



UNDER THE  
SAME SUN

*“Sometimes equality means treating people the same, despite their differences, and sometimes it means treating them as equals by accommodating their differences.”*

- Judge Rosalie Abella, Report of the Commission on Equality in Employment, Canada

### **UTSS began as a collision of the heart, mind and vision of Peter Ash and Vicky**

**Ntetema.** At the time, Vicky was a journalist and Tanzania’s BBC bureau chief, and Peter a Canadian businessman whose professional life was in transition. It was **Vicky’s report in July of 2008 that broke the crisis of persons with albinism (PWA) in Tanzania to the world. It also broke Peter’s heart.** Shortly after her report, Peter called Vicky and 2 people with big visions and even bigger hearts were united in a battle much bigger than themselves, a battle against discrimination so sinister that it had turned into grisly mutilations, murders and the trafficking in the human body parts of PWA in Tanzania. Later in 2008 founder and CEO Peter Ash, registered UTSS as a Canadian, federally registered, non-profit organization. In 2009 UTSS - Tanzania branch was also registered as an international non-government organization (NGO) and the doors of our office in Dar es Salaam were opened to the public. Since the earth shattering report in 2008, Vicky Ntetema has resigned her post with BBC and joined UTSS as Executive Director until her retirement on May 22, 2018. The Important work of UTSS in Tanzania will continue under the capable leadership of our acting Executive Director, Ester Rwela. Ester has been with us serving in a variety of capacities, and most recently as part of the management team in the role of Program Manager. Today UTSS has a well-staffed office in Tanzania and



over half of our employees are PWA serving their own people in their own country.

Our vision is that a day will come when persons with albinism in Tanzania will take their rightful place in every aspect of society and that the days of discrimination will be a faint memory. UTSS intends to keep its course until that day arrives. To date, our greatest success comes through the **education program (EP)** which has seen several hundred PWA, mostly abandoned and displaced children, relocated into some of Tanzania’s finest private boarding schools. THESE STUDENTS WILL BE FUTURE MODELS WITHIN THEIR OWN SOCIETY OF WHAT PERSONS WITH ALBINISM CAN BE WHEN GIVEN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY. This is our greatest “weapon” against discrimination and our most powerful source of educating and advocating a culture towards change.

