



Introduction

Girls Time Club (GTC) is an arm of Zion City Foundation a registered organization focused on empowering young people especially girls through mentorship in a free, comfortable and safe environment which we call a "Safe space". Currently there are 2 clubs comprising of 15 girls each that are aged between 12-18 years with so much demand from the community as more girls are in the waiting list wishing to join.

To balance up Zion City Foundation also has a boys club comprising of 10 boys aimed at fostering gender equality through girl empowerment which is still in its infancy stage and developing well with mentor Frank leading it. Girls Time club was formed in 2015 and has since had great impact in the community as witnessed in the stories to be shared below. This club's main focus is on helping girls develop critical thinking, problem solving skills.

The club encourages creative thinking and decision making skills. Psychosocial support is also offered by mentors Procedure and Mercy who are passionate about girl empowerment. In the club, skills like baking and sewing are also taught. 2022 was a good year as progressive development was witnessed in the club one of which being involved in a short film entitled "Mentorship, a pathway out of poverty".

The film showed the impact of mentorship in the life of a young girl who had experienced challenges with an uneducated mother after the death of the father who was the family breadwinner. Through mentorship she broke the cycle of poverty and also became a change agent in her community. This filming activity saw two of the club members taking centre stage.

Moreover, a Library that has internet and a few technological devices was put up. This year we managed to take the members on out door activities such as veiwing of the Zambezi River, partaking in sporting activities, and also held commemorations of special days like Menstrual Hygiene Day and International Day of girl.

The aforementioned activities have proven to be critically significant in the development of the girls and boys of the club and we appreciate the milestone of affording these members such.

Some of the challenges we faced this year include the great demand from the community to enroll girls and boys into the two clubs but we could only take a specific number because of lack of resources needed .We kept many on the long waiting list with hope that they might get recruited in 2023.Your donation can allow us to give girls the platform to be heard and seen.

We also experienced some challenges with many girls not attending some lessons at school because of inability to pay fees by parents/guardians .This affected performance at the end of term/year

IMPACT STORIES

Precaria Sibanda *Girls time club*

My name is Precaria Sibanda .I became a member of GTC in 2021 and my life had never been the same. The safe space has allowed me to be open, I tend to be open and share all my problems with the mentors and other girls guaranteed of a life changing solutions. It's not only problems I have managed to share but also the small milestones I have encountered too.

Noteworthy, the club has also equipped me with life skills such as baking and sewing skills, because of the club I can safely say I have also been equipped to make informed decisions which is the best thing that has ever happened to me.

GTC, has groomed many girls in the community to be smart, to respect self and others as well as identifying, nurturing and cultivating other skills like public speaking, poetry to mention but a few. They say work without play makes Jake a dull boy. In the knowledge of the above statement, GTC gives us time to play games like playing cards,, chess, sports, watching movies and documentaries.

I truly appreciate GTC for seeing potential in me and grooming me and other girls into responsible citizens of Zimbabwe, I would also want to express my sincere gratitude to Global Sojourns giving circle for supporting the works of GTC thus making it all possible for us to have a bright future.

Lynn Ncube *Education*

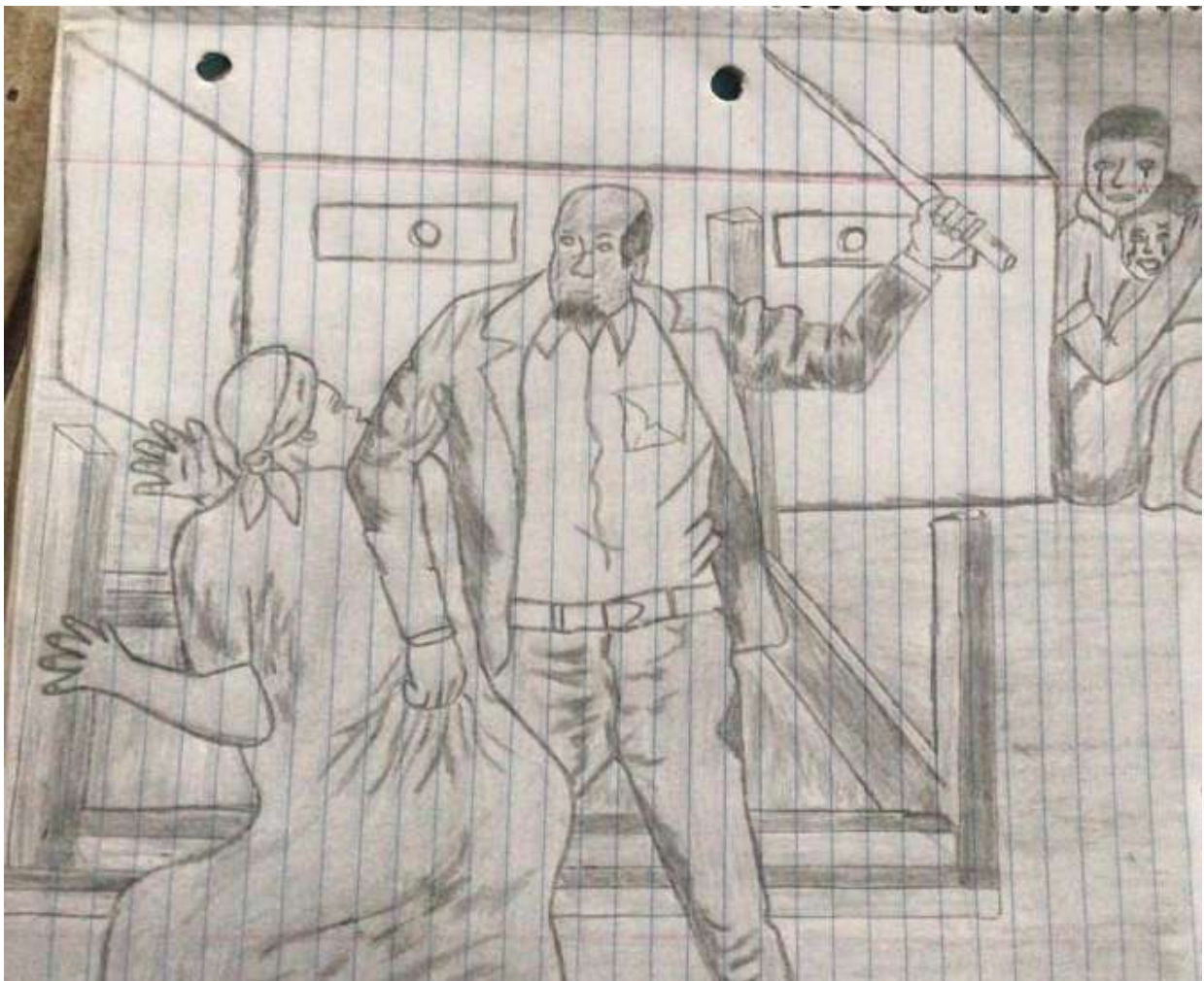
Education is defined as a process whereby a person acquires knowledge and skills.Long ago people had a backward way of thinking.They believed the duty of a girl child was only to be baby making

machines and doing household chores, and were reduced to second class citizens who were supposed to depend heavily on men who had the duty to provide for the wife and children. However, in the present day we believe in gender equality and in the power of education for all. We believe that to educate a girl is to educate a nation as we have seen educated women being better mothers and even leaders of society.

The Importance of educating a girl in the society:

- Educated girls can make better informed choices and can get better employment leading to self dependency.
- Educated girls can fight for their rights and participate in policy making
- An educated mother can make better health choices for her and her children and can also educate her children thus breaking the cycle of poverty

At GTC we believe in education. We call on everyone to support education for all. Thank you



A drawing by John and Junior Matumbura showing Gender based violence.

Angel Ncube: IMPACT STORY.

GTC has changed my life in a very good way. It has influenced my way of thinking, behaving and attitude. At GTC I was taught menstrual hygiene. When I first experienced menstruation I thought that I was now different from everyone. The thought that I should ask my brother money to buy pads made me feel awkward and out of place and the way it's viewed at home did not make the situation an easy. I thought that menstruation was something bad and viewed it as a sickness. GTC taught me that it's normal and every girl out there goes through menstruation. I never thought that we would even celebrate Menstrual Hygiene day but here at GTC we do celebrate it every year on the 28th of May.

This club changed the way I see myself as a girl. I used to be very timid in front of people and start stammering when I try to speak but activities at the safe space have encouraged me to trust myself more. Since I joined the club I am now a confident girl.

A girl who has self-esteem. My mentors taught me that the most important thing a girl wears is her confidence. Our mentors at the club encourage to learn a skill of which I'm learning how to bake. Every holiday I make sure that I bake something and sell to people through this skill I can earn a living.

I am now a girl who believes in herself and can fight for my rights, thanks to girls time club that taught me that I as a girl can fit in the frame and be a part of the game because my confidence, self-esteem and courage is much greater than my fear.

Thank you my mentors Aunty Mercy and Procedure. I love you both.

Joice matumbura Age 15 Girls time club

GTC is a place where girls share their challenges without fear and get support from mentors. The club empowers all the girls to have ideas, rise up and make a difference in their communities. It teaches girls on how education is important and gives a platform where girls can be seen. It encourages young girls on the small steps they should take to reach their goals. GTC encourages the spirit of sisterhood among us as girls.

At GTC I was taught to stand up for myself and fight for my rights. I'm encouraged to work hard in my studies and there is great improvement in my school work since I joined this club. I'm supported to never give up. I now see the picture of an independent me as a young girl growing into a young woman. GTC encourages me to work on what I want to be in life and constantly sharpens my vision showing me that my goals are achievable.

I interviewed Lizzybirth (a member of GTC) and she has this to say "GTC changed my life by giving me sisters. Now I can share my problems

with girls and mentors in the club rather than sitting in a corner crying and stressing myself which used to affect me very much. Now I know I am special and I feel more confident". Some parents that I spoke to, also extended their gratitude for the club which they say helps girls in the community such that they are getting more experience about life and skills such as baking and sewing which help them to never depend on someone and to make decisions for themselves.

A GTC alumni Ratidzai Matumbura is an inspiration to all of us in the club. She excelled in her studies as the mentors supported her to be an excellent student and due to this she excelled exceptionally leading her to getting a scholarship to study business in India. To us this was proof that it can be done. The club through skills training and discussions e.t.c opens opportunities and gives us exposure to what is happening around us and how to be globally competent girls. I and my community are grateful and wish more girls can have the opportunity to be in GTC.

Thank you.

Pamela Nyoni

My name is Pamela M Nyoni, a girl aged 18. I joined GTC in 2017 and I am proud and grateful to be a first in family to get to Advance level education. Amongst all family be it my parents or uncles and aunties I am the first to acquire A-level education.

This has been my wish ever since I was young and GTC provided me a platform to be guided and mentored to define and work on my goals.. Most of my cousin sisters got married at a young age and have children now. They are not educated and they are not in a position to educate their children. Taking a different path gives me hope for my whole family. I desire to continue to climb the education ladder and be the change I want to see in my family and community.

The GTC played a pivotal role in my life so I can be an optimistic girl who always want to achieve more in life. It gave me role models and people to look up-to and see that girls can be leaders and pacesetters. Now I am a strong and visionary girl, because my mentors believed in me and held my hand. Girls Time Club: Our time is now indeed. Thank you.



Pamela Nyoni.



Ratidzai's story

My name is Ratidzai .I am a young lady aged 21. I was born and bred in Victoria Falls Zimbabwe. I learnt at Lulu Educational Academy ,were I got introduced to GTC.I joined the club in 2016 when I was in form 2. From my very first session, my life was never the same.

Due to the sessions and mentoring I had with my Mentors (aunties)I got to understand the importance of education and the possibilities that it could unleash for me .There was impressive increase in my knowledge, about how special and capable I am.I received guidance on making my decisions and standing up for myself and I was confident on where to turn in time of difficulties. I was taught to be able to live my life without fear and was also to say "NO " in risky situations.

My mentors always encouraged me to work hard in my studies and as a result I excelled in my final exams. I passed my with flying colors. In addition, GTC opened my eyes to many opportunities. I got the opportunity to be a trained as a reporter for a media house called Community Podium in Bulawayo where I wrote stories community stories.

From writing stories,poems and reports in the club with help from my mentors and other GSGC volunteers like Holley Gilbert, my passion for writing landed me the opportunity to get training as a community reporter.I am eternally grateful

Currently I am on a scholarship pursuing a Bachelors in Business Administration at Lovely Professional University in India. I chose this program because it is a pathway to my dream of becoming an Entrepreneur.

Aunt Procedure always inspired me to give back to society, this generated a spark within me. It is my dream to assist young mothers to get skills training and become independent. I realized that there are many children not accessing education as a resulting from poverty in families and all this pushes me daily to be the change I want to see in my community by sharing information about the importance of education and helping others in their studies too.

It is my wish that many girls/boys enroll into such clubs so that they also benefit like I did.



Filming session



Club session with girls sharing their menstruation experiences



Trailblazers boys club



Mentor Frank (on the right)



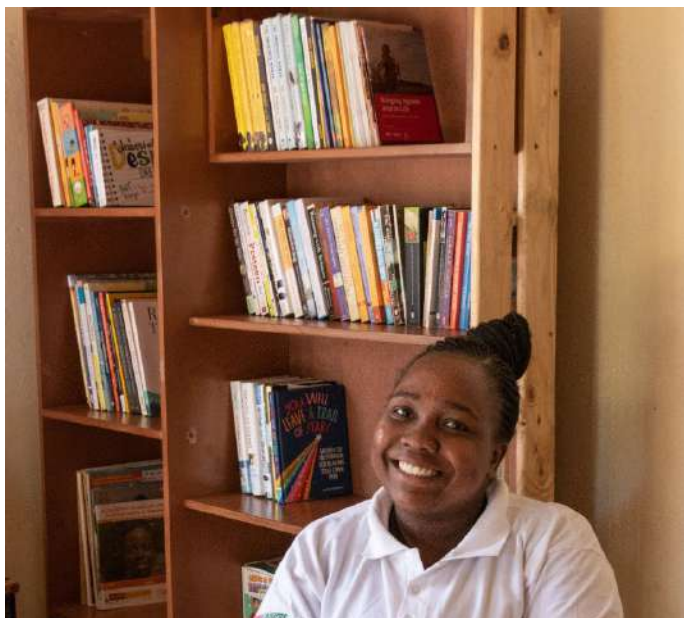
Menstrual hygiene day



Sewing session with mentor Mercy



Sewing session :Girls making Aprons



Mentor Procedure talking about our developing library



The 2022 conservation activity where girls and boys learnt about the importance of conserving the environment and also about careers in tourism



Lizzybirth winning her prize for the 2022 Creative Contest



Mentors Procedure and Mercy



Our safe space is coming together bit by bit and the girls are grateful for this lovely space to share and learn



So grateful for our space facelift..Paintwork. Here we hosted some visitors,we shared a lot of what they participated in our session.

Volunteers needed

We are looking for volunteer tutors in Mathematics ,English and Computers. You can also volunteer to teach a skill like baking ,sewing and knitting. Change a life one girl or boy at a time.

Thank you.



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GIVING
CIRCLE

Thank you Global Sojourns Giving circle for supporting us .

Change a community one girl at a time.