the producers, was filmed alongside four chickens and four rabbits. She sat in her specially designed low chair with all these creatures at her feet and we have a lovely shot of her stroking one of the rabbits with her toes while she waits for her turn to be filmed.

There are also some great shots of individuals proclaiming, *This is me* with great enthusiasm! Methembe was suddenly seen walking on his hands all across the playground and then walking up a frame, still on his hands – who knew he could even do that!

Farai of course did his usual competent job at editing, although combining everything could not have been easy. We are very pleased with the finished video, please check it out on YouTube.

Sports Day

I have just come back from our sports field. It's hot, the track is rough uneven dirt, almost impossible for our rickety old wheelchairs but everyone is having fun, running, pushing, dancing, enjoying! Despite everything (and there is much of everything!) KGVI is such a happy place.

Strategic Planning

David and I with our Management Support Team have been busy this term with planning for sustainability for KGVI. We were lucky to get support for this programme and were able to hire a very competent facilitator who took us through the whole process and helped us to see our strengths and our weaknesses. This has been a fascinating experience and has really inspired us all to come up with ways to help KGVI survive into the future. The exercise was carried out as a self-participatory, learning exercise and the Management Support Team has enjoyed gaining an understanding into strategic planning methods. However our work on this has only just begun and now we have to make sure we implement, which will include writing up 20 policies for the management of the centre!

One of the sad things to come out of this has been our realisation that we have been too kind to our parents and built up a real dependency mentality. Now we have to try and persuade parents that this cannot continue and that they have to take more responsibility themselves for their own children. It's a tough one but times are difficult and if KGVI is to survive we cannot subsidise so much. We have been accused of having 'too much heart' and I guess this is true of so many of us at KGVI. It's a good accusation but it doesn't make for

sustainability! Below are some of the comments on the exercise from our Management Support Team:

- *The process made us appreciate who we are, what we do and what we are capable of doing.*
- *It is important to plan otherwise time will move and we will be left behind. Yes, things are difficult but we can work out ways to sustain ourselves to support our vision.*
- *What we planned is achievable if properly planned, implemented and monitored.*
- *For a good strategy think beyond nose length!*
- *The whole exercise was an eye opener especially when planning for our organisation's future. The team spirit displayed by members was awesome.*
- *Solutions and strategies can only come from within the organisation and the best outcomes are home-grown.*

I am not even going to try to explain the present economic situation in Zimbabwe. Suffice it to say we have no currency, no cash, no fuel, an ever increasing black market rate, rising inflation and an impending drought. If you have real US dollars you can survive – just. But remember this is supposed to be a cheerful newsletter. So, despite all this KGV is hanging in there and we are working hard to put in place systems to make sure we can continue. We really are a shining light in Zimbabwe – even if I do say so myself.

Thank you for all the wonderful support we have had so far this year as Zimbabwe once again hit the international news. Our loyal, caring friends and our wonderful children and graduates keep us optimistic and give us the strength to persevere.

