# THRIVE AID

3 ANNUAL REPORT

https://www.thriveaid.NGO



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Introduction	pg.1
2. Remarks from the Board Chairperson	pg.2
3. Message from the CEO	pg.5
4. Our Reach in 2024	pg.7
5. About Thrive Aid	pg.8
6. Programs and Impact	pg.10
6.1 Education Thematic Area Impact	pg.10
6.2 Mentorship Thematic Area Impact	pg.14
6.3 Mental Health Thematic Area Impact	pg.20
6.4 Other key 2024 Highlights	pg.23
6.5 Volunteering	pg.25
7. Financial Summary	pg.26
8. Partnerships and Collaborations	pg.28
9. Challenges and Lessons	pg.29
9.1 Challenges faced in 2024	pg.29
9.2 Lessons learned & Areas for improvement	pg.30
10. Future Outlook for 2025	pg.31
11. Acknowledgments	pg.32
12. Conclusion	pg.33
13. Executive Committee	pg.34
14. Board of Directors	pg.35
15. Sponsor logos	
16. Contact info	

## 1. INTRODUCTION

In 2024, Thrive Aid set out with three primary objectives aligned with our thematic areas of focus:

- 1. To enhance access to quality education for underprivileged young people through academic support, digital literacy, and library services.
- 2. To empower adolescents and youth through mentorship in entrepreneurship and career development.
- 3. To promote the mental well-being of vulnerable young people, through counseling and awareness programs.

This report highlights our achievements, challenges, and the invaluable support that has propelled us forward in our journey to uplift and empower Zambia's young people.

### 2. Remarks from Board Chairperson



When I was requested to serve as the Board Chairperson of Thrive Aid in November 2023, I accepted because of the vision of the organization that was first presented to me.

I found that the three thematic areas of focus for the work that Thrive Aid was embarking on aligned very well with my own life's vision and mission. That is, to apply my talents, experience and technical expertise to ensuring the well-being and growth of young people in my community.

I therefore committed to contributing my knowledge, skills, and experience to advancing the work of Thrive Aid, marking the very first step in a journey of a thousand miles.

Thrive Aid is an organization that seeks to serve underprivileged communities by improving their access to quality education, opportunities for mentorship, and mental well-being for them to realize their full potential.

With an enthusiastic Executive Management Team, the growth of Thrive Aid has been nothing short of remarkable. I remain in awe of the support of the many partners, collaborators, donors, and advisors who have believed and upheld Thrive Aid's vision, making this growth possible.

In the past year, Thrive Aid has scored meaningful successes that continue to fuel its growth through challenging times

### 2. Remarks from Board Chairperson

Under the education thematic area, Thrive Aid has established a vibrant academic support programme involving some of the most underserved community schools in the country. Through the programme, the organization reached over 781 underprivileged young learners, providing them with computer skills, and delivering appropriate reading materials and tutorials.

Under the mentorship theme, Thrive Aid trained 117 young entrepreneurs through the Ignite Entrepreneurship programme and created avenues for showcasing entrepreneurial skills through pitching competitions, opportunity hubs, and career networking events.

The mental health area impacted 1118 adolescents including children living on the streets through mental health sessions. In promoting mental health, Thrive Aid forged meaningful partnerships for both current and future collaboration in ensuring the holistic well-being and performance of young people in Zambia.

### 2. Remarks from Board Chairperson

While Thrive Aids' work during the past year enabled progress toward the organization's goals, it also revealed the many gaps within the three thematic areas. Much more work remains to be done in our communities, and as team Thrive, we shall endeavor to bring solutions to the problems identified in these areas.

As we have wound off the year 2024 and are looking into 2025, it is clear that the work to be done requires learning, relearning, and unlearning to harness best practices in addressing the challenges that our communities face that lie within the scope of our work. As we strategize to address these challenges, we aim to leverage our partnerships and work more closely with the community for homegrown solutions that will ensure adaptability and sustainability

Sincere gratitude to my fellow board members for their commitment and unwavering faith in the work of Thrive Aid. To the Executive Management Team, continue flying the Thrive Aid flag high as you carry out your various roles within the organization. Together we shall Thrive as we strive for equity in accessing education, opportunities for mentorship in entrepreneurship, and mental health matters.

Chapwa Kasoma, PhD

Thrive Aid Board Chairperson

### 3. MESSAGE FROM THE CEO



As we look back on 2024, I am filled with gratitude for the strides we have made in empowering young people in our community. Thrive Aid's commitment to our mission of supporting young people in actualizing their potential and capitalizing on their abilities to achieve success has never been stronger, and we are excited to share our achievements with you.

This year marked a bold step forward as we transitioned to operating Thrive Aid as a full-time organization. With no external funding but an unwavering passion for transforming lives, especially those of underprivileged young people, we took a leap of faith.

Since 2019 when we began some initiatives that have now formed the foundation for Thrive Aid, we always looked forward to an opportunity when our initiatives would run consistently. From the on and off activities we initially had, we saw the great impact we had created; we then imagined how much more impact we would create if we decided to go all out and that's exactly what we did in 2024.

The year 2024 presented so many opportunities for growth as an organization. We created strategic partnerships with different stakeholders, built stronger bonds with our beneficiaries, and gained greater clarity and purpose in our work. However, we also faced financial challenges that limited our ability to implement all our initiatives at the scale we envisioned. Operating primarily through self-funding constrained our reach, but it did not deter our resolve to positively transform the lives of underserved young people. Instead, it pushed us to become more innovative, resilient, and resourceful in achieving our goals.

### 3. MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

We are particularly proud of the work we did with children from the streets offering them a platform to become aware and to seek help for their mental and physical health and social economic needs.

None of this would have been possible without the dedication of our staff, volunteers, partners, and supporters. Your commitment to our cause is truly inspiring, and we are grateful for your continued support. I am grateful to God for guiding our journey, paving the way for us, and using us as instruments of His love for young people. Everything we do is for the Greater Glory of His name —Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam (AMDG)

As we look ahead to 2025, we are excited to build on our successes, achieve more milestones, and further expand our impact. Together, we can continue to empower young people, transform lives, and build a brighter future for our community.

Thank you for being a part of the Thrive Aid family.

Melody Chisanga

Founder & CEO, Thrive Aid

## **4. OUR REACH IN 2024**

#### 1. EDUCATION THEMATIC AREA -672

- 473 beneficiaries of free tuition & computer literacy
- 199 beneficiaries of library services

#### 2. MENTORSHIP THEMATIC AREA - 1746

- Entrepreneurship mentorship: 117 young people trained
- Career mentorship: 1511 beneficiaries
- 118 beneficiaries of opportunities shared

#### 3. MENTAL HEALTH THEMATIC AREA - 1118

1118 Young people sensitized including street children

**TOTAL REACH - 3,536 beneficiaries** 

### 5. ABOUT THRIVE AID

Thrive Aid is a youth-led nonprofit organization registered with the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services, dedicated to the empowerment of adolescents and the youth. The organization was formally established in 2023 but our roots trace back to an academic support and mentorship program initiated in the community in 2019. The organization was born out of a passion for empowering young people to lead meaningful and purposeful lives while uplifting the underprivileged and vulnerable in society. Our work focuses on: three main thematic areas: Education, Mentorship, and Mental health.

- **1. Education:** We provide academic support in the form of free tutorials and literacy programs to underprivileged young people, access to library services, and linkage to scholarship opportunities.
- **2. Mentorship:** Under this theme, our focus is on entrepreneurship, career guidance, and leadership.
- **3. Mental Health:** We conduct counselling and awareness sessions for adolescents on mental health, substance abuse, teenage pregnancy, menstrual health and hygiene, human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and accessing local health services.

### 5. ABOUT THRIVE AID

#### 1.1. Vision.

Thrive Aid envisions a society in which every young person can live out their full potential and achieve their aspirations and contribute positively to the growth of their communities.

#### 1.2. Mission

Thrive Aid's mission is to support young people in actualizing their potential and capitalizing on their abilities to achieve success.

### 1.3. Organizational Values

- Passion
- Accountability
- Hard Work
- Empathy
- Integrity

### **6.1 Education Thematic Area Impact**

In 2024, Thrive Aid made significant strides in expanding access to quality education for underprivileged young people through both in-person and online academic support initiatives. Despite challenges such as the cholera outbreak, which delayed school openings, we remained committed to ensuring continuity in learning by leveraging digital platforms and expanding our reach.

Through our onsite academic support program, we engaged pupils at Kalikiliki Community School, Fountain of Hope Orphanage, and John Howard Community School providing supplementary tutoring in core subjects. Additionally, to serve young people outside our implementation sites, we established an online academic support platform via WhatsApp, where pupils received mentorship and learning materials and were tutored in various subjects including Mathematics, Chemistry, Biology, Physics, and English. Membership in this group increased to 125 by the end of the year. Additionally, some online academic support classes were shared on our YouTube platform, further broadening access to learning resources for young people.





A key milestone in our education program was the establishment of an online library, which grew to 377 books by the end of the year. This platform has been accessed by pupils, providing valuable academic resources to learners beyond our physical locations.

Recognizing the importance of literacy, we launched a reading challenge through our academic support WhatsApp group. We also initiated a literacy program at Fountain of Hope, aimed at improving foundational reading and writing skills among vulnerable children.

We further conducted a computer literacy training program for 20 young people, drawn from Fountain of Hope and Linda compound. Notably, five participants were from the deaf community, highlighting our commitment to inclusive education and bridging the digital skills gap among marginalized groups.

Lastly, we Linked students to scholarship opportunities by sharing the opportunities and providing them with technical support to apply for the opportunities.

Overall, Thrive Aid remains dedicated to improving education accessibility, ensuring that underprivileged youth receive the support and resources necessary for academic success and future opportunities. Our initiatives benefited 781 young people in 2024.

#### **Success Story**

Kenny's Journey to Academic Excellence

In the neighborhood of the Kalikiliki compound, education often takes a backseat to daily survival. For Kenny, a bright and ambitious Grade nine (9) pupil, the odds seemed stacked against him. Struggling to bring out his full potential due to the unfavorable learning environment at his community school and he settled for average grades. Lacking access to quality learning resources and personalized guidance, he felt frustrated and discouraged. Kenny with his peers with a Thrive Aid tutor during one of the academic support classes

Things changed positively when Thrive Aid introduced an Academic Support Program at Kalikiliki Community School in the second term of his ninth grade. The program offered free catchup classes to pupils to bridge the learning gaps that often result from unconducive learning environments in public schools like Kenny's. The program was conducted in person weekly and it involved tutoring sessions. The pupils were also provided with free reading materials, ensuring they received the support and mentorship they needed to excel academically.

Thrive Aid's dedicated tutors took a personalized approach to address Kenny's struggles starting with mathematics. Through interactive lessons, regular practice sessions, and encouragement, they broke down complex concepts into manageable steps and supported the completion pupils with other topics that were not completed in the syllabus. Additionally, the program provided a supportive environment where Kenny could ask questions without fear and receive constructive feedback on his work. At the end of the second term, the tutors and the pupils set a bold yet achievable target to score at least 70% in their mathematics tests.

Kenny didn't just meet the target in his end-of-term test, he surpassed it significantly by scoring 94% in mathematics, his highest score ever. This affirmed Thrive Aids belief that education, combined with determination and support, can unlock incredible potential for young people. This remarkable achievement inspired not only his peers but also the tutors who guided him.



Kenny and his teacher receiving a gift for his achievement from the Thrive Aid CEO

"Ma lessons yamene timankala nayo, nama book yamene mumatipasa yananitandiza maningi ku pasa" (the lessons we have been having and the books that you have been giving us have really helped me to improve my academic performance and to achieve my high score)"

Kenny was more determined than ever to excel in his studies and pursue his career dreams. He was also dedicated to helping his friends excel as he had embraced the role of a peer tutor.

Thrive Aid remained committed to walking alongside him and countless other students, empowering them to overcome obstacles and realize their full potential. Kenny went on to pass his final exam with flying colors. His story exemplifies Thrive Aid's mission to positively transform lives and is a powerful reminder of what's possible with determination, the right quidance, and belief in one's own abilities.



Kenny tutoring his peers during one of the sessions

### 6.2 Mentorship Thematic Area

In 2024, Thrive Aid made significant strides in its mentorship programs. Our mentorship initiatives focused on three core areas: entrepreneurship training, career mentorship, and opportunity linkages. Our initiatives created tangible impact by empowering young people with entrepreneurial skills, providing career guidance, and linking them to life-changing opportunities. As we move forward, we aim to scale our mentorship programs, strengthen partnerships, and expand our reach to ensure more young people have access to the knowledge and opportunities needed to thrive.

#### Entrepreneurship Training – Ignite Entrepreneurship Program

We successfully implemented the Ignite Entrepreneurship Program, empowering young people with business skills and practical training. Over the year, we enrolled multiple cohorts across different locations:

- The first cohort comprised 30 children from Fountain of Hope Orphanage. These participants underwent training in six key entrepreneurship modules and participated in practical sessions on t-shirt printing, baking, bracelet making, balloon animal making, face painting, and balloon décor. The cohort concluded with a graduation and pitching competition, where six outstanding participants were awarded startup capital to launch two businesses—a tuck shop and a wristband-making venture.
- Following the success of the first cohort, we expanded the program to Kalikiliki Community School (13 participants), John Howard Community School (49 participants), and Chisomo (30 participants). The John Howard cohort produced 47 graduates.























### **Career Mentorship and Guidance**

Thrive Aid actively provided career mentorship and guidance to young people, ensuring they had access to information and inspiration to navigate their career paths. Key achievements include:

- Conducting 10 career guidance webinars on diverse topics, including careers in STEM, business and finance, unlocking scholarship opportunities, accessing Constituency Development Funds, goal setting, personal branding, and the neuroscience of self-development. These webinars reached a wide audience and continue to be available on our YouTube channel.
- Hosting four onsite career mentorship sessions at John Howard, Kalikiliki,
  Chainda Open Community School, and the Thrive Aid office in Woodlands.
  These sessions provided one-on-one career coaching and networking
  opportunities. Some events featured key industry leaders, including the
  Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Youth, Sports, and Arts Mr Chama
  Fumba, the founder of Skille Technologies Mr Kabwe Chama Nkandu and
  Mr Edwin Kapesa founder of the Chroma Pixel Games.

We further Collaborated with Tawer Africa to co-host the 4<sup>th</sup> edition of the Career Fair, a mentorship event focused on empowering young women. The event attracted over 1000 attendees from different African countries, and

Thrive Aid moderated two sessions



### **Opportunity Linkages and Networking**

A crucial aspect of our mentorship program was connecting young people to various opportunities. Key highlights on this include:

- Establishing the Thrive Aid Opportunity Hub, a WhatsApp-based platform that now has 296 participants and shared over 200 empowerment opportunities, including scholarships, training programs, and job advertisements.
- Supporting beneficiaries to attend scholarship information sessions and facilitating participation in major networking events, including the Africa Must Think Conference, 2Kupes Conference, and many others.

Overall, our mentorship efforts reached 1746 participants, including pupils, youths, and other interested individuals





#### **Success story**

testament to

Igniting Entrepreneurship: Thrive Aid Beneficiaries Turn Skills into Business Success

In 2024, Thrive Aid's Ignite Entrepreneurship Mentorship Program made a lasting impact at Fountain of Hope, empowering underprivileged youth with essential business skills. Among the program's many success stories, five graduates came together to launch a tuck shop business at their school and residence. This initiative not only provided them with an opportunity to generate income but also instilled in them a sense of financial independence and responsibility. Their dedication and entrepreneurial spirit were a

the program's effectiveness in breaking the cycle of poverty and reducing the risk of young people turning to illicit activities to meet their needs.



One standout graduate, Patrick, took his entrepreneurial journey a step further by starting his own wristband-making business. Inspired by the skills he acquired during the program, he began crafting and selling beautifully designed wristbands, offering personalized customization to cater to different styles and preferences. Patrick's business quickly gained traction, showcasing the power of mentorship and skills development in transforming lives.



At Thrive Aid, we remain committed to equipping young people with the tools they need to succeed. Thrive Aid is incredibly proud of these young entrepreneurs and their determination to create a better future for themselves.

These success stories inspire us to keep pushing forward, knowing that mentorship and education can change lives.

### 6.3. Mental Health Impact

In 2024, Thrive Aid made significant strides in promoting mental health awareness, support, and intervention among young people, especially to children on the streets. Our efforts focused on raising awareness, providing direct support, and fostering collaborations to address key mental health challenges.

Through our ongoing partnership with the Fountain of Hope Foundation, we conducted multiple mental health awareness sessions covering topics such as peer pressure, depression, stigma, self-awareness, and many more. Additionally, we provided one-on-one counseling support to an individual in need.

We also hosted adolescent health sessions focusing on Sexual and reproductive health, HIV, substance abuse, menstrual health and hygiene and many more as part of our commitment to holistic health, we also facilitated linkage for further medical attention to health facilities.

Recognizing the importance of community engagement, we expanded our impact through various collaborations. We partnered with Theresa Heart Foundation and Matamando Foundation to conduct menstrual hygiene outreach programs at Bauleni School for Special Needs and Fountain of Hope. Through these efforts, 133 young people received sanitary towels and menstrual health education. In commemoration of Menstrual Hygiene Day (May 28th), we participated in the national commemoration hosted by the Ministry of Education at Matero Girls' Secondary School, where we trained schoolgirls on sewing reusable sanitary pads, a sustainable menstrual hygiene solution and an entrepreneurial skill.

We further joined forces with other organizations to create safe spaces for mental health conversations, and additionally leveraged sports as a tool for sobriety and mental wellness including:

- A mental health bonfire in collaboration with the Mental Health Unity Foundation.
- A session on mental health through lived experiences in partnership with the mental health community.
- A sport for sobriety event with Lusaka District Health Office (DHO), Churches Health Association of Zambia (CHAZ)
- The Adolescent Alive campaign with Lusaka City Council aimed at promoting substance-free lifestyles among adolescents.

Through these diverse initiatives, Thrive Aid impacted hundreds of young people, equipping them with knowledge, support, and opportunities to improve their mental well-being and overall resilience.



#### Mental Health and wellness days for children on the streets

As part of our work with children on the street, we hosted two street children-focused mental health sessions at Fountain of Hope and Chisomo Centres. These sessions involved gathering the children from different hotspots and bringing them to a central location which in quarter 3 was the Fountain of Hope and quarter four Chisomo. Our volunteers then facilitated impactful sessions on mental health, addiction recovery and sexual and reproductive health. Through our collaboration with Chisomo and our medical personnel volunteers, we were able to provide medical checkups and appropriate medication to the children. We further engaged an expert from Chinama to enlighten the young people about the deaddiction and other mental health services offered at the highest mental health facility and how they could access them.

We were able to serve over 200 young people through these initiatives.





### 6.4 Other key 2024 Highlights

In the past year, Thrive Aid actively engaged in key networking and capacity-building initiatives, strengthening our partnerships, and advocacy efforts. Our engagement in policy and advocacy was amplified through meetings with government and international stakeholders. We had the privilege of presenting our work to the Minister of Community Development and Social Services, Hon. Doreen Mwamba, and the Permanent secretary under the Ministry of Youth Sport and Arts Mr Chama Fumba. We also collaborated with the Department of Child Development under the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services (MCDSS) to conduct community sensitization on the Stop Alms Giving Campaign for children on the streets. Furthermore, we were officially a member of the District Child Protection Committee.





Additionally, we were shortlisted to present our Ignite entrepreneurship innovation at the Youth Connekt Zambia Summit innovation challenge where we scooped the second position, reinforcing our commitment to empowering youth through skills development

Thrive Aid was invited to speak at the Southern Africa Youth Summit where we spoke about inclusive education and highlighted our work in youth development.

These engagements and initiatives have strengthened Thrive Aid's position as a key player in youth empowerment, entrepreneurship, and mental health advocacy. We remain committed to our cause.



### 6.5 Volunteering

Our volunteers continue to be a key driving force behind the success of our programs and their love and dedication to our mission is simply amazing. To enhance the effectiveness of our team, we conducted volunteer capacity-building training across our three thematic areas and organized a volunteer orientation meeting to induct new members. In 2024, our impact extended beyond our beneficiaries to our volunteers themselves and we closed the year with 118 volunteers





# 7. FINANCIAL SUMMARY

### INCOME/RECEIPTS

SN	SOURCE (FUNDING)	AMOUNT (K)
1	Member Contributions	67,400.53
2	Mission Hummingbird	6965.47
3	Grant from UNDP	25,000
	TOTAL	99,366

### 7. FINANCIAL SUMMARY

### **EXPENDITURE**

SN	EXPENSE/PURPOSE (DESCRIPTION)	AMOUNT (K)		
1	Operational Costs	63,100		
2	Programme Implementation (including community outreach, stationery, transport refunds to volunteers, etc.)	32,763		
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		95,863		
SURPLUS		3,503		

Our initiatives were successfully implemented thanks to the generous financial contributions from the following partners and supporters:

- Mission Hummingbird
- Thrive Aid Board of Directors and Strategic Leadership Team
- UNDP and the Ministry of Youth, Sport and Arts through the Youth Connekt
   Zambia Innovation Challenge

# 8. PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATIONS

In 2024, Thrive Aid strengthened and expanded its network of strategic partnerships to enhance the impact of its programs. Additionally, we built new alliances with key stakeholders across government, education, health, and community development sectors, further solidifying our presence and influence.

- 1. Axis Technologies
- 2. Breakthrough Youth Generation
- 3. Chisomo
- 4. **Drive Food Systems**
- 5. John Howard Community School
- 6. Kalikiliki Community School
- 7. Lusaka City Council
- 8. Lusaka District Child Protection Committee
- 9. Lusaka District Education Board Secretary (DEBS)
- 10. Lusaka District Health Office Mental Health Department
- 11. Matamando Foundation
- 12. Ministry of Community Development and Social Services (at both provincial and district levels)
- 13. Ministry of Youth, Sport, and Arts
- 14. Mission Hummingbird
- 15. Tawer Africa
- 16. Theresa Heart Foundation
- 17. USAID Open Spaces Digi Hub
- 18. Visionary Student Initiative

Through these partnerships, we have broadened our reach, enhanced service delivery, and strengthened our advocacy efforts for youth empowerment, education, and community well-being. We remain committed to fostering meaningful collaborations that drive sustainable change.

# 9. CHALLENGES, LESSONS LEARNED, AND AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT

### 9.1 Challenges Faced in 2024

Throughout 2024, Thrive Aid encountered several challenges that impacted our ability to effectively implement programs and scale our impact. These challenges remained consistent across the four quarters and highlighted key areas that require strategic focus and improvement.

#### 1. Limited Resources & Funding Constraints

Securing adequate funding remained a significant challenge, limiting our ability to meet the growing needs of our beneficiaries. While we actively sought additional support through proposal writing, we were not successful with them. Despite these constraints, we continue to explore alternative funding streams to sustain and expand our programs.

#### 2. Insufficient Staffing & Volunteer Support

The lack of full-time staff affected program execution, as most team members served part-time. Additionally, our volunteers faced financial challenges, such as transport costs and internet access, limiting their ability to fully engage in program implementation.

#### 3. Organizational Capacity & Systems Development

As a start-up organization, Thrive Aid faced limitations in operational capacity. However, with board support, we have been working toward formalizing systems to enhance accountability and smooth operations.

#### 4. Lack of Office Space & Operational Infrastructure

The absence of a dedicated office space initially posed challenges in coordination and program management. With support from well-wishers, we secured temporary office space which improved organizational stability and efficiency.

# 9. CHALLENGES, LESSONS LEARNED, AND AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT

### 9.2 Lessons Learned & Areas for Improvement

Despite the challenges faced, Thrive Aid has identified several critical lessons that will guide future growth and strategic planning:

#### • Resource Mobilization & Sustainability

Strengthening our ability to secure funding through diversified strategies, including grant applications, partnerships, and innovative fundraising approaches, remains a top priority.

#### • Expanding Operations & Strengthening Outreach

Expanding our reach to additional locations is essential to increasing our impact. Scaling our programs to more underserved communities will require enhanced resource mobilization and strategic partnerships.

#### • Systematic Documentation & Visibility

There is a need to improve how we document and showcase our impact. Strengthening our monitoring and evaluation processes will help capture our success stories and enhance visibility, thereby increasing opportunities for funding and partnerships.

#### Building Partnerships & Stakeholder Engagement

Collaboration with both local and international stakeholders is crucial for fostering growth. Strengthening relationships with government agencies, NGOs, and private sector partners will enhance our ability to implement impactful programs and secure long-term sustainability.

#### • Investing in Human Capital

Ensuring sufficient staffing and providing incentives for volunteers will be critical in improving program execution.

As Thrive Aid moves into 2025, we remain committed to addressing these challenges while leveraging lessons learned to enhance our programs and expand our impact.

### 10. FUTURE OUTLOOK FOR 2025

Looking ahead, Thrive Aid aims to:

- Expand the **Ignite Entrepreneurship Project** to reach more youth from marginalized backgrounds.
- Strengthen mental health programs by increasing access to counselling and awareness sessions and the introduction of addiction recovery support programs
- Secure sustainable funding through grants, partnerships, and incomegenerating activities.
- Increase advocacy efforts on access to education and youth empowerment through stakeholder engagements and policy dialogues
- Continue **academic support** to improve academic outcomes of underprivileged children.

### 11. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We extend our heartfelt appreciation to:

- Our donors and partners for their unwavering support.
- The Thrive Aid team and volunteers for their dedication and hard work.
- The youth and communities we serve for their resilience and trust in our mission.

Together, we will continue striving for a future where every young person has access to education, opportunities, and a thriving life

### 12. CONCLUSION

As we close the chapter on 2024, we reflect on the three key objectives we set out to achieve this year:

#### 1. Enhancing access to quality education:

Achieved through free tuition sessions, the expansion of our online library (377 books), digital literacy training for 20 youth (including participants from the deaf community), and academic mentorship for 781 learners across various community schools and online platforms.

#### 2. Empowering youth through mentorship:

Successfully implemented via the Ignite Entrepreneurship Program, which trained 117 young people, awarded startup capital to two ventures, and conducted 10 high-impact career webinars, alongside onsite mentorship sessions that reached over 1,500 beneficiaries.

#### 3. Promoting mental health awareness and well-being:

Realized through outreach programs that impacted 1,118 adolescents, including children from the streets, offering safe spaces for discussion, counseling, and sensitization around mental health, substance abuse, and SRHR topics.

While we recognize these accomplishments with gratitude, we are also aware of the existing gaps and challenges, particularly financial constraints. In 2025, we will continue to build on the progress made—scaling up our initiatives, strengthening partnerships, and centering our efforts on innovation, inclusivity, and sustainability. We are deeply grateful to all our supporters, partners, and volunteers who made 2024 a year of transformation.

### 13. EXECUTIVE COMMITEE



#### **Melody Chisanga-CEO**

Our Chief Executive Officer holds a Master of Arts in Development Studies and a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics with Education. With over seven years of experience in both NGO and Education sectors, she possesses significant expertise in project programming and implementation. Additionally, she serves as a Board member for the Lusaka Branch of the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA).



#### Zamiwe Sakala - Finance Manager

The Finance Manager is an economist with over five years of experience managing national budgets at the Ministry of Finance and National Planning. She is also a Master of Arts in Economic Policy Management from the University of Zambia.



#### Francis Mwamba - Programs Manager

The Program Manager holds a Bachelor of Engineering degree in Mining Engineering and brings over seven years of experience in project management within the non-profit sector. Along with entrepreneurial experience, he is also a recognized, award winning author.

## 14. BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Chapwa Kasoma, Ph.D



**Vice Chairperson** Mr Joseph Mumba





**Finance** Mr Medson Moyo



Director **Human Resources Robert Phiri** 



Dr. Mwamba Sydney Mwamba, BSc. HB, MBChB,

### 14. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## PROFILES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

#### CHAPWA KASOMA Ph.D.

**Board Chairperson** 

An agricultural scientist and STEM advocate with a Ph.D. in Plant Breeding. Dr. Kasoma is recognized for her work in managing invasive species and her leadership in various STEM initiatives. She has received multiple awards, including the Outstanding STEM Professional award. She continues to lead impactful projects, such as gender-responsive communications campaigns and integrated pest management programs for small-scale farmers, showcasing her commitment to advancing agriculture and STEM in Zambia and beyond

#### **JOSEPH MUMBA**

Vice Chairperson

A development practitioner with over 12 years of experience. He holds multiple degrees in communication and law and has worked with international development agencies, including Care International and Catholic Relief Services.

#### **SOPHIE SIMACHELA**

**Board Secretary** 

An Associate at Mesdames Charlotte Chuuma Advocates, specializing in civil litigation, corporate law, and conveyancing. She is also an advocate of the High Court of Zambia

### 14. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

# PROFILES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

#### **MEDSON MOYO**

Director. Finance

An economist with a Master's in Economics from Central Michigan University. He has extensive experience in budget management and has contributed to several high-level national financial projects.

#### **ROBERT PHIRI**

Director. Human Resources

A Chartered Accountant and audit expert with over six years of experience. He is a member of ACCA, ZICA, and EAZ, and currently serves as an Audit Supervisor at EY Zambia.

#### **MWAMBA SYDNEY Ph.D**

Director. Programs

A public health specialist and medical doctor with seven years of experience. He is deeply involved in HIV/AIDS programming and healthcare system strengthening at CIDRZ.

# PARTNER'S LOGOS































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