

THE PROTEA

Elizabeth Bowers Zambia Education Fund

Vol. XIII No. 1

Breaking the cycle of poverty through education

May 2018

New Secondary School in Session

THANKS to our generous donors and able partner World Vision, the new secondary classrooms, two teacher's houses, and sanitation facilities completed in Phase I are now in use in Lumwana West. According to Mr. Mbongo Njolomba, Secondary School Headmaster, "We are very happy and proud to have these facilities. The government is paying for the teachers. We have been considered for provisional teaching and learning materials. Very few schools have been given that opportunity." 🌸



Phase II Underway



The girls' ablution block (lavatory), septic tanks, soak away fields, and desks, originally Phase II projects, were completed in 2017 so classrooms could be used. Remaining Phase II projects are prioritized to move the secondary school program forward with reachable fund-raising goals.

At a recent meeting of all headmen and their subjects, the community reaffirmed their desire to have water and staff houses as the next projects. A sanitation facility for boys is also needed. The Ministry of Education has assigned more teachers to Lumwana West, just waiting for staff houses to be completed. 🌸

Phase II – 2018 Goals	
4 teachers' houses @ \$66,000 each	\$264,000
1 mechanized well	\$26,500
Boys' ablution block with septic tank/drainfield	\$35,000
Total	\$325,500

Future projects in Phase II will be evaluated as we meet our fund-raising goals for 2018.

"We salute all of you who work so diligently to sustain Beth's vision of service and global awareness by empowering women in our community to break the yoke of poverty through education. We talk of 16 years of steady progress! From a few people who held on to it, the vision now extends to thousands. From one life, the blessings keep pouring forth to many."

—Lumwana West Community



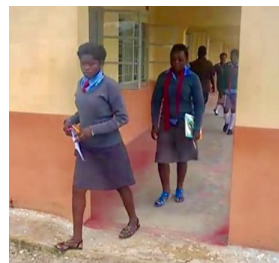
Partnership at Work



World Vision Zambia donated left-over floor tiles for the pre-school and three of the secondary classrooms. EBZEF paid for tile fix material. The community provided labor to lay the tiles. Classrooms have also been wired with lights. Hopefully, solar batteries will one day power these lights. 🌸



Classrooms lit with fuel-generated lights



Schoolgirls leaving class



Tile-fixers at work

DOUBLE YOUR DONATION!

Every dollar you donate through July 2018 up to \$10,000 will be matched.

Double your impact
on the other side of the world!

SUPPORT EBZEF's programs!



"Please do not put the torch of our cause down. Raise it even higher, that the whole world may know!"

—M. Njolomba

Beth's Girls/Ladies "Give-Back" List

When Beth's Girls accept a scholarship from EBZEF, they promise two things: to "give-back" in some way to their community and to act as positive role models for other women and girls in Lumwana West. With close to 30 Beth's Girls/Ladies now in or graduated from college and vocational schools, it's time to think about giving back. Mr. Mbongo Njolomba, Headmaster of the Secondary School, has helped create a "Give-Back List" on WhatsApp for Beth's Girls/Ladies to communicate with each other. We look for leadership from these remarkable young women to sustain the paradigm shift they have created which values the education of women in Zambian society. 🌸



Help EBZEF
educate the
Whole Girl!

Mary's Work Continues

Mary Lundeba's fish feed trials with WorldFish Center have yielded positive results among small-scale farmers. As the capacities of rural farmers have developed, "farmers are able to sell table size fish and small fish as seed within their communities. Most importantly, consumption of fish in their homes has increased."

She also continues to work with Aquaculture Peace Corps Volunteers (like Beth) to encourage women and youth farmers, using "a household/family approach so that knowledge is wider distributed." Mary is a true leader in Zambian aquaculture projects, making a significant difference in her country and in the world. 🌸



Teacher's Aides Update

Belinda Kalumba and Jean Mutepeka, Beth's Girls working as pre-school teacher's aides at Lumwana West, will continue their studies in Early Childhood Education. Zambia College of Education has been closed due to the cholera epidemic and will reopen in May. 🌸



First-year College Beth's Girls

Beth's Girls Gloria Njolomba, Kareen Sweta, and Florence Lubeba are beginning their three-year programs at SW Solwezi Teacher Training College. Gloria is majoring in social studies, Kareen in primary education, and Florence in secondary education.



Fridah



Mulenga



Joy

Fridah Sakuwunda studies Early Childhood Development at Paglory University in the Kabwe Teaching Program. Mulenga Chilufya studies to be an RN at Northwestern University. Joy Salumawu also studies to be an RN at Eden University. Joy's older sisters include EBZEF scholarship recipients Justina (now a radiography specialist) and Julia (a physiotherapist). 🌸

Continuing Beth's Girls Students

Rachael Njolomba, Ruth Sanama, and Sandra Kalumba are in their final year at South West College of Education.



Rachael



Ruth



Sandra

Stella Masanyinga is in her final year at Fairview College of Education. Visaka Kapalu is in her third year of seven at Lusaka Apex Medical University. Christobel Lillian Sweta is in year two of three at Evelyn Hone College of Pharmacy. 🌸

Beth's Ladies' Success

Melba Chitala now practices midwifery in the Lufwanyama District. She says, "Midwifery—the secret of life! I thank God for choosing and putting me in the role of being the first one to see the baby before its mother and father. Am proud for being a midwife, my passion, my life!"



"All thanks go to the supporters who with their kind hearts made it possible with the help of the Lord to pay for my school. Thanks for everything you have done for me and my family. To my fellow Beth's Girls, I am encouraging you to put more effort into your studies, always work hard, and dream big. Love you all!"

Priscovia Sangenjo teaches in her own community. "I enjoy teaching at Lumwana very much because I even give an example of myself at Lumwana as a pupil. I love working with my community. I teach English Language and Religious Education from grade eight to twelve. I am the only Teacher of Religious Education at our school." Priscovia works with her female students on issues of hygiene and sexuality. "It is really interesting!"



Prudence Masanyinga, EBZEF's first Beth's Girl, has been a social development worker for World Vision Zambia for several years. She is helping to set up the "Give Back" project. "In fact, it is a very good idea. Development starts with an individual. Please let us organize together and come up with a plan on how best we can give back. We really want to see everyone on board." 🌸



Christobel




Visaka



Stella


EWB Science Lab

Engineers Without Borders representatives M. K. Anand & Kelsey Edwardsen visited Lumwana West in December 2017 to consult on science lab construction. They met with the community and the Ministry of Education to determine time and materials for completion stages. M. K. suggests that “standing lab tables can be made from leftover bricks.” He is also interested in EWB’s pursuing solar power for the lab. 




Science lab ready for roofing

EBZEF Celebrates Dr. Jody Olsen

Dr. Jody Olsen was sworn in on March 30th as the new Peace Corps Director. Dr. Olsen helped us through the loss of Beth when she was Peace Corps Deputy Director from 2002–2009. Jody presented us with beautiful memorial rose bushes for Beth’s Garden at the Bowers’ farm (which still bloom profusely). She helped to make the Memorial Library project in Lumwana West happen as a Peace Corps Partnership project. On October 16, 2007, Jody awarded Gerry and Linda Bowers a Peace Corps Certificate of Appreciation for “five years of faithful and caring stewardship” of EBZEF’s projects in NW Zambia. We are thrilled that Jody, who was acting Director in 2009, will again lead PC in its work toward global peace and understanding. 



New Library Lights

The Elizabeth Bowers Memorial Library, symbol of light and literacy in Lumwana West, needed new lights! With the advice and donation of engineer Rob Rowlands, who designed the original system, EWB Kelsey Edwardsen carried a new lighting system for the Library. She taught Sandra Kamulosu, librarian, and Mbongo Njolomba, school headmaster, how to install it and how to replace bulbs for future use. Evening study in the Library immediately picked up! Thank you, Rob and Kelsey! 




Kelsey putting up new lights for the library

Pre-School 2018


Headmistress Ireen Sandu reports 80 pupils for the 2018 pre-school: Baby Class (ages 3-4) = 32; Middle Class (ages 4-5) = 18; and Reception Class (ages 5-6) = 30. Of the 50 pupils in 2017, 25 pupils went on to Grade 1, which equals 89% of the Reception Class!

“Upon seeing the new pre-school, every parent in Lumwana West is excited to bring their children in pre-school. We have experienced high turnout enrollment. We really thank you friends on that other side of the world. We are humbled for such a wonderful gesture.”

World Vision Zambia donated extra floor tiles to the pre-school. EBZEF funded the tile-fixing material and labor costs. The beautiful new pre-school now has floors that will sustain the traffic of little feet. 

Library Grant

The Literacy Committee of the Salem Rotary Club granted \$700 to the Memorial Library toward increasing its textbook collection in Languages, Administration, Expressive Arts, Religious Studies, and Natural Science for middle school. EBZEF appreciates the generous donors who have tripled the grant to meet patron requests.

According to Librarian Sandra Kamulosu, “Because this library serves both professional and academic studies, we need books that can serve both purposes—for classes and for research.” Impressed with the Library’s collection, M. K. Anand remarked, “The whole community reads voraciously, and there are many budding authors in the works.” 



Beth’s Girls study in the library



Pre-school opening 2018



Give a life-altering gift this spring!

Help change lives and offer hope to Beth’s Girls and their community in NW Zambia.

So little goes so far:

- \$125 funds 1 mo. pre-school aide’s salary
- \$375 funds 1 mo. Librarian’s salary
- \$400 funds graduation fees
- \$600 funds Library computer
- Any amount funds Library textbooks
- \$2,500 funds 1 year college tuition
- \$26,500 funds 1 mechanized well
- \$35,000 funds 1 ablution block
- \$66,000 funds 1 teacher’s house



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

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Reading the EBZEF newsletter in the Memorial Library



PCVs help with collection of baby fish



Pre-schoolers read together



Engineers M. K. Anand & Kelsey Edwardsen inspect science lab construction

The Elizabeth Bowers Zambia Education Fund

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



Our Mission

EBZEF empowers women, children, and their community in Lumwana West, Zambia, to break the cycle of poverty through education.

Our Vision

Elizabeth Rachel Bowers (1979–2002) shared her compassionate spirit with the people of her village as a Peace Corps volunteer. The education 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.

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The Seeds of Peace

Beth sowed the seeds of global peace and understanding as a new Peace Corps Volunteer in NW Zambia in spring 2002. How encouraged we were to witness the growth of Beth's vision in the village! She admired the strength of the women in the village. The girls emulated Beth's eagerness to learn and to work toward the development of women.

From these seeds sprang a thriving relationship with her community. "Beth's Girls" became a critical mass, creating a new cultural view of the education of women. EBZEF was born with the construction of the Memorial Library. Light and literacy now flourish in Lumwana West.

Remembering Beth



Beth's memorial red bud tree in spring at the Bowers farm

EBZEF's programs branched out to the initiation of a pre-school and the construction of a community secondary school. The scholarship program blossomed into college grants as Beth's Girls pursue higher education to become teachers, health care professionals, social workers, and more. Upon graduation these "Beth's Ladies" are taking their places as leaders and role models in their community.

The new "Give Back List" project for Beth's Girls/Ladies will help these remarkable young women find ways to fulfill their promise to turn their education to the benefit of family, community, and country. Beth's vision is bearing fruit on both sides of the world. 