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**2 February 2021**

**Dear Friends of Kidzcan**

International Childhood Cancer Day (celebrated on the 15<sup>th</sup> of February) is a global campaign to raise awareness about Childhood Cancer and to express support for children with cancer, the survivors and their families. This Day promotes increased appreciation and deeper understanding of issues and challenges impacting Childhood Cancer.

***Theme for 2021 is # through our hands***

Kidzcan is the only organization in the country that supports childhood cancer. Originally set up to provide psychosocial support to children undergoing treatment. But due to the fragile socio economic climate and challenges within the public health system has resulted in Kidzcan outsourcing services that have not been available within the Public Health System. We have two cancer wards we support 100 %, A4 Special at Parirenyatwa and Kidzcan Oncology ward at Mpilo Bulawayo.

These services include bus fares, food hampers, chemotherapy drugs, radiological and laboratory diagnostic services, blood and blood products. This assistance is rendered to all children from 0 to 18 years free of charge.

Without Kidzcan many children would lose their battle against cancer as almost all families cannot afford the treatment costs associated with cancer. Since 2009 when the organization was registered Kidzcan has assisted over 6000 children. Currently we support 900 children per year

Kidzcan also raises awareness through outreach programmes nationwide because if detected early children can survive cancer. Training nurses and

outreach health workers on signs and symptoms of childhood cancers. 350 children are diagnosed every year and 2/3 present late due to lack of knowledge and information, seeking alternative treatment first.

Kidzcan is part of the WHO and ST Jude Global Initiative to increase the survival rates of the six most common childhood cancers to 60% by the year 2030. With your help we can achieve this.

CANCER is expensive to treat and so Kidzcan raises funds to help these children and their parents, through events like the Orange Month, where we all wear Orange.

***What does that mean?*** Orange Months main aim is not only to raise money for cancer services and care, but to raise awareness on childhood cancer in Zimbabwe. Our theme ***Dress in Orange and donate one dollar and save a life***

Children with cancer matter because they are children. They matter to the last moment of their lives. As Kidzcan, we will do all that we can to ensure that children are detected early and have access to treatment that will lead them to remission.

The specialised Services mentioned above are very expensive and Kidzcan would not afford them without your help. No Man is an Island, when you see Kidzcan succeed it's because someone has helped.

Thank you all.

So let's paint Zimbabwe Orange this February and save a life

Yours sincerely



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