

## September 2023

Dear Friends,

Summer is certainly on its way as temperatures start to rise. The new school year has started and we recently celebrated the end of the Happy Faces (HF) term with our annual graduation ceremony.

Rhodes does a brilliant job of leading our Happy Faces team with Janet, Ethel, Regina and Patricia. This academic year we have celebrated 30 children joining Happy Faces and 37 graduating to start primary school.

We were blessed to be joined by Mr Chilunzi a local headteacher to present the certificates. He spoke passionately that children are gifts, given to parents and communities and as such we must cherish and care for them as best we can.

Sue *'Before I started HF I was very rude and stubborn whilst also being shy to speak. After being given a chance of leading a session of HF, I am able now to speak up and have courage to speak in different environments. I try to remember that in addition to developing at HF I am mum and friend to my daughter.'*

Len *'Am praising God for having this opportunity that I can be part of HF. I used to depend a lot on other people like my father to provide what I needed. Through the lesson of ownership, this is where I came to know that I have responsibility of taking care of my children and also my daily needs. Depending solely on someone else makes you vulnerable especially if they die or stop helping. In depending more upon myself I have discovered I am able to solve more of my own problems. My new life after learning this is to find piece work to sustain my life.'*

Sally *'Before I was cursing and shouting at my children to improve their behaviour. It was hurting and spoiling them. Joining HF let me see a different way. I have learnt to love, speak words of encouragement and pray for them. It was through a lesson about loving our children. I have seen a change in their character due to this love I am showing. I am thankful for HF to open up my mind for the better ways of raising up my children.'*

Deborah *'I am a grandmother to twins who are part of HF. I used to bring my daughter and it benefited us both so much to able to see things differently. I am helping my grandchildren in the same way I helped my daughter. It is only for one day in the week and free of charge, but the skill of encouraging mums to continue to develop and learn during the whole week has helped me to build more relationship with my grandchildren.'*

We are also celebrating that our team of trained assistants to help in each village, has risen from four to ten this past year.

Violet *'I have seen the great opportunity that doing home visits brings. At HF some mums are very shy, but when you go to their home they are relaxed and talkative. They ask a lot of questions and are keen to learn. These home visits are a wonderful tool to impart knowledge. I am really proud to be a part of this work.'*

Mtilowa *'Since becoming a volunteer with HF I have discovered a great compassion in my heart that I didn't know existed. I have a deep patience and willing heart to help mums who are struggling when they arrive. It is hard for them to believe that they will be able to teach and be a good example of a learner/teacher to their children. This is the gift I so desire them to receive as they attend HF more and more.'*

On behalf of the whole Dalitso Trust team thank you for sharing the journey with us.



Tom & Alison Husbands, The Dalitso Trust



Getting ready to process into the ceremony



Janet's speech



Happy Faces' graduation



Teachers and graduates