



# JEDIDIAH

Empowering Lives And  
Building Broken Dreams

**Volume 3 Issue 1**



## Laughter and Love Behind Bars: Chikurubi's "Game with Mum" Celebration

# **BREAKING BARRIERS; A GAME WITH MUM BRINGS HOPE AND HEALING TO FAMILIES TORN APART BY INCARCERATION**

Compiled by ZPCS National Public Relations Officer-  
Assistant Commissioner Meya Khanyezi



In a heart-warming display of love and resilience, Jedidiah Trust recently brought together mothers incarcerated at Chikurubi Female Prison with their children for a unique event called "A Game with Mum." The occasion was more than just a fun-filled afternoon of games and braai; it was a powerful testament to the human spirit's capacity for connection and healing.

As the children eagerly awaited their mothers' arrival, the air was electric with anticipation. The sound of laughter and chatter filled the room as families reunited, some for the first time in months or even years. The event's objectives were clear: to reinforce family bonds, offer emotional support, and raise awareness about the challenges faced by families impacted by incarceration.

Through games, shared meals, and quality time, mothers and children reconnected, fostering a sense of normalcy and love that is often disrupted by incarceration. The presence of community members, including junior councillors and a representative from the department of social development, highlighted the importance of collective support in addressing the complexities of incarceration.

The impact was palpable. Feedback from participants revealed that the event significantly strengthened emotional bonds between mothers and children, allowing them to share experiences and support one another.

Community engagement was also a crucial outcome, as local leaders and organisations pledged to continue the dialogue about the needs of families affected by incarceration.

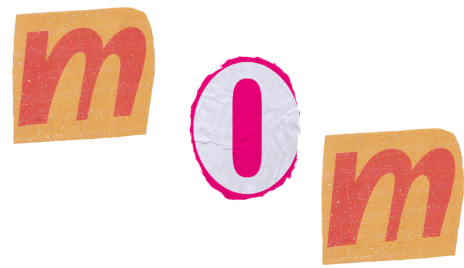
Perhaps most profoundly, the event provided psychosocial benefits, offering psychological relief and joy to both mothers and children. In a context where emotional health is often overlooked, this was a vital reminder of the importance of nurturing relationships and supporting one another.

Jedidiah Trust's "A Game with Mum" event not only met its immediate goals but also served as a powerful platform for ongoing advocacy and support. By shining a light on the challenges faced by families impacted by incarceration, the organisation reinforced its commitment to rehabilitation and reintegration efforts.

As the event drew to a close, the sense of hope and healing was palpable. In a world where incarceration often seeks to divide, "A Game with Mum" reminded us that love, connection, and community can conquer even the most daunting barriers.

# A GAME WITH MUM EXPERIENCE

written by: Trish Nyamidzi Norton Town Council Junior Mayor, Jedidiah Trust Child Representative



At a recent event organized by Jedidiah Trust at Chikurubi Female Prison, where mothers had the opportunity to connect with their children through games and a



braai, I had the privilege of engaging with many young individuals profoundly affected by maternal incarceration. The conversations I had with these children were both enlightening and heartbreaking, shedding light on the myriad of challenges they face in their daily lives.

**Children impacted** by maternal incarceration often experience significant disruptions in their education. Research shows that these children are at a higher risk of academic failure and are less likely to complete their education compared to their peers. Many of the children I spoke with expressed feelings of hopelessness about their future, with some already resigned to the idea that they would finish school. The stigma associated with having an incarcerated parent often leads to bullying and isolation within their school environments, further exacerbating their educational struggles. The emotional toll of maternal incarceration cannot be overstated. Many children reported feelings of anxiety, depression and loneliness. The absence of their mothers creates a void that is difficult to fill, leading to mental health challenges that can persist into adulthood.

**During our discussions**, several children shared their fears and the overwhelming sadness they felt, not just from the separation but also from the societal judgment they faced. It is alarming to note that children with incarcerated mothers are more likely to develop mental health issues, including depression and behavioral problems as they struggle to cope with their circumstances.

**The economic impact** of maternal incarceration is profound. Many of these children live in households that experience financial instability due to the loss of a primary caregiver's income. This economic hardship often results in inadequate access to basic needs such as food, clothing, and educational resources. The children I met expressed their worries about not having enough to eat or the necessary supplies for school, which adds to their stress and feelings of inadequacy.

**The stigma** surrounding incarceration extends beyond the walls of the prison and into the community, including schools and even places of worship. Children of incarcerated mothers often face maltreatment and labeling, which can lead to a cycle of shame and further isolation. At the event, I witnessed firsthand how some children were reluctant to share their stories, fearing judgment from their peers and adults alike. This labeling can hinder their social development and make it challenging for them to form healthy relationships.

**The experiences shared** by the children at the "Game with Mum" event highlight the urgent need for comprehensive support systems for families affected by maternal incarceration. It is crucial that we, as a society, work to dismantle the stigma and provide these children with the resources they need to thrive. They deserve a chance to succeed in life, free from the burdens of their parents' past choices. As a Junior Councilor in Norton, I am committed to advocating for policies that support these vulnerable children and ensure that they receive the care, education, and love they need to overcome the challenges they face.

# SUCCESS STORY



The “Game with Mum and Braai” event at Chikurubi Female Prison was a resounding success, fostering joy and connection among incarcerated mothers, their children, and caregivers. Organized by Jedidiah Trust, this event provided a unique opportunity for mothers to engage with their children in a supportive environment, strengthening familial bonds that are often strained by incarceration.

## Key Highlights of the Event

**Ø Quality Time Together:** The event allowed mothers to spend quality time with their children, which is crucial for maintaining relationships during their time apart. The atmosphere was filled with laughter and joy as families participated in various games and activities.

**Ø Activities and Entertainment:** The day featured a range of activities, including games, music, and a braai, which created a festive environment. These activities not only entertained but also encouraged interaction and bonding among families.

**Ø Emotional Connections:** Many mothers expressed gratitude for the chance to interact with their children, share heartfelt conversations, and nurture their relationships. This emotional support is vital for both the mothers and their children, helping to alleviate some of the pain associated with separation.

**Ø Community Support:** The event was supported by various organizations, including the ZPCS management and Norton Junior Council representatives, highlighting the importance of community involvement in the rehabilitation process of incarcerated individuals. The collaboration demonstrated a commitment to fostering positive family dynamics, even in challenging circumstances.

**Ø Commitment to On-going Support:** Jedidiah Trust emphasized its dedication to supporting incarcerated mothers not just during events but also in their parenting roles throughout their incarceration. This includes providing resources for education and caregiving, ensuring that children continue to receive the love and support they need.

The success of the “Game with Mum and Braai” event underscores the importance of maintaining family connections for incarcerated mothers and their children. By creating a space for joy and togetherness, Jedidiah Trust continues to make a meaningful impact in the lives of these families, reinforcing the notion that love and support can thrive even in the most difficult situations.

## *Highlights!*

- Quality time together
- Activities and entertainment
- Emotional Connections
- Community Support
- Commitment to ongoing support

# DEAR MUM

I hope this letter finds you well, even though I know you are in a difficult place. I want you to know that I think about you every single day. It's been 3 long years since I last saw you, and I miss you more than words can express.

When I heard about the upcoming "Game with Mum and Braai" organised by Jedidiah Trust for the 10th of August, my heart filled with hope. I can hardly believe that I will finally get to see you again! The thought of being able to hug you, laugh with you and to share stories fills me with so much joy. I have been counting down the days, imagining how it will feel to be close to you again.

Life without you has been really hard. Some days, I feel lost and alone. I miss our talks, the way you used to make everything better with just a few words. I remember how you would hold my hand and tell me that everything would be okay. I need to hear that from you again.

I want you to know that I am trying to be strong. I have been doing well in school and I am making new friends. But sometimes, I feel like a part of me is missing because you are not here. I wish I could tell you about my day-to-day life, the things that make me laugh and the things that make me sad. I want to share everything with you.

I hope that when we meet, we can play games and eat together like we used to. I want to show you how much I have grown and how much I still love you. I know you are strong, and I can't wait to see you again.

Please remember that I love you more than anything in the world. You are always in my heart and I will never stop waiting for you. I can't wait for the moment I can wrap my arms around you.

Your beautiful daughter,

ANGELA



# Reflection: Spending a day with mum: "After the event"

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"I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to visit my mother at Chikurubi Female Prison after two long years apart. The event organised by Jedidiah Trust on August 10, 2024, was a heartfelt reunion filled with joy, laughter and love.

Being able to share a game and a braai with her was not just a moment of fun; it was a chance to reconnect and remind each other of the bond we share, despite the challenges we have faced. The support from Jedidiah Trust and their commitment to children impacted by parental incarceration made this day possible and I cannot thank them enough for their efforts in creating such meaningful experiences.

Mom, I want you to know how much I appreciate your strength and resilience. Every moment we spent together reminded me of the love that has kept us connected, even through the toughest times. Thank you for being my inspiration and for always believing in me. I cherish our time together and look forward to more moments like this in the future," wrote Shumi after spending the day with her mother at Chikurubi Female Prison.





## CEO's Corner

# Dear Friends and Supporters

I hope this message finds you well. I am writing to share reflections on our recent event, "Game with Mum and Braai," held at Chikurubi Female Prison. This gathering was a heartwarming occasion that brought together mothers and their children, fostering connections and creating cherished memories. The day was filled with laughter, joy, and a sense of community as we engaged in friendly games and enjoyed a delicious braai. It was a unique opportunity for the children to bond with their mothers in a supportive environment, reminding us all of the importance of family ties, even in challenging circumstances. At Jedidiah Trust, we believe in the power of such events to uplift spirits and strengthen relationships.



The smiles on the faces of the children and the heartfelt conversations between mothers were a testament to the resilience of these families. We are committed to continuing our support for them, ensuring that they feel loved and valued. I want to extend my deepest gratitude to everyone who contributed to the success of this event. Your support makes a significant difference in the lives of those we serve. Together, we are not just providing resources; we are nurturing hope and fostering a sense of belonging. As we move forward, let us keep the spirit of this gathering alive. We look forward to more events that will empower and uplift our community, creating lasting impact for the families we serve. Thank you for your continued support and dedication to our mission.

Warm regards, Lovemore Chikwanda Founder and CEO

A GAME WITH MUM IN PICTURES



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