“Childhood should be a time of innocence and joy. But for too many boys and girls around the world, the reality is just the opposite. Their young eyes have witnessed horrors. Their small bodies have endured abuse. And their gentle spirits have been assaulted by cruelty and neglect, sometimes by the very adults on whom they most depend. Such children are struggling to survive in the shadows, but STARS offers them new light. The light of compassion. The light of care. The light of hope and love.

I am proud to be a patron of the STARS Foundation Impact Awards, and to support the work of those who are building a better world for children. STARS treats underprivileged children like the shining treasures they are, giving them the protection, education, and support to help create a brighter future for us all.”

**Her Majesty Queen Rania Al Abdullah**
Patron of the STARS Impact Awards
The STARS Foundation improves the well-being of disadvantaged children around the world by supporting organisations which meet their health, education and protection needs.

STARS is governed by an international Board of Trustees chaired by its Founder, His Excellency Amr A. Al Dabbagh.

Since its establishment in 2001, STARS has provided grants to organisations working with disadvantaged children. Some of the projects funded include:

– Expanding the Jordan River Foundation’s teacher training programme to provide counselling and support to physically and sexually abused children

– Supporting UNICEF’s efforts to help young orphans return to school in Afghanistan by equipping classrooms with essential learning materials

– Assisting International Medical Corps to increase access to care and services for children diagnosed with cancer in Iraq by rehabilitating the oncology wing of Al Mansour Children’s Hospital and providing training for its staff

Building on its grant making experience, the STARS Foundation launched the STARS Impact Awards in December 2006. With the support of the Dabbagh Group, the Awards were first launched in Africa and will expand to other regions.
Established as an annual award, the STARS Impact Awards support organisations committed to achieving excellence in the provision of services to disadvantaged children and encourage the replication of effective approaches and practices.

Each Award provides US$100,000 of unrestricted funding plus additional consultancy support tailored to meet the needs of the recipients. The Awards recognise one recipient in each category of health, education and protection.

The recipients are selected against a range of criteria which reflect the hallmarks of effective practice and demonstrate a positive impact on the lives of the children supported. These include:

- Delivery of programmes that positively affect the lives of disadvantaged children and an ability to measure and demonstrate impact
- Governance and accountability to stakeholders
- Effective finance and administration
- Use of technology and ICT to enhance delivery of programmes
- Innovation and flexibility
- Learning from, and networking with, other organisations
- Collaboration and partnerships
- Development of staff members
- Development of volunteers
- Inclusion and access

This publication celebrates the achievement of those organisations recognised in each category in 2007.
Images taken from one of Island Hospice’s paediatric clinics in Mufakose.
Island Hospice provides palliative care and support to people with terminal illness, their families and carers, and offers a comprehensive therapeutic service for the bereaved. The first organisation to provide these services in Africa, Island Hospice has evolved to address a growing reality in Zimbabwe, that of child carers.

As HIV/AIDS increases in the country, children are becoming the sole carers for dying parents. Left to cope without the usual recourse of an extended family, which is becoming increasingly scarce in the country, children as young as nine are nursing their dying parents, many themselves facing the knowledge that they are infected and will die alone.

Island Hospice, which provides most of its primary services to people in their own homes, recognises that the majority of these young carers are not equipped with the necessary knowledge and skills to care for the terminally ill. Working with the children individually and in groups, Island Hospice equips them with the practical skills they need to provide care effectively, but also focuses on the children’s emotional needs as they face the isolation and stigma associated with their position, their bereavement and, in some cases, the knowledge of their own illness.

Island Hospice is providing a vital service to some of the world’s most vulnerable children and making a huge difference to their lives and the lives of those they care for.

With the additional funding available through the STARS Impact Award, Island Hospice plans to increase the counselling services available to these young carers by extending it into three new paediatric clinics in Chitungwiza, Mabvuku and Epworth, reaching approximately 140 children per month. It will also extend a successful pilot project into these clinics which provides non antiretroviral medications to children, to combat opportunistic infections and rashes. These palliative drugs are in short supply and expensive in Zimbabwe, leaving children untreated.
Images taken from Ikuna village and Iringa. Classroom images show an SPW volunteer-led session in HIV prevention. SPW Youth Talents Group performing at the Iringa Community Development Centre.
As in most other parts of the world, it is the young who are most at risk from poverty, HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases in Tanzania. As a result of this, the young are not perceived as part of a solution, rather that they are part of the problem. There are few examples of young people taking a proactive role in addressing the challenges they face.

SPW Tanzania’s approach is different. Its goal is to ensure that young people make responsible choices concerning their sexual reproductive health and have a lead role in the decision-making processes that affect their lives and their communities. It operates on the conviction that young people are simultaneously the most affected by poverty-related issues and the most essential to achieving change. All its work is led by young people through a youth-led volunteer model which enables it to deliver full-time holistic sexual reproductive health programmes in the most remote rural communities.

The programmes reach as many as 75,000 young people each year through volunteer peer educators who have been placed in rural schools. The majority of these peer educators are Tanzanian form 6 leavers, who conduct a range of youth empowerment activities in and out of schools. Working in these remote communities for up to seven months, they provide sexual reproductive health education and life skills training. The programmes are delivered for an annual cost of only US$9 per child and many of the volunteers go on to university and gainful employment as a result of their experience.

SPW Tanzania’s programmes are developed, assessed and continually refined based on broad consultation with tens of thousands of rural youth, key adults within their communities, partner NGOs and government ministry partners.

Over the last eight years, SPW Tanzania’s work has focused mainly on the regions of Mbeya and Iringa in the Southern Highlands of Tanzania where need has been greatest. The STARS Impact Award will enable the organisation to expand its programme further in the Mbeya region and into the Ruvuma region as well.
Images of children from the Seawinds Football Club in the Hillview community, some of them holding RAPCAN healing cards.

Group photo of RAPCAN team members.
In a country which faces serious challenges in combating child abuse, RAPCAN focuses on the prevention of child abuse and neglect and the promotion of children’s rights. It works at a local, provincial and national level in South Africa and in the southern African region.

In 2001 RAPCAN established a new programme to support child witnesses. The programme provides services to child victims of sexual offences testifying in court proceedings. The service is based in the courts and is designed to reduce the levels of trauma experienced by children giving evidence. This includes ensuring that children are properly fed, that they are prepared for testimony in court and that they receive therapeutic follow-up services. It also goes beyond this by ensuring that the room in which the child is received is clean and calming, that court officials are trained and understand the needs of children, and that further harm to the child is prevented by including family members in the scheme. RAPCAN makes extensive use of trained lay counsellors to provide direct services under the supervision of qualified social workers. Over 6,800 children benefited from these services in 2006 across six court sites around Cape Town.

In order to act as a resource to other organisations, and increase access to and quality of services, RAPCAN has developed the Child Witness Support Toolkit to enable other organisations to establish similar services elsewhere. The toolkit comprises training materials, a procedures manual, a costing instrument and minimum standards guidelines. The organisations are also provided with training and technical support from RAPCAN.

In response to a significant shortage of trained professionals in dealing with child sexual abuse, RAPCAN has also developed the Healers Package to enable non-professionals to take sexually abused children through a therapeutic process of healing.

The STARS Impact Award will enable RAPCAN to continue its delivery of prevention and management services for children as well as enabling the organisation to improve its work generally through sustainability and capacity building.
The application form for the 2008 STARS Impact Awards can be downloaded from our website www.starsfoundation.org.uk

Once applications are reviewed, STARS and PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP will compile an initial shortlist for the consideration of an independent Awards Panel. The Panel, comprised of individuals with experience in the fields of disadvantaged children, business, finance and the voluntary sector, will review the shortlisted applications, and make its recommendation to the STARS Board of Trustees for the best application in each category. The Trustees make the final decision on the recipients.

The deadline for submissions is 1 February 2008.

For further information on the Impact Awards, please contact the STARS Foundation.

STARS Foundation
Charles House, 4th Floor
375 Kensington High Street
London W14 8QH
United Kingdom

T +44 (0) 870 334 9000
F +44 (0) 870 334 8999
E info@starsfoundation.org.uk
www.starsfoundation.org.uk

Registered Charity No.1087997