



# QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

TOTAL TOGETHER

Issue 2 | 1 July 2022



It takes no compromise to give people their rights ... it takes no money to respect the individual. It takes no political deal to give people freedom. It takes no survey to remove repression.

Harvey Milk

## Social Meetings

The most important thing in communication is to hear what isn't being said- "Quote"

As a movement we are aiming at reaching a better understanding of LGBTQ+ elders in Zimbabwe and across.

The lack of service provision for the elders is amplified so much that the elders are living in obscurity.

We have been conducting face to face meetings with elders to get an understanding to what affects them in their respective communities and it

and it has been a journey of discovery.

### Know your elders

An [online form](#) was introduced on our website and shared across our chat platforms to get data on the number of elders who identify as LGBTQ+ and as to what they expect from service providers like Total Together. The response has been favorable. In Zimbabwe one would not expect to meet people that have been in long term same sex relationships, yet through our

end and high end meetings we met amazing couples who had rich information to share.

At this point we have structured questions then the platform is opened for general chat. We confidently say that the open chat has yielded more results and even with structured questions, it's how we present and ask which then gives our beneficiaries the urge to say more. Sometimes as it shows, it's of greater importance for us to ask a few and listen more. More programs have been decoded through these activities.

**Although we live in an information technology age, we often find ourselves in failure to communicate situations.” – Johnny Tan**

What is pride month to us? We are a movement that encourages LGBTQ+ individuals to express themselves in social spheres with their safety in mind. To promote one's self affirmation brings a whole new outlook for the individual in their areas of residence or work. This previous **PRIDE** month we felt it important to emphasize on gaps that are in the LGBTQ+ community and including mental health issues that are continuously affecting us. Because of a lack of safe spaces for the elders certain concerns are not expressed and in return they are never addressed. We place much emphasis on communication, allowing our beneficiaries to share, and giving them assurance that all is well as our meetings are private and one on one. Images are taken upon authorization from the interviewee, audio recording as well. Of course not all are comfortable with images being taken and that we respect. Pride month is **FREEDOM** for life for Total Together.



What about race?

When one goes through our website, you find there is a mix of races for people we work with or support. Indeed this is not financial support but services such as mental health and general health. We have been asked on several occasions why it's not only for Africans, The only answer we can give is that "disparities are not only for people of colour and certainly assistance can come from anyone regardless of race, it's really not about colour, it's about people, growing our network and creating welcoming service spaces.

## On-going

### Accommodation

Construction of a chalet. The structure will have 5 bedrooms and one common room. The space is for temporary relief and relaxation for the elders.

### Socialites

Social meetings that will provide a mundane setting to foster new friendships and create a safe environment for all involved.

### Documentaries

To be able to bring awareness on issues affecting LGBTQ+ elders we will record re-enactments and real life documentaries with the elderly and the younger generation.

## Our programs

We have given a keen eye on Mental health and not only as a project but as a program. It's of greater importance that we encourage social meetings where people talk and share anything in a safe environment. Topics discussed range from the economy, livelihoods, health, policies, law and many others. It's a space to interact and laugh, eat and be merry, mental health is not a once off program but it's an issue that's affecting many on a daily basis. We are encouraging our readers to create such settings and help make our community better and more supportive.



To our friends and supporters / Volunteers

As we all have come to know, for our work to progress it is through your support and dedication.

We are passionate about advocating for safer and welcoming healthcare facilities, long term care and life insurance for our elders.

Total Together is still working on constructing a safe space for LGBTQ+ elders and all that are facing disparities and open to leave with a diverse group of happy individuals. Our center does not cut out anyone from the outside world.

We are appealing to you for your kind support to realize our vision.

Help us change the course of life for LGBTQ+ elders

## DONATE

Via PayPal click [here](#)

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Acc: I Reach Out My Hand Africa

Ref: Total Together

Acc no: 0000021262366

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Joina City, Harare

Zimbabwe

We have a news desk on our website where current and previous headlines will be published. You can also read our blogs for stories of inspiration and resilience in our community. Learn about on-going programs and much more.

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To provide comprehensive healthcare  
to the seniors,  
affirming retirement and  
long term care.

#totaltogether #unite



[www.totaltogether.org](http://www.totaltogether.org)

Total Together is a flagship program of I Reach out My Hand Africa  
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