



Tanaka, Age 6
Clubfoot

PATIENT STORY

"The day she is able to walk again, I won't be able to stop her. She'll just run and run!" Tanaka's mother, Grace, predicted when they first arrived at CURE Zimbabwe.

Tanaka was born with bilateral clubfoot, causing her feet to turn inward. If left untreated, the condition could keep her from living a full life or even attending school. Tanaka already couldn't wear shoes, and the condition would only get more painful and challenging. Thankfully, Grace learned CURE Zimbabwe could provide Tanaka with life-changing surgery.

After a series of castings to prepare Tanaka's feet for surgery, CURE's highly skilled doctor surgically released the tendon in her ankles so her feet could sit flat. CURE then provided her with ankle-foot orthoses while she learned to walk on her newly straightened feet.

Just as Grace had predicted, when Tanaka returned to CURE Zimbabwe for a check-up after her surgery, she didn't walk through the doors—she ran! Thanks to CURE's generous partners, Tanaka doesn't have to slow down because she's now disability-free!