

NEWS April 2017

Dear Friends,

The rains have finished and soon much of the country will be busy harvesting their crops.

This month we are highlighting our Happy Faces (HF) work, which is a 6 and under stay and play project. We have 3 sessions, 2 held in Malingunde and 1 in Mkowa with families coming from 6 different villages. It has taken a long time to develop trust and a good reputation. We are so pleased and the testimonies below show the fruit of everyone's hard work.

Patricia *'at first I felt shame because I am not educated. I was thinking that I am not important, because my education level is so low. HF has helped me to know who I am and even my daughter has become very active in learning.'*

Recent lessons have included learning numbers, letters, parts of the body, developing fine motor skills using dough and making patterns.

Juli *'I live about 4 miles from HF and also far from schools for my other children too. HF has made a big difference to my family, so the distance will not stop me. I bring my daughter who is developing, but the skills we are learning to play and chat together is changing my older children too. I am so happy that my whole family is benefiting.'*

Zelia *'Our family has been cultivating different types of crops like potatoes, pumpkins and maize. Our local culture sees maize as our only food, so we wasted this extra food. Fortunately, I participated in a lesson about food security and how we can use different foods. My mind was opened and we are now eating a whole variety of food that we grow and are saving money in the process.'*

Stellar *'I was struggling to do HF activities at home because someone was caring for my child in the day. I was feeling sad as I knew she was not progressing. This year I have seen a positive change as we have played more at home.'*

Ida *'I did not know that I have a responsibility for overseeing my daughters learning and development. When I realised this, I did not feel that I had anything to share with her. HF has changed all that giving me knowledge to teach, play and talk with her.'*

Home visits build relationships and the team encourage families to continue learning in the home environment. Health lessons are also given, tailored to meet the needs of the family. Recent lessons have included; using water wisely, food security, how to take care of your harvest, preventing and treating Malaria, malnutrition, family planning methods, where can we go with our worries?

Doris *'As the HF team started doing home visits I was not feeling comfortable. I thought they are special and will work with special people, not me. After having a lesson on family planning, I knew that the team were the right people to be in my life. We have now become good friends.'*

Peace *'before I stated HF I did not know how to care for my children or home. The team came to my home and taught me about hygiene and sanitation. Since then I have started washing clothes and having bath times for my children. These changes have been good for our lives.'*

On behalf of the whole team, thank you for sharing the journey with us,

Tom and Ali

Tom & Ali, Directors, The Dalitso Trust

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Learning Colours



Writing in the Sand



Learning Numbers



Learning to Write