



The Protea

Elizabeth Bowers Zambia Education Fund

Vol.VI No. 1

An education scholarship program for Zambian girls and women

May 2011

Beth's Girls Update

The Zambia school year began in January at Lumwana West Basic School with 35 girls in grade 8, 24 girls in grade 9, and 6 in the new 10th grade. Mwinilunga Secondary School has 3 girls in grade 10, 4 in grade 11, and 2 in grade 12. Mukenge Girls School has 3 qualified girls, 1 in grade 9, 1 in grade 11, and 1 in grade 12. With 1 Beth's Girl in college, the total number of scholarships for 2011 is 78.

As tuition costs escalate, the village PTA committee is focusing on those girls who will make the most of the EBZEF scholarship opportunity. Orientation sessions remind each recipient of her promise to be a role model for younger girls and to find a way to give back to the village. None of this would be possible without your support and encouragement. To know that someone on the other side of the world cares for them is an enormous incentive for Beth's Girls to do well in school.



Beth's Girls enjoy education



Angela Kasongo



Priscovia and Agatha

Beth's Girls Graduate

Priscovia and Agatha Sangenjo and Medrine Kasongo graduated from Mwinilunga Secondary School in March 2011. Priscovia and Agatha both received cataract surgery in 2008 supported by the Kitwe Lions Club. EBZEF hopes they will consider going on to college.

Angela Kasongo will graduate from the Hotel & Tourism Training Institute Trust on May 27, in Lusaka. She, too, has done well in her studies. EBZEF congratulates our Beth's Girls on their hard work and achievement.

Celebration for Beth's Girls

Mr. Njolomba, Headmaster, reports that "We had a celebration for women on International Woman's day here in Lumwana West. The female teachers sang, danced, performed sketches and poems. Together with all our school girls, they also did a march from the school to the market and addressed all the women there on the importance of women in our society. It was very colorful."

Studies Continue

Rachel Kamwandi will complete her first year in sociology at Copperbelt International College in Kitwe in July 2011. She is successful in her studies, though she tells us there are no books on her subject in the college library. She must go home to Lumwana West to conduct her library research.



Mary's News

Beth's Girl Mary Lundeba, having completed her PhD work at Penn State University, is now back in Zambia with her two sons, Terrah and Terry. She has been teaching aquaculture for Peace Corps Zambia and is currently undergoing a security check for the position of Program and Training Specialist with their Fisheries Project. Mary is "excited to have gotten a job that embodies my values--service to others and improving the quality of other people's lives."

Mary speaks to high schools "to motivate the girl-child." She has had two manuscripts accepted for publication, including both her Masters thesis and her PhD dissertation. She says, "This makes a great resume. I am really proud of my work knowing that I will finally end up teaching in a university."



GladRags Project a Great Success!

The South Salem High School Beth's Girls Club, working with donors of GladRags from Portland, Oregon, collected enough reusable menstrual pads for 100 kits, one for each of our Beth's Girls in Zambia in school this year. The kits included plastic cases donated by Dr. David Ross, toothpaste and tooth brushes donated by Dr. Stephen Yenne and staff, soap donated by Kristi Reed from the Grand Hotel and Tim Ledford from Slab Handcrafted Soap Boutique, combs, nail files, three sets of GladRags pads, and an instruction pamphlet written by the SSSH Beth's Girls.

The Zambian Beth's Girls cheered when they saw what was in the

package and said they needed no instruction on how to use the materials. They were thrilled that the gifts came from girls their own age halfway around the world.

The Lumwana West Beth's Girls expressed their appreciation in letters to the SSSH girls. Abigail Njapau (Grade 10, Age 16) wrote, "I would like to thank you for what you are doing for us Beth's Girls here in Zambia, and I would like to thank you for your biggest support to us Girls of Lumwana. I'm thanking you for the things you sent for us as they were very interesting and beautiful. You should continue with the same spirit which you are having."



Angela Wanak (left) hosts packaging party for South Salem High School Beth's Girls Club, including Madeleine Tweedt (Club President), Jordan Martin, and Christy Beck.



Beth's Girls receive GladRags gifts with gratitude and delight.

Upcoming Events Sokol Blosser Wine-Tasting Event

Join EBZEF for a wine-tasting event and fundraiser at Sokol Blosser Winery on Friday, July 15th, from 6:30-9:00 PM. Enjoy an evening of wine, refreshments, Zambian arts & crafts market, silent auction, and more, while supporting EBZEF's mission to empower young women through education. Our presentation theme is "Beth's Girls: Transformation Through Education." The address is 5000 NE Sokol Blosser Lane, Dayton, Oregon. See you there!

World Beat Festival

EBZEF will again have a booth in the African Village for the 13th Annual World Beat Festival at Riverfront Park in Salem, Oregon, on June 25-26. The festival is a two-day, non-stop program of international music, dance, song, traditional theater, ethnic foods, hands-on crafts, traditional customs and rituals, and folklore. To volunteer to help host the EBZEF booth, contact us at www.bethsgirls.org.

EBZEF Encourages New Pre-School

The new Early Childhood Literacy Program is well underway at Lumwana West. Under the careful guidance of Beth's Girl Teacher's College graduate Dianah Masumbah, the pre-school now has 35 eager students, both boys and girls. Jean Mutepuka, a Beth's Girl in the village who stopped school at grade 11 due to pregnancy, is in training as a teacher's aide with Dianah. The program has strong support from the children's parent group.

Headmaster Mr. Njolomba says, "It has been very exciting to see those little kids, nicely dressed in their unique uniforms, doing things that others of their age have never been able to do here in Lumwana. They have a special corner at the library where there is a collection of books at their level and where they sometimes sit and watch videos to help them learn things like colors, the alphabet, health, and many more." The children are learning in both Lunda and English.



Lumwana West Pre-School



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

Children Helping Children

At the inspiration of school mom Carrie Hare, the children of Schirle Elementary School participated in a penny drive to help the children of Lumwana West with books and supplies for the new village pre-school. In one week they raised \$642.24--over 64,000 pennies! This is enough to buy 35 small chairs, a mattress for naps, floor mats to cover the dirt floor of the church where they are meeting (they have outgrown the library), plus the necessary books and art supplies for pre-schoolers.

Board member Angela Wanak and daughters Lake and Lili visited classes to tell the story of EBZEF and the children of the village. Children helping children halfway around the world offers encouragement to all concerned about the importance of education for the young. Thank you, Schirle Elementary School students, from EBZEF and from the children of Lumwana West!



Schirle Elementary School students listen to Angela and Carrie

New EBZEF Product Lines

EBZEF Project Director Liesa Kister, with the help of Willamette University student Rachel Woods, has designed two new product lines for EBZEF sales. Village Fire includes African inspired jewelry designs: "Tribal symbols celebrate the creative energy of women." Beautiful beads, plus hand made symbols including clay fertility figures, honor the female tradition in Africa. Proceeds go to educate Beth's Girls from rural NW Zambia. If you are interested in donating beads and materials or helping to create jewelry, please contact us through our website.

Village Moon is a "Woman to Woman Gift of Confidence" fabric line, including scarves, hats, purses, and reusable menstrual pads. Proceeds from a hand made garment from EBZEF endow a kit of reusable menstrual pads for one Beth's girl. Your support enables a young Zambian woman to succeed in her studies as she grows into womanhood and into her role as a village leader.

EBZEF board member Angela Wanak has created a sewing circle to make reusable pads for Beth's Girls both here and in Africa. If you are interested in volunteering to sew, please contact us through our website at www.bethsgirls.org. Watch for our products at various EBZEF events.

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



Give a life-altering gift for Father'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 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.

Library Notes

Mr. Njolomba reported in April 2011 that the Memorial Library "is doing very well. The lighting and provision of power to all appliances are working fine. This shows that the installation of solar panels and the whole system was done well. We have local adults [10+] and students [20+] coming to use the library every day. We also have many people [2+/day] who come from as far as Mwinilunga town and Solwezi to do their research in the library."

An October 2010 report suggests that "the whole system is doing fine, including the computers, the scanner, and the printer. We have gone ahead giving lessons to the teachers and the pupils. Most of them are now able to use Word and a bit of Excel. Already we have made slightly over 200,000 Kwacha [over \$40.00] in terms of membership fees, scanning and printing." The Library is building toward meeting its own expenses.

The Lumwana West Library is the largest facility of its kind in the NW Province. As we visited the minimal libraries at Mwinilunga High School and Mwinilunga Resource Center, we were asked to share our books with them. However, both facilities have a problem with books "walking away." While we can share computer programs, the books will remain at Lumwana West. Guest scholars are welcome to purchase library memberships.



Beth's Girls using Library computer

EWB Report

Kelsey Edmunson, from the Mid-Columbia Chapter of Engineers Without Borders (EWB), visited Lumwana West in August 2011 on an assessment trip for potential future EWB projects. Her April report suggests that the science lab construction project "is going well. Mr. Njolomba recently stated that there is sufficient aggregate for the foundation to be poured. In addition, the village has made sufficient bricks for the building.

"We are finishing up the building designs, with full structural analysis calculations to ensure that the building provides life safety in the event of natural phenomena hazards. Designs are about 70% complete,

and will be sent to the village for comment once completed." The science lab is a major requirement for the village to receive secondary school status.

Kelsey also says "the clinic water situation has been identified as critical to community health, given that health services provided by the clinic benefit all community members, and without water, sanitary conditions are compromised. A team of senior engineering students at Washington State U., mentored by professional engineers, is designing a solar pump and storage/distribution system for the clinic; their design is at 80%." EBZEF is happy to introduce such supportive partners to the village.

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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May 2011



TRANSFORMATION THROUGH EDUCATION

Empowering young women through education in Lumwana West, Zambia since 2002
Help continue Beth's vision of global peace and understanding

JOIN US FOR AN EVENING OF WINE TASTING AT SOKOL BLOSSER WINERY

Music &
Silent Auction



Friday, July 15, 2011
6:00 – 9:00 PM

African Craft &
Jewelry Display

5000 NE Sokol Blosser Lane, Dayton, OR 97114

Space is Limited. RSVP to ebzefund@gmail.com

EBZEF Friendraiser challenge: Send this announcement to 5 new donors. Better yet, bring 5 new donors to our event!

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.

Thoughts of Beth

by Jennifer Bowers

Bright green early grass reaches toward the brilliant sun, amid the rustling of crisp, new leaves. The breeze caresses my arms, birds effortlessly swoop and soar, streams create modern art, and flowers miraculously fluoresce in stunning, bright colors. This is the magical, natural energy of which we are all part. Each day, as her sister, I experience the essence of Elizabeth Bowers as she lives on through these miracles of life. Shine on, sweet sister.

This year I was moved to express my love for Beth by renewing the plantings in Beth's Garden at our family home. A rainy spring has made the flowers lush, beautiful, and healthy. The beauty and awe of this garden signify my love for Beth. Every day I get to spend time enjoying Beth's energy through love and the process of creation.

Remembering Beth



Jenny cares for Beth's garden

Beth's Garden

Roses are the center of the garden, including gifts from the Peace Corps: the Peace Rose, Chicago Peace, JFK (white), and Veteran's Honor (red). The climbing rose is Stairway to Heaven (red). At the center of the garden is the Queen Elizabeth Rose (pink--Beth's favorite), a gift from Willamette U. students. The newly introduced Elizabeth Bowers Rose (pink) from Judy Singer is foremost.

The memorial garden abounds with forget-me-nots, a gift from Beth's Peace Corps friend Kyanne Geiger and her mother Judy, as well as with bleeding hearts and African daisies. With a delightful variety of spring flowers and bulbs, Jenny's nurturing care has created a symphony of color, texture, fragrance, and fluorescence in Beth's Garden.