



News Article
7 September 2009

POSITIVE, YOUNG WITH HUGE DREAMS

It was just after mid-day when we arrived at Magaya primary school for a reflection meeting with positive community in Murewa Zimbabwe. Rozaria Memorial Trust and representatives of the five support groups in Ward 8 organized the event. This is Magaya School, where I did my primary education more than 30 years ago, now with its dilapidated buildings.

I joined the twenty-two (22) young positives working group under a Musasa tree as the women met on their own in a classroom and the men were ensconced in deep discussion near the headmaster's house. It was an intimate discussion. We were all drawn into our inner selves, sharing hopes, fears, joys and possibilities.

The young ones were aged between 5 -17 years, boys and girls, in school and out of school. Most of the children knew their HIV status; others did not understand what it means. That afternoon was for sharing our experiences of play, fun and hopes for the future. These kids have big dreams for their future. They want to be everything life can offer. Just like most of us at that age, they want to be teachers, doctors, gardeners, taxi drivers, farmers or just raise their families. Most of the kids present were born positive.

This 16-year-old girl came to me on the side, and said she really wants to be a lawyer. Can we assist her to continue to get her medicine so that she does not fall sick at exam time? She worries that her grandmother may not be able to afford school fees and wanted to know whether as a Trust we will continue with the education subsidy. I swallowed hard, I had to smile and just say we will together do our best.

At Rozaria Memorial Trust we are grateful to partners like AJWS who through their support enables us to give that hope, to an already hopeful dream team of positive young people. We continue to advocate for quality health care services, access to treatment, prioritization of education and nutrition for our positive children.

Today, RMT staff accompanied one child and her grandmother to Murewa hospital for a check-up. They had walked 11 kilometers. It was just a struggle to get simple paracetamol for this child at the hospital. Drug shortage, we were told. Yes, they were requested to come back this coming Thursday. Either they walk again this distance, or RMT or neighbours have to assist with bus fare, just \$2. We owe it to these children and their grandparents. Let each one of us do what we can to save a life and advocate for quality basic services in resource poor communities. Zimbabwe's leadership has a duty and an obligation to these children now and for their future.

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