

## March 2024

Dear Friends,

The rains are starting to slow as the rainy season finishes and people think about harvesting their crops. Last year saw a 44% currency devaluation and this year some crops have failed due to inconsistent rainfall. People are worried for what lies ahead so we are thankful to have your support as we continue to work with the team to serve families in and around Malingunde.

Chippo *'I am proud of the work our team produces on a day to day basis and that we have strong relationships in the communities where we serve. Our desire this year is to see more volunteers trained so our work can expand. We have a clear plan for 2024 and hope that our volunteers will adopt a lifestyle of serving their neighbours with care and knowledge to see lasting change.'*

This month we highlight our Happy Faces (HF) work led by Rhodess which is now working into six communities serving 40 children, 30 Mums and training 12 volunteers.

Mary *'Initially when I heard of Happy Faces I did not want to go. I knew parents are asked to help their children learn and I thought I would be ashamed due to being illiterate. Anyway I eventually decided to register my children and I discovered that there is more to HF than I thought. Our children benefit and I benefit more than our children, as I am able to learn a lot from HF. I discovered an ambition to learn to read and my husband taught me. I now know how to read!'*

Ruth *'I had always known that teachers have the responsibility to teach our children. So to sit with my child to help him learn was both new and strange! I am doubly blessed as by helping him learn, our relationship is growing stronger. This has passed onto our whole family, we are stronger than ever due to HF.'*

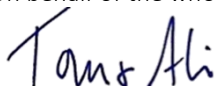
Beatrice *'My daughter Michelle was greedy and I didn't see that as a problem until we started attending HF. It was there I saw that she needed help to learn to share. I am happy to see my daughter mixing well with others and she is happier than before.'*

This is a year to especially focus on training more HF volunteers and we are having 3 training days to help equip them further. Our dear friend Bill Dixon once said *'there is no success without a successor'* and we are making sure the values of Dalitso are going out further and further in to the rural communities. On that note we wish Bill a Happy 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday from us all at Dalitso!

Tilimo *'I have been having a short temper and I was always quick to yell at my children. I was thinking that shouting was the best way to control my children. When I was asked to volunteer and help at Happy Faces I have learnt a new way. I am now coming from the opposite direction, that I can be calm and gentle when talking to children. I am learning to give boundaries in a firm and loving way.'*

Tione *'I used to always be spreading rumours and gossip. I had a reputation to not be taken seriously, but since becoming a volunteer I have learnt not to gossip. I am careful of what comes out of my mouth because I am tool for community development. It is really important to speak the truth in my new role and it has spread throughout my life.'*

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



Tom & Alison Husbands, The Dalitso Trust



The whole Dalitso team



Parachute games with Ethel



Story time with Janet



Drawing shapes in the sand