



The Protea

Elizabeth Bowers Zambia Education Fund

Vol.V No. I

An education scholarship program for Zambian girls and women

April 2010

Beth's Girls Report

The 2010 school year began in January with 46 girls in grade 8, 16 in grade 9, 14 in grade 10, 10 in grade 11, and 4 in grade 12 on EBZEF scholarships. Three girls from the village have been selected for Mukinge Girls School because of their outstanding academic accomplishments. With 4 girls doing post-high school work, the total is 94 students. Few, if any, of these deserving young women would be in school without your support.



Angela Kasongo

Beth's College Girls

Dianah Masumbah successfully passed her exams to continue her second year of studies at Solwezi College of Education. She is looking forward to her student teaching and to becoming a teacher. Angela Kasongo has begun her second year at the Hotel & Tourism Institute Trust. She, too, will undergo a practicum before graduation in December 2010.

Sandra Kamulosu is working hard at the Zamnet Library School in Ndola. She says she loves her work and will complete her studies the end of June 2010. Rachael Kaluba is taking a one-year business and secretarial course at Solwezi Training Institute.

Such opportunities were not possible before EBZEF. Your donations are fostering hope, confidence, and a productive future for Beth's Girls.



Dianah Masumbah



Sandra Kamulosu

Thank you

to our generous donors who support the education of Beth's Girls. 100% of donations goes directly to EBZEF programs. Our Founding Supporters pay overhead costs.

Donate online at <www.bethsgirls.org>

Learn About Us

When asked "What do you want Americans to know about you and your village?" Beth's Girls responded eagerly. Grace Kashila (Grade 8, Age 15) insisted that we view "the progress of Beth's Girls and how EBZEF is helping the girls of Lumwana." Betty Chitumbu (Grade 3, Age 8) wants us to know "about my tribe and the unity of our country." "In Zambia we live as extended families, such as grandma, grandpa, uncles, nieces, aunties, and cousins under the same roof" adds Stella Masanyinga (Grade 8, Age 15). Angela Kasonga (College, Age 22) wants us to know about "my culture. We are a welcoming people."

Mary Moloshi (Grade 8, Age 13) tells us: "My village is situated 194 kilometers away from town. Here the main activity is farming. Mostly they are peasant farmers who grow just enough to feed their families. At times there is nothing even for the family because of poor yield which can result from either drought or floods. It is a very difficult time

because people are forced to work for other people in order to have at least one meal per day. It affects even our studies since we have to accompany our parents to do the pieces of work. However, our village is peaceful and people are ready to share what they have no matter how little."

She continues, "I would like you to know that on Saturdays or during school holidays, I go to the fields with my parents early in the morning to cultivate, plant or weed, depending on the season. We usually come back in the evening, and during such times we only have one meal per day. We carry sacks of maize or cassava and vegetables. During this time I study very little because I become very tired."

During the week, Mary studies "at night when I can afford some candles because we have no electricity, about one half hour or less especially when the candle is finished." When the candle goes out, "we go to bed or we sit around the fire to tell each other stories about our day."

Grace Mutambila (Grade 9, Age 15)

would like us to understand "the way we learn and communicate." "Our houses are made of grasses and mud," says Leberina Kababa (Grade 9, Age 17). Anita Kasongu (Grade 7, Age 13) wants Americans to know about "our life histories and how we were surviving before they started sponsoring us to school, and also how they have helped us." Muyamba Kasongu (Grade 8, Age 14) adds "they must know the way we live and how we struggle with life." While Beth's Girls encourage one another, it is your continuing support that makes the difference.



Pictured Below: Beth's Girls preparing food for the Library dedication

NEW COUNTRY DIRECTORS

Tom Kennedy, Peace Corps

Tom Kennedy arrived in Zambia as new Country Director in late July 2009 from a ten-year tenure at USAID as Division Director and Senior Program Analyst for microenterprise development. Before USAID, Tom served as the Peace Corps' Africa Region's Chief Administrative Officer. He was a Peace Corps Volunteer in Cameroon from 1983-1985 and was honored as Peace Corps Cameroon "Volunteer of the Year." Tom, his wife, and twin nine-year-old daughters are delighted to be living in Zambia.



Mike Veitenhans, WVZ

Mike Veitenhans arrived in March 2010 as National Director for World Vision Zambia. Coming from the position of Senior Vice President of Corporate Development, Gifts-in-Kind, and World Vision US Programs, Mike has worked with WVUS in a variety of capacities. He brings a wealth of experience in operations, systems, process and policy as well as strategy to his work in Zambia. With his wife Lisa and daughter Rachel, he enjoys an active life of sports.



Volunteer Thanks

EBZEF is grateful for the support and inspiration of our dedicated all-volunteer Board, Advisory Board, and committee members. We could not function without your generosity, good will, expertise and hard work. Our many willing, devoted additional volunteers help make things happen effectively both here and on the other side of the world. Your energy is a major key to EBZEF's success. Special thanks to Cassandra Farrin for designing the PROTEA spring edition.

SECONDARY SCHOOL FOR LUMWANA WEST

The Zambian Ministry of Education has selected Lumwana West as one of two rural schools in the NW Province to receive secondary school status, a highly competitive accreditation. This year the village school has its first 10th grade class. Next year it will have an 11th grade, and the following year a grade 12. Because the only accessible high schools are at great distances and require expensive boarding fees, a secondary school education has long been an impossible dream for the people of the village. No one ever imagined Lumwana West might actually have its own secondary school so soon.

The able and tireless leadership of Headmaster Njolomba and the Community Committee, the hard work of the village itself, an eight-year partnership with EBZEF resulting in a huge increase in the number of female students as well as the Memorial Library (the largest research facility in the region), the full support of Lunda High Chief S'ailunga, the new World Vision Zambia Lunga Area Development Program, and the promise of a Science Laboratory from EWB have effectively demonstrated the communal interest and support from both within and without the village to justify such a selection.

You, our steadfast donors and supporters, are literally in the business of making dreams come true! Can you believe the impact of what you've accomplished!

EBZEF is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation. All contributions are fully tax deductible.

Add GoodSearch Toolbar

Download the GoodSearch-Elizabeth Bowers Zambia Education Fund toolbar, and EBZEF will earn money every time you shop and search online. Add the EBZEF toolbar at www.goodsearch.com/elizabeth-bowers-zambia-education-fund to support our programs with Beth's Girls in Lumwana West.



Agatha, Priscovia, Regina & Kutemba in the Memorial Library

WELCOME

Stewart Williams

New Board Member Stewart A. Williams III, Regional Vice President with Columbia Bank, has been a friend of EBZEF for several years. He has worked with non-profit organizations in planning and strategic management for nine years and has served on the Boards of the Willamette Humane Society and the Historic Elsinore Theatre. His aim is to have "a direct impact on an organization's goals and mission execution." Stewart and his wife Alyson live in Tigard, Oregon.

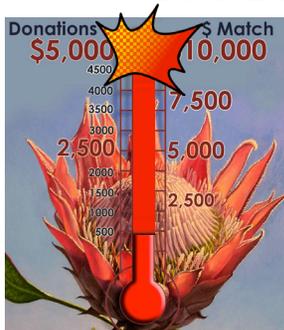


Alvin Nchemba

As the Area Development Program (ADP) Manager for World Vision Zambia's new Lunga ADP, Alvin Nchemba works with EBZEF to oversee the scholarship program for Beth's Girls. With a Bachelor of Social Work and a Master of Communication for Development degrees, he is a passionate development worker who has spent most of his life working with rural underprivileged communities. He has worked as an organizational development consultant for a variety of international NGOs to promote local development in Zambia.



YOU DID IT!



Thanks to all our generous donors, EBZEF met the Challenge Grant of \$5,000 by the end of December 2009! That means we now have \$10,000 toward the solar panel project for the

Memorial Library. You are helping to bring electricity, light, computers, and literacy to Lumwana West. The total budget for the project is \$25,550. We are on our way to illuminating a major library on the other side of the world.

EBZEF/Engineers Without Borders Partnership Official

The Mid-Columbia Chapter of Engineers Without Borders (EWB) from the tri-cities in Washington state has now officially partnered with EBZEF for the Light and Literacy for Lumwana West project. President Rick Cameron and Vice-President and Project Leader Paul Fraser are building a new chapter with the EBZEF project as their initial focus. Newly retired engineer Rob Rowlands from California is also on the team and has had extensive experience working with solar projects in Nepal.

The team will travel with EBZEF to Zambia in summer of 2010 to install solar collectors on the Memorial Library, to add computers and other equipment, and to train people from the village in use and maintenance of the solar system. EWB makes a five-year commitment to the projects it selects. Potential future projects for Lumwana West include

rain water catchment, a water supply system, a science laboratory and science equipment for the new secondary school, plus other needs the village identifies.

Mr. Njolomba, Lumwana West Basic School Headmaster, has encouraged the Community Committee to identify its own five-year plan. Their priorities begin with the solar power supply system, move to the science lab and equipment, then to a water supply system, and finally to the construction of a girls' dormitory. The village will work closely with EWB to complete the solar project this summer. Like Peace Corps, EWB encourages capacity building—helping the Lunda people to help themselves.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Zambia Night, Friday, October 22, 2010



Give a life-altering gift for Mother's Day, graduation, birthday, or wedding!

Share in the work of changing lives and offering hope to the young women of NW Zambia. *So little goes so far:*

- \$35 books for one girl for one year
- \$70 uniforms for one girl for one year
- \$172 sponsors a student in grade 8
- \$113 sponsors a student in grade 9
- \$172 sponsors a student in grade 10
- \$228 sponsors a student in grade 11
- \$366 sponsors a student in grade 12
- \$2,500 funds 2-year college degree
- \$5,000 funds computers & equipment
- \$20,000 funds library solar system

Amounts vary due to the fluctuating exchange rate between the US\$ and Zambian Kwacha.

Yes! I want to change a life & impact a family, a village, & a nation by supporting Zambian women's education & the Memorial Library!
I have enclosed a donation of _____ As a gift

From:
Name _____
Address _____
Email _____

To:
Name _____
Address _____
Email _____

If donating as a gift, please include your name and address as well.



Elizabeth Bowers Zambia Education Fund

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Day of the African Child

Join EBZEF at our booth to celebrate the Day of the African Child on Saturday, June 19th, at Portland State University. Observed around the world since 1991, this is a day to reflect on the progress being made toward ensuring the rights, health, education, equality and protection of all Africa's children.



Linda with Little Beth

World Beat Festival

Stop by the EBZEF tent in the African Village at Salem's Annual World Beat Festival on June 26-27, 2010, at Riverfront Park. Enjoy a two-day, non-stop program of international music, dance, food, hands on crafts and folklore to celebrate the people and traditions of every continent. The Festival is sponsored by the Salem Multicultural Institute.



Amber Buchanan & Angela Wanak, EBZEF Education Committee members, march in World Beat Parade of Nations



Village women cook for Linda & Gerry

Sacrificial Bull for Library Dedication Ceremony



Beth's girls carry water



Agatha & Priscovia sing for Gerry



Zambian friends - zebras



Prudence Masanyinga



WU Pi Beta Phi volunteers manage African Market at Zambia Night



High School Advice



Peace Corps worker Mizhi Kakoma and PCV Stevie Greenwall



Zambian friend - elephant

You can help give Beth's Girls the gift of education. Invite friends to be EBZEF supporters.

The Elizabeth Bowers Zambia Education Fund

One life made the connection. Now many carry on the vision of caring.



Our Mission

The Elizabeth Bowers Zambia Education Fund is a non-profit organization created to provide education to girls from the Lumwana West area in NW Zambia. Elizabeth Rachel Bowers (1979-2002) shared her compassionate spirit with the people of NW Zambia as a Peace Corps volunteer. The Scholarship legacy sustains Beth's vision of service and global awareness by empowering young women to build positive change from within, to become leaders and educators, and to improve the quality of life in their communities.

A Rose In Beth's Name

by Cassandra Farrin

Judy Singer, a small rose breeder from Tucson, Arizona, woke up from a dream in which she met a woman named Elizabeth Bowers. She thought the name was perfect for the new rose she had developed. "Elizabeth is kind of Victorian, Bowers like Bowers of Flowers," she thought.



Elizabeth Bowers Rose

Remembering Beth

"I decided to look up 'Elizabeth Bowers' on the web," Singer said. She found EBZEF. Beth is "truly a person deserving the honor of having a rose named after her." She contacted Linda & Gerry Bowers in October 2009, who were "deeply moved."

Propagation of the new rose is still in the early stages, but Rogue Valley Roses in Phoenix, Oregon, has expressed interest in bringing it to the Northwest. The rose is "old-fashioned in form" but "is unusual because it does very well in extreme heat," which, Gerry noted, parallels the African Protea's resilience in hot, arid places. The foliage is unique, with "leaves that have good substance and pretty blushed edges." Singer describes it as "very graceful . . . producing lots of beautiful blooms" in



Unique rose foliage

hot weather. She is sending cuttings to the Bowers family to be added to their memorial garden alongside the roses gifted from the Peace Corps in memory of Beth.

The Bowers family and friends commemorate Beth's death each year at the Oregon Coast by sending pink roses out to sea "to honor Beth's most beautiful life," Linda said. "Perhaps one day we'll send her very own roses out to her!"