



Same

Script,

Same Cast,

Different

Act.

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Ralph Waldo Emerson famously said “Do not go where the path may lead. Go instead where there is no path and leave a trail.” This quote has reverberated with me and proved to be a valuable point of reflection for me for much of the last 25 odd years, as I made decisions that affected various aspects of my life. And it is these words that encapsulate the spirit of innovation, courage, and forward-thinking that I believe is essential for success in today’s rapidly evolving world.

However, it is mostly at CivSource Africa that I have seen the true manifestation of this adage. At its very core, CivSource Africa is on a quest to venture into areas of work and facilitate bold conversations that have for long been ignored or normalized, and in so doing, creating its own agency, and powering the agency of others (Civil Society and Philanthropy alike) to create meaningful and lasting social change. This is ably espoused in our values through the acronym **D.A.R.E.**


By going where there is no path and leaving a trail, we inspire others to follow in our footsteps and join us on this extraordinary journey. We become catalysts for change, igniting a spirit of innovation and progress that permeates not only our organization but the wider communities that we serve. Our rotational leadership model is one of those easily mind-astounding innovations that, while challenging the status quo, provides an opportunity for the team to experience varying leadership styles and keeps CivSource Africa ready for (inevitable) change. This model operates on arguably today’s most imperative currency, trust. Trust that we put our best foot forward every time we step out; trust that the freedom to fail will not be taken for granted, trust that our clients and partners remain at the heart of the work that we do.

As I come onboard as the new CEO of CivSource Africa, I encourage each and every member of our team to continue to embrace trust as our guiding philosophy. Let us not be content with following the well-trodden path, but instead, let us **D.A.R.E.** to venture into uncharted territories and blaze our own trail, as we have done for the last five and a half years. It is in these unexplored spaces that we still

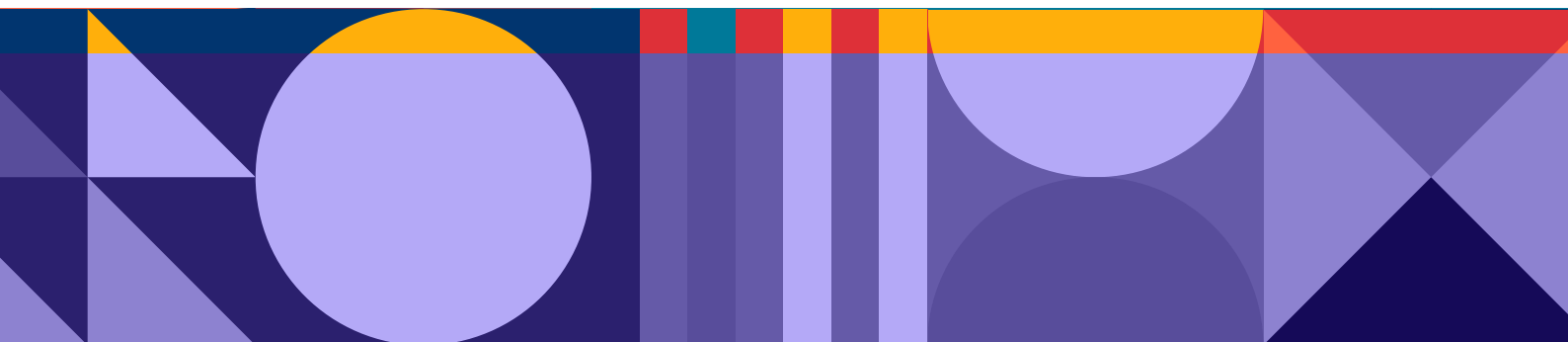
find the greatest opportunities for growth, discovery, and above all, impact. To continue to forge these new paths requires a willingness to take risks, challenge conventions, and embrace uncertainty. It demands that we think creatively, adapt swiftly, and dare to dream big, many of which CivSource Africa is now famed for. While the road may be filled with obstacles and setbacks, it is through these trials and tribulations that we learn, evolve, and ultimately leave a lasting legacy, one of *Philanthropy that works and Civil Society that thrives*. Innovation is born from a refusal to settle for the status quo and requires us to question assumptions, seek new perspectives, and pursue novel solutions to complex problems. I will count on our combined ability to nurture a culture of curiosity and exploration, as we empower our clients and partners to think beyond the boundaries of convention and create transformative change.

As we venture into these uncharted territories, let us remember the power of collaboration and the strength that comes from harnessing our collective individual talents and perspectives towards a common goal. Forging a new path is not a solitary endeavor and requires alliance and partnership, unity, and the effort of a passionate and diverse enclave. We shall continue to reach out to new and old partners and foster strategic and deliberate relationships designed to stretch us beyond our presumed capacity, to new formations that yield greater impact for the communities that we serve in Uganda, South Africa and Kenya where we have opened offices, and the rest of Africa which we boldly seek to serve.

As we embark on this next chapter, I am filled with optimism and determination that as we strive to support the civil society and philanthropy at the forefront of a movement for social justice and change, we embrace Emerson's timeless wisdom and be fearless in our pursuit of the unexplored, knowing that together, we can carve out a future that is marked by our trailblazing spirit and leaves an indelible mark.



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