

The Protea

Elizabeth Bowers Zambia Education Fund

Vol.V No.3

An education scholarship program for Zambian girls and women

December 2010

Beth's Girls Survey Responses

The South Salem High School Beth's Girls Club survey to learn more about their Zambian sisters includes future dreams: 3 medical doctors, 2 nurses, 1 lawyer, 2 policewomen, and 2 Presidents of Zambia!

To "Is early marriage still an obstacle to girls' education in Lumwana West?" Marjory Nyambe (Grade 11, Age 17) insists, "No, at this time early marriages are reducing because of the support which has been brought by EBZEF. Girls are putting more effort into school." Kutemba Njolomba (Grade 11, Age 16) adds, "The scholarship is making a change. They really admire education because it is a key for success." Melba Chiiala (Grade 10, Age 15) speaks for all: "I have learned how to read and write."

To "What are your hopes for the future of Zambia?" Kutemba replies, "To make a high level of educating a girl child." Lydia Njolomba (Grade 8b, Age 12) wishes "That Zambia will be a peaceful country and more developed." Jessica wants to "help educate people

who are poor in our country." Perhaps Charity says it best: "To develop Zambia, because when you educate a girl child you have educated the whole world!"

To EBZEF's generous donors, Kutemba says, "Thank you! May God bless you!" Mary adds, "Thank you for your support and wonderful things. Continue with the same spirit, and God Bless you." Beth's Girls are truly grateful for your steadfast support and encouragement. You are creating miracles in their lives.



Beth's Girls singing & dancing at Celebration of the Light

First Beth's Girl Graduate

EBZEF's Beth's "Lady," Prudence Masanyinga, graduated from Chalimbana Government Training Institute on September 21, 2010, with a diploma in Rural Urban Management. She works for World Vision Zambia's (WVZ) Lunga Area Development Program (ADP) as a Social Development Worker, living in the village to develop a family support program for the education of women.

She says "community sensitizations and focus group discussions with parents will be done in conjunction with the WVZ Lunga ADP and other partners such as the Victim Support Unit (police), Social Welfare, and the District Education Board Secretary's (DEBS) office. The Lunga ADP plans to implement Life Skills and Expanded HIV Prevention programs with Beth's Girls among the target groups."



Linda thanks Beth's Girls

Thank you

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

Donate online at <www.bethsgirls.org>

Beth's Girls Host EBZEF/EWB Visitors

In past EBZEF visits to Lumwana West, village women kindly cooked the food we brought and saw to our domestic needs. This visit Beth's Girls were home on school break and acted as hosts for EBZEF and Engineers Without Borders (EWB).

We were housed in the Memorial Library office and storage room. It was a happy accommodation, full of light, surrounded by an exceptional collection of books for all ages, needs, and interests. We ate nshima and ifisashi on the beautiful mukwa library tables, handcrafted locally.

Beth's Girls carried water on their heads every morning to heat with charcoal for our baths. They also willingly did laundry for us. Thank you, Beth's Girls, for caring for "mama" and "papa" and their guests most graciously.



**Makeshi dancers
at the Celebration of Light**

Celebration of Light

With solar panels in place and the Memorial Library infused with light, Prudence orchestrated a special celebration for EBZEF and EWB. In front of the Library, Beth's Girls sang and danced with great exuberance. Everyone joined in the dancing. Speeches by the village Headman and by Gerry were translated into English and Lunda by Mr. Njolomba.

Engineer Kelsey Edwardsen performed an entrancing belly dance, followed by Gerry's "Five-Animal" Tai Chi form. A gift-giving ceremony followed as Beth's Girls danced by with their arms full of hand-crafted items for our Zambia Night market: hand-carved knives, cooking spoons, mortars and pestles, sculptures, hand-woven baskets, brightly colored fabrics, grass mats, and more.

Prudence brought Makeshi male rite of passage dancers to the celebration -- a secret, sacred, fertility ritual which few outsiders ever see! The Makeshi dancer is the embodiment of the ancestral tradition flowing from generations long past. He is covered entirely from finger to toe. One of Beth's Girls danced with the Makeshi to the suggestive rhythms of the generative process. A thrilling way to celebrate the Light on the Hill!

One Hour With Hope

Watch for Hope Segun's video interview with Gerry & Linda Bowers on CCTV, Channel 22, the third & fourth weeks of January 2011!

Early Childhood Literacy Program

Beth's Girl Dianah Masumbah finishes exams for a Solwezi College of Education diploma in December 2010. She will not receive her exam results for three months, during which time she cannot be hired by the Ministry of Education (MOE). This three-month vacuum exists after all course work ends, including after 12th grade in secondary school. Unfortunately, students can fall through the cracks during such times.

According to Mr. Mbongo Njolomba, Lumwana West Basic School's Headmaster (LWBS), rural students without pre-school are at a disadvantage throughout their education. While the teachers at LWBS support the need for early reading programs, they are stretched to their limits. Mrs. Judith Sambaulu, the first grade teacher, has 130 students in her class.

EBZEF, seeking solutions to these issues, received a \$900 grant from the Columbia River Peace Corps Association (CRPCA) to hire Dianah for January-March at \$300/month to develop an Early Childhood Literacy



Program through the Memorial Library. She will work with the librarian, the LWBS teachers, and with Beth's Girls volunteers to create a dual language (Lunda

and English) story telling, reading, and writing program. As the younger children sing their songs and tell their stories, Beth's Girls can help to record them. With the children's illustrations, they may create their own books for their own library in their own words.

Thank you, CRPCA, for making such a project possible!



**SSHS Beth's Girls
volunteer at Zambia Night**

EBZEF Partners in the News

Chikondi Phiri

Long time friend of EBZEF Chikondi Phiri has been promoted to Deputy



National Director of WVZ. To EBZEF's congratulations, Chikondi replied, "We are glad that our partnership can grow from strength to strength with these new developments."

Fordson Kafweku

EBZEF Board member Fordson Kafweku has been promoted to Operations Director of WVZ. Fordson was also offered positions as Operations Director for WV Rwanda as well as Project Management Capacity Building Coordinator of the WV East African Region. Fordson chose to continue his work in Zambia and with EBZEF.



5th Annual Zambia Night

Thank you EBZEF friends, supporters, and volunteers who helped to make Zambia Night a success! The Kola Nuts Percussion Ensemble and the Artemis Tribal Belly Dancers were back by popular demand. The Clockworks Café welcomed us. Eola Hills Winery supplied the wine. Emcee Bob Kister shaped the evening expertly.

Liesa Kister's Silent Auction, the Zambia Market, the SSHS Beth's Girls booth, the Children's Corner, the Library and Education displays, were all flooded with visitors. The "Light on the Hill" presentation filled everyone in on the amazing developments in Lumwana West. EBZEF donors saw where their contributions go and the far-reaching effects of their generosity on the other side of the globe.

Thank you to the EBZEF Board, the SSHS Beth's Girls Club, Willamette University, Tokyo International University of America, family, friends, and community supporters for helping to bring Zambia to Salem.

EWB Assessment Trip



Kelsey, Forrest, and Beth's Girls gathering water samples

Engineers Kelsey Edwardsen and Forrest Lowell, from the Mid-Columbia Chapter of Engineers Without Borders (EWB) in Washington State, visited Lumwana West for an assessment of potential village projects. Working with Beth's Girls interested in science, they collected samples from local water points to determine the safety of drinking from each source. Kelsey is a wonderful role model for Beth's Girls in science careers for women.

Building a science/math lab is the first priority of the village. A high school approved for Lumwana West by the Ministry of Education (MOE) is contingent upon building a lab within two years. EWB is working on adapting MOE building designs. When an EWB chapter accepts a project, it commits to work for five years in that area. Other efforts, such as water catchment and solar power for the laboratory roof, are under discussion.



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 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
- \$1,000 funds magazines & newspapers
- \$2,500 funds 2-year college degree
- \$8,000 funds textbooks for library

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

Library as Capacity Building Venture

The village was quick to discover ways for the Library to support itself. Engineer Rob Rowlands set up gauges to determine how much power was generated by the solar panels and how soon it renewed itself each day. After powering lights and computers all day and into the night, the system renews itself by 10:00 A. M. each morning. Extra electricity for cell phones and batteries can now be purchased for a minimal sum.

People from outside the community who wish to use the Library will purchase memberships, paying extra to use the computers, printer, and scanner. These fees go into a Library fund to be used for maintenance, such as hiring a night watchman.

With repeated requests for accommodations, the village will build "chalets" or small huts near the library for people to rent while they do their research. In turn, such boarders will need food, bringing another source of income into the village. The ripple effect of EBZEF's "Light and Literacy" program is ever widening. See how far your donations are reaching!



Village assistants putting up solar panels

Hiring a Librarian

By August 2010, the Memorial Library was complete, the books (18,000-20,000 volumes) had arrived, the Library had lights and four 17" laptop computers loaded with educational programs, the librarian's house was complete, and Sandra Kamulosu had finished her 6-month Library Science training and received her certificate from Zamtel Training College in Ndola.

The Ministry of Education (MOU), which was to supply the Librarian's salary, now told us that the only position they could fund was a librarian for a secondary school. It could be several years yet before Lumwana West fully qualifies. It might be possible, however, to hire Sandra in the interim to work at Lumwana West while associated with a separate secondary school, until she can be hired for the village by the MOU.

After careful advice and consideration, EBZEF chose to pay Sandra's salary of \$300/month until the new school year in January 2011. Sandra was thrilled to begin! The library sprang to life as she catalogued books, set policies for library use, and accommodated the solar workers plus the new computers. Thanks to all your support for so many years, the Memorial Library is now fully open for business!



Sandra Kamulosu in her dustcoat

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

December 2010

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

Invite friends to be EBZEF supporters.



Village headman enjoys Memorial Library



Volunteers model African finery at World Beat Festival



Wild mango tree



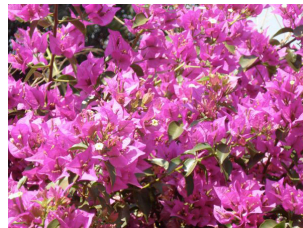
Beth's Girls fill out SSHS surveys with Linda



Children prepare for the Celebration of Light



Beth's Girls saying they want to go to college



Bougainville blooming



Artemis Belly Dancers at Zambia Night



Community Meeting

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.

Nambwezu Falls

By Gerry Bowers

Beth's fellow Peace Corps Volunteers love to tell how she leapt off a 60 foot waterfall when everyone else was afraid. An experienced sky-diver, she jumped into the dark, rocky, rain-swollen waters of Nambwezu Falls.

Linda and I visited the waterfall with a group of village friends. Our Toyota SUV overflowed with locals as it headed north toward the falls. On the way we visited Beth's hut and her "attata" (Zambian father), Mr. Madimwanza. We remembered poignantly our first trip to Lumwana West when we slept in Beth's hut.

Nambwezu Falls was a 16 kilometer drive into the bush. Our vehicle

tumbled down an impossible, gully-scarred dirt "road" to the pineapple farm bordering the river. We scrambled over a rickety log bridge, which immediately collapsed, threatening to drop us into the water below. Teachers and Beth's Girls quickly grabbed Linda so their village benefactor would not float away.

Dozens of local farmers, their wives and children, celebrated our arrival at the waterfall. Several actually remembered seeing Beth jump off the cliff. She was famous for her daring jump! We were given two huge pineapples by the head farmer "for doing God's work."

Remembering Beth



Mr. Njolomba, Linda, and Gerry

The shining walls of the black wet rock reflected local carved masks. I saw Beth's face, as I had seen it also in the hut and in the Memorial Library. Lacking a bridge, we waded back through the river shallows, jumping rock to rock, to the vehicle and our own daring drive back to the village in the dark, our pilgrimage accomplished.