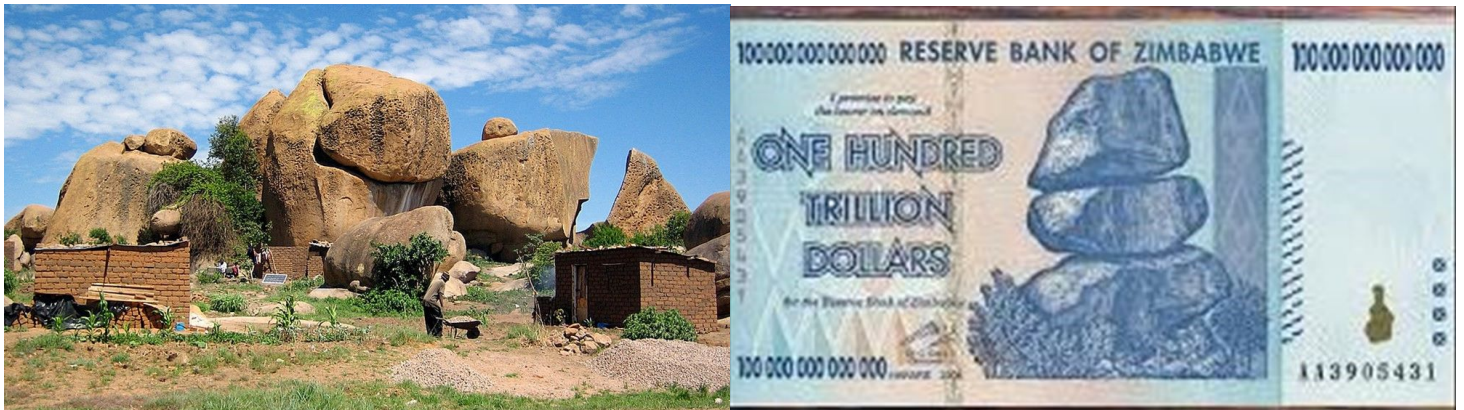


## **Tariro House of Hope:** *Serving and saving the children of Zimbabwe one at a time*

(The word “tariro” means HOPE in the Shona language, a [Bantu language](#) of the [Shona people](#) of [Zimbabwe](#). It is one of the most widely spoken [Bantu languages](#).)

Riding towards Harare, Zimbabwe, we stopped by a stunning pile of rocks. These are featured on Zimbabwe’s trillion dollar notes. Today, we cycled over many small hills, but it is the scenery that has taken our breath away. It is midday as we enter the small community of Epworth, carefully avoiding potholes in the dusty road. While looking for the Tariro House of Hope, we pass clusters of men hanging out on the streets, looking listless. Women hurry past, baskets of food balanced on their heads. These contain tomatoes, onions, firewood or corn. Our research explained that women do what they can to bring a few coins home, regardless of COVID, so everyone can eat. Children with ragged clothing and extended bellies walk past. Here, it is obvious that beautiful Zimbabwe is one of the poorest countries in Africa. Unemployment rates are high and debt is more common than dinner. This was a lush farming area 30 years ago. The country’s leadership has much to answer for. Epworth is a community where the majority of people are in debt, more than 48 percent of households are food insecure, and almost a third of all children are stunted as a result of poor nutrition. (Aaron Ufumeli/TNH) – from the *New Humanitarian* January 2020



“There it is.” Inside a fenced compound we see well-dressed children dancing and singing before lunch. We decline joining them wanting the food to go to the children. Founder Regina Dururu tells us about purchasing this house and property while studying in America. She wanted her philanthropy to start in her home country, where it was much needed. “My goal is to provide food, shelter, education, health and psychosocial services to HIV affected and infected orphans and vulnerable children. Ideally, I see this as a step in eradicating community poverty.” The first year, 13 children were sponsored and supported through Tariro’s programs. Now 68 children are fed, clothed, placed in schools and most importantly loved and valued. Community members, including many grandmothers, looking after these vulnerable ones, are supported by Tariro, whose Board continually consults with the community about how best to support the children and their caregivers.

Regina explains that much of the support comes from interns attracted to Tariro’s two Internship Programs. Sadly, these have been put on hold due to COVID. There is an internal program where Zimbabweans work here, often as part of a work placement/practicum. This she calls ZIP for Zimbabwe Internship Program. They also offer a Virtual Internship Program (VIP) for anyone, anywhere with Internet access and a computer. Everyone smiles as Regina explains that interns are not paid, not because they are worthless but because they are priceless. There is a happy feel to this big family. If you are interested in knowing more, take 3.5 minutes to watch this video documentary: [Tariro House of Hope Documentary](#).

The House of Hope website (<https://www.tarirohouseofhope.com/>) has an apt quote from Martin Luther King, and also one from Mother Teresa!

**Dr. Martin Luther King Jr:** *I have the audacity to believe that peoples everywhere can have three meals a day for their bodies, education and culture of their minds, and dignity, equality, and freedom for their spirits. I believe that what self-centred [humans] have torn down, [humans] other-centred can build up.*

**Mother Teresa:** *If you can’t feed a hundred people, then feed just one.*

Stage 4 #4, prepared by Peg Frank of the VG4A Education Working Group

*Tariro House of Hope* is a community-based organization (CBO) partnered by The Stephen Lewis Foundation.