



The Protea

Elizabeth Bowers Zambia Education Fund

Vol. IV No. 1

An education scholarship program for Zambian girls and women

May 2009

Beth's Girls' Progress

EBZEF scholarship recipients in 2009 total 72 including 29 new girls in grade 8 and 26 in 9th at Lumwana West Basic School. Mwinilunga High School has 5 Beth's Girls in 10th, 7 in 11th, and 5 in 12th. Kutemba Njolomba and Jennipher Mukwakwa continue to do well at Mukenge Girl's School. As of 2009 Solwezi Technical High School no longer accepts female students. The need for secondary schools is great.

Of the entering 8th grade class, ages range from 12 to 22. The number of children in their families range from 2 to 14. Two of the girls are orphans while another's father has two wives. Only nine of the girls have both parents. Many live with grandparents, aunts, uncles, and older siblings. Most of the parents in the village are subsistence farmers.

Beth's Girls study English, math, environmental science, geography, civics, history, religious education, and the Lunda language of their tribe. Their activities include playing netball and soccer, reading, cooking, chess, and going to church. Most girls have extensive chores after school at home. The village has no electricity or light for studying after dark.

Few, if any, of the girls would be attending school without your support. As Aggy Mwalimu (15) says, "Education to me is life, so your support makes me to survive." Prisca Mupatayi (23) insists, "To what I know, education is a way of the best solution to someone's difficulties. It is the only key to success." Christabel Mashau (17) realizes that "My dream for the future is to finish my education in order for me to become someone in the future." These dreams are now possible.

Beth's Girls realize that the future lies open to them in ways it could not without your help. "When I complete school I want



Eighth grade Beth's Girls 2009 at Lumwana West Basic School

to be a teacher and help others" says Olivia Meleki (15). Mary Moloshi (12) tells us "When I complete my secondary school I want to be a nurse." Mildred Mwenya (13) dreams, "After finishing school, I would like to be a journalist because I like the job very much." Such dreams could not be possible without your generosity to EBZEF.

Mildred continues, "My dream for the future is to complete my education and get a better job so that I will come and look after my grandparents as well as all the family and the nation at large." Helping women to help their own community is where your contributing efforts lead. Josline Sangungula (13) speaks for all Beth's Girls, "My dream is to complete school to develop the area of Lumwana. Let me thank you for the good things you are doing for the Lumwana girls."

Prefect Honors



Beth's Girls 2009 prefects at Lumwana West Basic School with advisor.

College Congratulations

Prudence Masayinga has received her Advanced Diploma in Rural and Urban Management from Chalimbana Government Training Institute in Lusaka. She has been studying at the institute for three years. Prudence announced to us in late February "I would love to inform you that my college results are out, and I did well!" EBZEF is proud of its first college graduate and a significant role model for other Beth's Girls.

Following Prudence's lead, three of Beth's Girls high school graduates now pursue tertiary certificates. Dianah Masumbah is in a two-year program for teachers at Solwezi College of Education. Sandra Kamulosu is in a one-year Secretarial and Office Management course at Solwezi Trades

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Training Institute. "I promise I will make it," she insists. Angela Kasongo is in a one-year program for the Advance Certificate in Food Production at the Hotel & Tourism Training Institute in Lusaka.

All three women are doing well and enjoying their studies. This is a major step forward in helping Beth's Girls to prepare for the future. Your generosity is making their success possible.

Stateside Graduates

Congratulations to Board member **Dan Irvine** who is receiving his Masters of Science in Peace Operations from George Mason University and to Advisory Board member **Angela Wanak**, who is receiving an MBA and a JD from Willamette University.

Congratulations to Beth's Girl **Mary Lundeba** who is completing her PhD in Fisheries Science from Penn State University. Kudos also to Education Committee members **Eleanor Ellis** and **Rosemary Dorman**, who are graduating from South Salem High School. EBZEF salutes your commitment to education!

Volunteer Thanks

Many thanks to our hard-working volunteer Board, Advisory Board, and committee members plus all who helped with EBZEF events. Special thanks to Carlee Kondo for the THE PROTEA design and layout and to Jeremy Kraemer and Nick Martin for film and design support.

New PCV

Stevie Greenwell, a Willamette University graduate, is currently training with the Peace Corps in Zambia to be posted in Mufumbwe in the NW Province in the district south of Solwezi. She writes "when I got to Peace Corps Headquarters and saw the tree planted in your daughter's name, I was just overwhelmed and felt I had to write to you." Stevie will join us in July to dedicate the memorial library in Lumwana West.



Africa Week

EBZEF participated in Willamette University's fourth annual Africa celebration "Africa Around Us" in February. Linda Bowers participated in a panel on "the spirit of activism and advocacy for African issues." Shannon Brown read a story by Headmaster Mbongo Njolomba titled "Nzova and the Lion" at Open Mic Night "Africa Speaks." EBZEF had an educational booth at the African Market amid live music, dance, crafts, and food. Throughout the month, the Hatfield Library helped celebrate the completion of the Lumwana West Memorial Library with a large display of photos, books, art, and tools from the region.

Mary Moving On

Beth's Girl Mary Lundeba has completed her course work successfully for the PhD in Fisheries Science at Penn State University. Mary passed her comprehensive exams in December 2008 and is currently involved in data analysis and writing her dissertation. She will defend her dissertation in late May or early June and expects to graduate and return to her home and family in Zambia in August. Mary's excellent hard work has made her an expert in her field uniquely qualified among Zambians. She is an outstanding role model for Beth's Girls.



Mary with youngest Beth's Girl, baby Lake Mahal Wanak, born December 23, 2008.



Fond Farewells

Peace Corps Volunteer Jessica Hillsley completed her tour of service in March. Her assistance with completion of the library project and with the Girls' Club and Life Skills programs in the village has been a huge support to EBZEF. She will not be replaced by another Peace Corps volunteer at Lumwana West.

Peace Corps Zambia Country Director Cindy Threlkeld will be leaving Zambia in June for a position in Washington, D. C. Cindy has been a great supporter of EBZEF, especially of the memorial library project, as well as a good friend.

EBZEF wishes you both well. We could not have achieved what we did in Zambia without your steadfast support and encouragement. Your efforts have been outstanding.

Lions International Magazine Article

Senior Editor Jay Copp wrote a moving article about EBZEF and our family connections with the Lions Club in the March 2009 issue. Board member Michal Wert collected genealogical data about our blind Aunt Mabel Taylor's work with Helen Keller to charge the Lions to become "Knights of the Blind." Our father Howard

Oesterling's lifetime of Lions work led us to donate Beth's corneas as well as to seek help from the Nikana Lions Club in Kitwe when two of Beth's Girls needed cataract surgery. On our trip to Zambia, we hope to visit President Edgar Musaka Kabibwa to thank him for his help. The Oregon Lions website at <www.lionsofOregon.org/news/story01.php> has recast the article for online reading.

Service Award

On April 19, 2009, EBZEF volunteer Eleanor Ellis received the Violet Richardson Award for service from Soroptimist International of Salem's Scholarship Program. EBZEF received a matching \$250 grant.

Role Models

According to EBZEF Board member Fordson Kafweku, the Zambian Education Minister's 2008 report shows that only the NW and Luapula Provinces have had all the girls who sat for the grade 7 examinations selected into secondary school. "EBZEF is squarely contributing to the excellent results that the girls in the NWP are scoring," Fordson assures us. "The encouragement that the secondary girls are giving to the community is spreading. Beth's Girls are models in Lumwana West, in Mwinilunga, and in the NW Province."

Upcoming Events

DAY OF THE AFRICAN CHILD

Join EBZEF in celebrating the Day of the African Child on Saturday, June 27, 2009, at the World Forestry Center Outdoor Plaza in Portland, Oregon. Visit our display and help the world "to mark the place of the child in our society."

WORLD BEAT FESTIVAL

Visit the EBZEF booth in the African Village at Salem's 12th Annual World Beat Festival on June 27-28, 2009, at Riverfront Park. This year's theme is "Into Africa." Enjoy international food, music, crafts, entertainment, Dragon Boat races, and much more.

Life Skills

PCV Jessica Hillsley facilitated the first Life Skills Program for Beth's Girls and their parents in Lumwana West. Nineteen facilitators, including 12 teachers and 7 Girls' Club leaders, worked with 50 girls and their families to explore pregnancy issues, HIV/ AIDS, assertiveness training, gender roles, self-esteem, and much more.



Life Skills session with Beth's Girls, parents, and trainers in the new library.



Above: Life Skills TOT graduates. Below: Mr. Victor Sangenjo is in charge of cataloguing the 20,000 books for the library.

Brother Mizhi Kakoma, from PC Lusaka staff, and Regina McLauren, PC Volunteer Leader from the Southern Province, led an initial 2-day Training of Trainers (TOT) session for the facilitators. The 4-day Life Skills Workshop followed with nearly 150 people participating. At least 70 people were tested for HIV/ AIDS at the end of the session.

Jessica reports that "Everyone seemed to agree that they were there to give the girls a vision and to ensure that their scholarships were not being wasted. Parents hoped they could help empower the girls and make them more

assertive." Jessica's own dream was that, following such a program, it would now be "Zambians teaching Zambians!" "One thing I learned in Zambia," she says, "is that you cannot educate one person and expect a change. It takes a community to change things, and Zambians are all about community."

The Lumwana West community is invited to apply for another mini-grant from Peace Corps next year to offer a Life Skills workshop to the village again, this time including the boys as well.

Library Dedication Trip

Linda and Gerry Bowers will visit Zambia in July 2009 to attend the dedication of the Elizabeth Bowers Memorial Library in Lumwana West on July 9th. The library is a gift from EBZEF to Beth's Girls and to the village community. The project was initiated as a Peace Corps Partnership Program by PCV Bob Wilder in 2006 and carried forward by the community, EBZEF, and PCV Jessica Hillsley. Headmaster Mbongo Njolomba, the Lumwana West Library Committee, and the people of the village have worked very hard to see the project through to completion.

Dignitaries attending the ceremony will include Lunda Chief Sailung'a, the village headmen, representatives from Peace Corps, World Vision Zambia, the District Education Office, the District Administrator, and The Provincial Education Office. The Library brings the village one step closer to their dream of having a secondary school at Lumwana West.



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



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. *A little goes so far:*

- \$35 books
- \$70 uniforms
- \$158 sponsors a student in grade 8
- \$104 sponsors a student in grade 9
- \$278 sponsors a student in grade 10
- \$208 sponsors a student in grade 11
- \$337 sponsors a student in grade 12
- \$1,000 sponsors a year of college
- \$16,000 funds computers & internet
- \$20,000 funds library solar power 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.

I have enclosed a donation of _____ As a gift

From: Name _____ **To:** Name _____
 Address _____ Address _____
 Email _____ Email _____

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

Elizabeth Bowers Zambia Education Fund

PO Box 294
 Salem, OR 97308-0294
 503-585-4605

501 (c) (3) nonprofit
 ebzefund@gmail.com
 www.bethsgirls.org



May 2009



Librarian's house under construction.



Linda, Mary, and Gerry cooking nshima during Mary's January visit to the Pacific NW.



South Salem High Rotary Club Rummage Sale for EBZEF: Holly Schnee, Eleanor Ellis, Allison Swain, Natasha Geiling.



Beth's Girls carry water for cement to build librarian's house.

Mike Wert showing Mary how to eat her first Oregon Dungeness crab.



Chalimba graduate Prudence Masanyinga.

Help meet Beth's Girls' education needs. Please send this newsletter to a friend. Ask two more 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. 🌿

I first met Beth as an incoming mountain wilderness student at Earlham College in 1997. We were both in the gear room, and I had been issued a long sleeping bag that I was unsuccessfully trying to jam into a stuff sack. Beth saw my struggle, offered to help, and within a minute had it packed neatly. She passed it back to me with a big smile. My jaw dropped. I knew then that Beth was a force to be reckoned with.

Beth was always laughing or teasing, yet she possessed a profound sense of stillness and centeredness. She was playful, passionate, and full of life—a bright energy fed by her ability to know herself and be grounded in a way so incredibly solid, allowing her a keen insight into others.

Beth had such a sense of adventure. She was always off exploring and taking new risks,

Remembering Beth



Beth during graduation weekend, May, 2001.

whether that was skydiving or spending junior year in Japan. . . . She was so excited about the Peace Corps—so excited to travel, explore, give back, learn and grow. The night before she flew out of Atlanta to Johannesburg she was talking excitedly of bungee jumping off Victoria Falls after her service in Africa.

Beth's dad said the night her spirit passed a great wind came into the city and then left. And so Beth continues to explore—sailing along, stirring up thunderstorms, rushing down Victoria Falls, chasing fall leaves, and soothing living beings, bringing her beauty and light to all she encounters. It is a beauty and light I was blessed to have known, one I will miss dearly, but one that continues to inspire the world we live in. 🌿

By Earlham College friend & fellow adventurer
Ellen Maynard