

#COMMUNITY IS THE ANSWER NEWSLETTER

Volume 4 January 2021

GATEWAY FELLOWSHIP: GOING STRONG DURING CHALLENGING TIMES

NEW YEAR, NEW THINGS
Check out our new-look website:
www.gatewayzimbabwe.org

Gateway Zimbabwe's flagship program - the [Gateway Fellowship](#), which is in its first cohort has seen exciting developments and a lot of growth among the fellows.

Despite many challenges during the past 18 months, particularly with the onset of the COVID-19 global health pandemic, the program has continued to bring fellows together virtually, through the use of social media platforms. Many stories of emergence and success were shared and there has been a strong show of solidarity between the fellows in the five community cohorts.

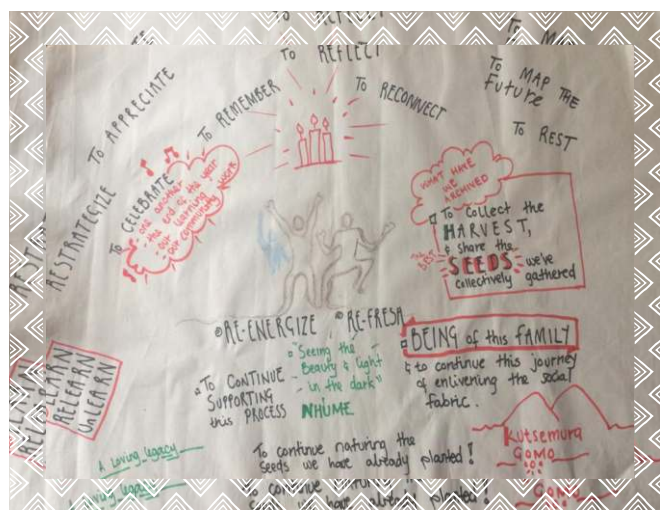
In December 2020, the fellows came together for the Fellowship's fourth module at Kufunda Village. It was a joyous reunion and a time to recharge and

reflect on the tough year that everyone had gone through, with resolutions and mapping for the year ahead.

The Gateway Fellowship will be coming to an end for the first cohort this year, with continued support to the fellows and their projects through the Gateway Initiatives program.

Read on for some brief profiles and reflections from Gateway Fellows in Arcturus. The Chikukwa Fellows were featured in the last edition of this newsletter and we will be introducing more of the fellows in the next editions, and through our [Facebook](#) & [Twitter](#) pages.

Read more about the Gateway Fellowship on our [website](#) or in the second issue of our "Community Is The Answer" Newsletter ([Download PDF here](#))



Above left: Gateway Fellows at Kufunda Village in December 2021, with Gateway Conveners and Accompaniment Fellows.
Above right: some of the reflections and learnings that were harvested during the Module 4 experience.

IT'S US AND IT'S NOW: WHATEVER THE QUESTION COMMUNITY IS THE ANSWER.

ARCTURUS COHORT: SEEDS OF AN EMERGING LOCAL SOCIAL MOVEMENT

The Gateway Fellows in the Arcturus mining village situated 32km out of Harare are part of a community that has stood firm and strong in the face of great adversity. Instead of falling into a pit of hopelessness, destitution and frustration resulting from circumstances surrounding the closure of the mine that sustained their livelihoods in 2016, the community has managed to organise itself in addressing the challenges they face daily and in making collective attempts to redress the legal and environmental injustices that still affect them to this day.

Using Gateway practices such as the [Circles to Re-imagine the Future](#) and the [GoDeep Game](#), the Gateway Fellows in Arcturus have brought together their community and contributed to initiatives on policy issues affecting them, started growing a sense of shared leadership and catalyzed greater community agency to advocate together towards health and justice in Arcturus.

“The need to support each other in the community to connect to new possibilities...To see the community as one family, working together and sharing ideas because a lack of participation leads to poverty.”

(This is an important key forward as Arcturus is polarized and community work has therefore been met with questions, suspicions and allegations)

- Cohort Reflections, 2020

This past December, the Arcturus Fellows hosted the GoDeep Game, a process that included [Appreciative Inquiry](#), the [Art of Hosting Conversations that Matter](#) and other community-building exercises.

Together, they discovered that their community is full of talent and dreams and that their young generation is full of energy and ready to bring change within their community.

Top Left: Arcturus Fellows and members of their community participating in the GoDeep Game in December 2020.

Bottom Left: Community discussions using Appreciative Inquiry and the Art of Hosting Conversations That Matter

Below: Arcturus Fellows and community members pose in front of the mural representing their dreams and aspirations, which they painted during the GoDeep process.



IT'S US AND IT'S NOW: WHATEVER THE QUESTION COMMUNITY IS THE ANSWER.

MEET THE ARCTURUS FELLOWS

Never Dzimbanhete (*right*) worked at Arcturus mine for 18 years. Currently, he is the Headman's Secretary for Arcturus village. He also serves on the Workers' Committee representing a group of 84 mine-workers who were unfairly dismissed from their jobs. From the Gateway Fellowship, Never seeks to enhance his community leadership skills, so that their community continues to develop and continues to be united. He sees a bright future for his community, in which they all enjoy an improved standard of living.



Rumbidzai Maketlu (*left*) trained in Home Based Care and works as a Village Health Worker (V.H.W.). She joined the Gateway Fellowship in order to help her community around health issues and with the dream of seeing their clinic which was closed down being reopened.

Aaron Muchatuta (*below*) is a teacher at Arcturus High School. He is also a researcher and author for History Books and articles. Aaron is involved in human rights activism and some community based programmes. Aaron joined the Gateway Fellowship because he saw the need for leadership to create a social fabric and bring sanity to the once vibrant community. He is ready to walk the journey of contributing to both his personal and the community's transformation.

"We have learnt to not only rely on artisanal mining as we are in an area rich in minerals but we have come to appreciate that we have land for small scale farming and human resources to work on the land to grow vegetables and maize."

- Cohort Reflections, 2020

