

The Protea

Elizabeth Bowers Zambia Education Fund

Vol. VI No. 2

An education scholarship program for Zambian girls and women

December 2011

Thoughts from Beth's Girls



Beth's Girls receive school supplies for 2011

New survey results from Beth's Girls reflect an expanded view of future careers. In addition to teacher, nurse, and lawyer, they want to be a doctor, journalist, librarian, musician, soldier, minister, police, sister, engineer, government worker, and president.

The challenges to getting an education include poverty, the need for a science laboratory, desks, textbooks, a shortage of paper, and the need for more teachers. Ethel Kawayi (age 16, grade 9) adds, "You can't have much time for studying when most of the time we do house work." Florence Ludeba (age 13, grade 8) says, "Even with electricity in the Library, sometimes you will find that you are studying at home with a candle and it burns out."

Stellah Masanyinga (age 16, grade 9) reminds us that for many students it is "a long distance to get to school." Memory Kamulosu (age 15, grade 9) insists, "It's boys. They cheat us too much. As a result we end up getting pregnant!" "Men are disturbing us at school," agrees Abigail Njapau, (age 16, grade 11).

The number of children in a family can pose difficulties: eight families have 5 children, nine have 6, nine have 7, nine have 8, four have 9, three have 10, and one has 11.

Is the community changing? "Yes," says Thelma Sambawu (age 15, grade 9). "Some people who stopped school are getting back." Christine Shimishi (age 16, grade 9) adds, "There are fewer pregnancies and early marriages." Royce Chapanga (age 18, grade 9) tells us "Boys are becoming sensitized." Visaka Kapalu (age 15, grade 9) concludes, "I would like to thank those who are helping to find this money for our academic works. Although I cannot see them physically, in spirit we are together. You are not just helping me, but you are helping my family."

Memory Kamulosu wants us to know that "as of now I am preparing for my exam and I wish to pass with the highest mark so that I go to high school." Antonia Kapenda (age 16, grade 8) adds, "Parents and those who work together with you, I am so thankful to be included in the scholarship as a Beth's Girl. May God bless you and your family."

Beth's College Girls

Justina Salumawamu, the daughter of the Lumwana West Clinic manager, is studying radiography at Evelyn Hone College in Lusaka. Rachel Kamwandi is continuing her studies in sociology at Copperbelt International College in Kitwe.



Justina Salumawamu

Prudence Masanyinga, after receiving a Certificate and Diploma in community development from the Government Training Institute in Chalimbana, is returning to college for an undergraduate degree in sociology at Mulungushi University. Since it is a correspondence program, she will continue to work full-time for World Vision Zambia while she studies.



Prudence Masanyinga

Congratulations!

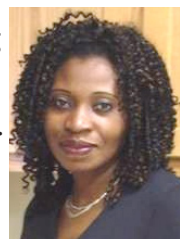


Angela Kasongo graduated from the Hotel & Tourism Training Institute in Lusaka on May 27, 2011. Rachel Kaluba graduated from Solwezi Trades Training Institute and is a secretary at the Lumwana Copper Mines.

They join the ranks of "Beth's Ladies," becoming premiere role models for younger women from the village.

Mary Lundeba Update

Mary Lundeba works as a Program and Training Specialist in Rural Aquaculture Promotion for Peace Corps Zambia. They just completed pre-service training and successfully ushered in 35 volunteers for a two-year service. Mary reports, "I feel so satisfied with my job!"



Salem Rotary Literacy Grant

The Salem Rotary Club Literacy Committee has granted \$1,300 to EBZEF for its "Textbooks for the Library" project to purchase Language Arts books. Textbooks in Zambian schools are limited in number and to classroom use only. Even teachers often lack textbooks. Textbook selection is mandated by the Ministry of Education to follow a national curriculum program.

EBZEF's goal is to purchase texts for each grade for each class for Library reference. This will afford students the opportunity to study evenings, to attend tutoring sessions after school, and to prepare for exams. It will enable community members to educate themselves and to attempt to re-take exams they may have failed earlier. It reinforces EBZEF's "Light and Literacy for Lumwana West" efforts to make education available to all people in the village.

We need more help in purchasing chemistry, physics, math, biology, civics, history, geography, and more textbooks to fill this dire need. Inquire further for book lists and costs at ebzefund@gmail.com.

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>

6th Annual Zambia Night



EBZEF's First Mancala Tournament

This year's Zambia Night was graced with good weather, wonderful volunteers, a multitude of friends and supporters, Sokol Blosser wines, Clockworks Cafe's African food, and the excellent entertainment of Mark Power's Kola Nuts percussionists and the Artemis Tribal Belly Dancers.



Pre-schoolers leave class for the day

GladRags a Success

EBZEF provided each Beth's Girl with a small set of GladRags reusable menstrual pads in 2010. Now EBZEF is seeking to supply each Beth's Girl with additional pads so she has enough to care for her needs and attend school with confidence all month. The girls say they need at least 10 pads each.



Your purchase of EBZEF's Village Moon apparel and fabric arts helps support such an essential effort.

The Trinity Covenant Church Sewing Group meets monthly to sew reusable menstrual pads for Beth's Girls. The Village Moon sewers are working on pads as well. New sewers, cutters, and friends are always welcome! You can help by donating a gift certificate to a local fabric store. Contact EBZEF to become part of the project.

The Children's Corner and the new Mancala Tournament were popular with the younger set, while the Education and Library displays offered updates on Beth's Girls and EBZEF projects in Lumwana West. Shopping was brisk at the Zambian Market, the Village Fire/Village Moon table, and the SSHS Beth's Girls Club booth.

The presentation "Transformation Through Education" updated donors on EBZEF's work in NW Zambia, demonstrating the range of support for Beth's Girls from pre-school through college. It revealed intercultural education happening in our own community.

Thank you to the EBZEF Board, the SSHS Beth's Girls, Willamette University, TIUA, University of Portland, family, friends, and community volunteers for helping to bring Zambia to Salem.

Village Pre-School Underway

The Lumwana West Pre-School is thriving under the tutelage of Beth's Girl Jean Muteputa. The class has outgrown the Library and is now meeting in a nearby church. The chairs and supplies sent by the children of Schirle Elementary School are well-used and greatly appreciated. EBZEF is now instrumental in offering educational opportunities for Beth's Girls from pre-school through college and university.

Rose to Go International

Judy Singer, rose hybridizer from Arizona, just announced that the Elizabeth Bowers Rose will be available for purchase in England. Rogue Valley Roses in Medford will have plants available in late summer 2012. Now, how do we get a rose bush planted at Beth's Memorial Library?



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

PTA/Library Committee

Thank you to the Lumwana West PTA/Library Committee which has worked diligently with EBZEF for many years to accomplish our mutual projects. The officers include Mr. Oscar Mulopu, Chair; Mrs. Ronica Mushenya, Vice-Chair; Mr. Mbongo Njolomba, Secretary; Ms. Ireen Sandu, Vice-Secretary; and Rev. Teddy Kamulosu, Treasurer.

Other members include Mr. Charles Mumba, Mr. Charles Mukwakwa, Mrs. Evelyn Chilapala, Mr. Jackson London, Mr. George Kangulu, Mrs. Doris Mwenya, Mrs. Judith Chitala, and Mr. Harrison Mashilipa. Without their full participation and dedication, EBZEF could not have accomplished so much.



PTA Committee & Rob Rowlands

"Light and Literacy for Lumwana West"

Solar Update

Rob Rowlands, designer of the Memorial Library's solar system, returned to Lumwana West in August 2011 for a performance assessment and maintenance of the electrical system. He says, "In a year, there have been no reported issues with the electrical system." Even during the rainy season, the PV panels continue to replenish the batteries daily.

All the fluorescent lamps are working. Rob installed a laser printer to replace the less efficient DC color inkjet, plus an inverter to power it. By using the US standard voltage (115V/60Hz) rather than the Zambian standard (230V/50Hz), Rob plans to avoid misuse of the system for private needs.



Cell Phone Service at Last!

Cell phone service via mobile phone is now available in the village! After years of difficulty in communicating with Lumwana West, we can now call the village directly. Internet service is not yet available, but will come soon.



Give a life-altering gift this holiday season!

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

- \$35 funds classroom books and supplies
- \$77 funds uniforms
- \$300 funds pre-school books and supplies
- \$175 funds a student in grade 8
- \$125 funds a student in grade 9
- \$467 funds a student in grade 10
- \$390 funds a student in grade 11
- \$439 funds a student in grade 12
- \$4000 funds a college degree
- \$10,000 funds textbooks for the Library

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



Sandra and Mr. Njolomba catalogue books in the Memorial Library

Memorial Library Update

In 2010, EBZEF supplied Sandra Kamulosu, our librarian, with the cataloging program ResourceMate, which allowed her to enter manually about 1500 books over the past year. Wishing to speed up the process, Rob Rowlands advised we update the program to include an ISBN retrieval feature to populate the catalog from the Library of Congress.

EBZEF also purchased a bar code scanner to automate capture of ISBN numbers plus 10,000 pre-printed labels to serialize books individually. With Rob's assistance, the Library team scanned in 2,500 separate titles and typed in a further 1,000 books without bar codes. There are now about 7,000 individual titles shelved, with many books in boxes waiting to be processed. Rob's efforts have sped up the cataloging process significantly.

Rob Rowland's support of "Light and Literacy for Lumwana West" projects continues to be invaluable to EBZEF.

EWB Visit to Lumwana West

Engineers Without Borders member Michael Hus visited Lumwana West in September 2011 to work with the village on the design, layout, construction plans, and materials procurement for the new science lab. With him were April Salud and Gabriela Barbosa-Rodriguez, new college graduates who did the water designs for their senior project, for a site assessment of water needs.

Michael reports, "the Ministry of Education is on board with our plans to build the laboratory and will support our efforts." He adds, "Kitwe Rotary is agreeable to partnering with the Mid-Columbia Rotaract to develop water purification and distribution efforts."



Michael, April, Mr. Njolomba, and Gabi

World Vision Zambia has drilled a 50-meter bore hole near the school in Lumwana West. With a hand pump, the village now has potable water in close proximity. Rob Rowlands reports, "the water is very clean. I purified some of it with my UV purifier and drank it with no ill effects." Mr. Njolomba reports that they flushed the well for several hours, and it did not run dry.

Just imagine the convenience of walking a few meters to fetch clean water for household needs, instead of carrying questionable water in large containers on one's head over long distances!

Yes! I want to support Beth's Girls in Grades 8-12 and Beyond.

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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December 2011



You can help give Beth's Girls the gift of education this holiday season...

Invite friends to be EBZEF supporters.



Parade of flags



Caring for little brother



Fish farmers harvesting crop



New village well and handpump



Soybean farmer



Red-blooming flower



Mother chimp holding baby

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.

Peace Corps 50th Anniversary

271 Peace Corps Volunteers who died during their service were honored in a national ceremony at Arlington Cemetery on 25 September 2011. The event was impressively attended with honor guard, national leaders, over 5,000 returned Volunteers, friends and family. It was a beautiful late summer day in Washington DC, and the mood was celebratory.

Family representatives of the fallen spoke glowingly about their lives and achievements, painting a picture of individuals who were clearly extraordinary, visionary and wanting to help make the world a better place for all. Distinguished speakers told the tale of the Peace Corps, its inception in an exceptional moment in American history, the leaders who made it happen. Others spoke about the 50 years of service provided by

Remembering Beth



Arlington National Cemetery Memorial Amphitheater

the over 200,000 Volunteers who have served all over the world and the impact in those foreign places as well as in the U.S. and in their own lives.

The event was an inspiration. As speaker after speaker lauded the Volunteers, the audience applauding affirmatively, a tremendous positive energy gathered. The lives of the fallen were lifted, remembered, celebrated

and joined with the greater service of the 200,000. Their individual causes were honored and identified with a much greater cause and movement.

The mood was gripping. I was amazed at such a large gathering of returned Volunteers and their faithfulness to their ideal and experience. It was a reminder that the ideal which drives Volunteers into service continues in their lives and in new generations. The engagement of Peace Corps is an expression of good will in which the gathering took great joy.

It was a fitting memorial for Beth, eloquent, energizing, joyful. I was emotional in her memory, proud of her achievement. It appointed her a lifelong ambassador of this great cause of good will and a participant in a legacy of very special Americans. It was clear these people were not going to forget.

Dan Irvine, Assoc. Director of Peace Corps Zambia during Beth's service, is one of EBZEF's founders and a member of the EBZEF Board.