



The Protea

Elizabeth Bowers Zambia Education Fund

Vol. III No. 2

An education scholarship program for Zambian girls and women

December 2008

Beth's Girls Thank You

With your help, 92 Beth's Girls from the village of Lumwana West in the NW Province of Zambia are completing the school year in December. There are 36 girls in grade 8 and 43 girls in grade 9 at Lumwana West Basic School. Mwinilunga High School has 5 Beth's Girls in grade 10, 2 in grade 11, and 2 in grade 12. Outstanding students Janet Mkwakwa and Kutemba Njolomba are attending the Mukenge Mission High School, while Mutinta Chilumbwe and Regina Chilufya are attending Solwezi Technical High School. December is the month of national exams in grades 9 and 12 for which you are helping Beth's Girls to be tutored.

Beth's Girls express their gratitude in their letters. As Margret Mukusayi (grade 12) acknowledges, "Without your help I would have gone nowhere. You have educated me, and I am looking forward to going to college next year." Doreen Muke (grade 11) adds "Some of us, without you we would not be learning, especially myself because I am a double orphan." You are making a difference in the lives of these hard-working young women.

Because of your generosity, today more Beth's Girls are looking to the future with specific plans. Mailen Mutambo (grade 9) insists "I want to finish my education and become a teacher, so I work hard during examinations." Melba Citala (grade 8)



Scholarship recipients share dreams for the future.

says "You are helping me to lay a concrete foundation for my future. When I finish school, I want to study law at the university." Anipher Mbimbi (grade 8) tells us "In my life I am dealing with my education so that I will have a good future. I want to finish school so that I will be a doctor. In my life I am not thinking about marriage." You are helping Beth's Girls to realize their dreams for a future not possible without your support.

Perhaps Grace Mutambila (grade 8) best embodies the values of the Beth's Girls scholarship program. "I am greatly humbled by the support that is coming to me. I received a lot of things like a school uniform, books, school fees, just to mention a few. This support has really encouraged

my dream that I have to continue working hard so that I become one of the committed Beth's Girls' role models." And who could not share in Kerron Chilumbwe's (grade 8) joy: "When Mrs. Mundu gave me the beautiful things I was very happy. I was even dancing. Many people came to see that I was dancing because I was happy. . . . If I finish school, I will become a lawyer." You are giving hope to these deserving young women for a future full of possibilities.

Thank you

to our generous donors. All donations are 100% tax deductible.

Donate online at <www.bethsgirls.org>.

Beth's Girls' Honors

Mr. Mbongo Njolomba, Headmaster of Lumwana West Basic School, tells us that "to keep order and discipline in the schools, we select a group of students to help the teachers. They are called prefects or school captains. The criteria for selection is that the students must be able to speak English and must be role models in academics, morals, and discipline." The prefects in the picture are Beth's Girls Rhoda Chitala, Charity Kalota, and Silvia Funyina (kneeling), and Mushalila Mecca, Gift Kamulolu, and Matildah Kanema (standing).



Life Skills Develop

Jessica Hillsley, Lumwana West Peace Corps volunteer, reports that "Beth's Girls are doing well. I'm still having the Girls' Club meetings with them every month." Meeting topics include feminine issues and challenges, male and female anatomy, role models and confidence building, the menstrual cycle and cultural customs, assertive behavior, family planning, and HIV/AIDS. With support from EBZEF, the expansion of the Life Skills program to include the families of the girls and other people of the village will "take place some time in January or February."

Beth's Girls Follow Prudence's Example

Prudence Masanyinga takes her exams in December for an Advanced Diploma in Rural and Urban Management from Chalimbana Government Training Institute in Lusaka. She has done well in her classes and hopes to get a job

as a Community Development Worker, perhaps with World Vision and the new Lunga Area Development Program in the Lumwana West region.

With Prudence as a model, other Beth's Girls are looking toward tertiary education for future careers. Dianah Masumbah has applied and interviewed at Solwezi Teacher's College. Sandra Kamulosu has been accepted at a Secretarial and Management Institute. Angela Kasongo is applying to a hotel catering course at Fairview Hotel and Catering Service in Lusaka. All programs begin in January 2009. Your contributions help the girls to achieve their dreams. 🌿



Biology class dissects pigeon.

More from Mary

Mary Lundeba, EBZEF's premier Beth's Girl, is currently completing her last course this semester as well as preparing for her comprehensive exams in December for a PhD in Fisheries Science from Penn State. Her research in identifying new species of fish from Lake Malawi is progressing well.

She is also teaching a Wildlife and Fisheries Science course in vertebrate biology. Mary hopes to complete her degree in late May or early August 2009 to return to her family in Zambia. She will be doing DNA research for 3 months at the University of Alabama. Mary and her international advisors are applying for a three-year Post-doctoral fellowship grant to continue her research in Zambia.

Mary was a featured speaker to over 400 women at the Pennsylvania State PEO convention at Penn State U. in June 2008. She is a two-year recipient of a PEO International Peace Scholarship. 🌿

Advice to Beth's Girls

Dr. Hellicy C. Ngambi, Professor and Deputy Executive Dean of the College of Economic and Management Sciences at the U. of South Africa, recently spoke to EBZEF. Dr. Ngambi, from a remote rural village in the Northern Province of Zambia, grew up much like Beth's Girls, without running water, electricity, books, pencils, even shoes to go to school. She encouraged EBZEF in its work to support



Nakana Lions Club President Musaka Kabibwa, Priscovia, Secretary Winneys Chikonde, Agatha

Beth's Girls Agatha and Priscovia Sangenjo wrote to EBZEF asking for help with their eyesight to prepare for their first year at Mwinilunga Secondary School. Both girls were legally blind, yet managed to be excellent students at Lumwana West Basic School. They asked for special extra strong lenses to help them with their schoolwork.

Since EBZEF's focus is on education and literacy, not on health care, we do not have the resources to help them as a small non-government organization. We contacted the local Salem, Oregon, Lions Club for assistance. They referred us to Lions Clubs and the closest major eye clinic in Kitwe, Zambia (a day's travel from the village).

Nakana Lions Club President Musaka Kabibwa answered EBZEF's call for assistance. When the girls arrived in Kitwe with Mr. Njolomba, Headmaster of Lumwana West Basic School, they were found to have cataracts from birth. The Nakana Lions arranged for surgery for the girls at the Kitwe Eye Clinic on June 10th, 2008. When the girls' eyes healed, the Club also arranged for special lenses to enable Agatha and Priscovia to continue their studies in high school. 🌿



Dr. Hellicy Ngambi, American Council of Education Fellow

the education of Beth's Girls and had this advice for the girls themselves: "Girls, don't give up! You are not an extension of other people's opinions. What do people think of you in the village—that's not what makes you. What you think of yourself and where it can go, that will make you.

"Only take that which builds you up. Throw away everything that pulls you down and go for it. You never know. You may be the next minister, the next president. . . . You may be the next person your village needs to move forward." 🌿

SCHOOL PROJECTS BENEFIT EBZEF

The **South Salem High School** Rotary Interact Club hosted the EBZEF sales booth for Zambia Night, with T-shirts, bookmarks, buttons, greeting cards, and hot African groundnuts as a favorite Zambian treat. The club will hold a Holiday Rummage Sale on December 13th from 10:00 A. M. – 12:30 P. M. at South Salem High School, 1910 Church Street SE. Thanks to Eleanor Ellis and Rosemary Dorman for organizing the events. 🌿

Jeanette Teta, EBZEF Education Committee member, announced that **Adam Stephens Middle School** in Hayesville raised \$558 for EBZEF by selling popsicles as a Make A Difference Day project. The school choir sang Zambia's national anthem to a school assembly on October 17th. Jeanette's ESL students, many of whom are the children of immigrants and migrant workers, have been working with EBZEF since spring of 2008. 🌿

Library Books Have Arrived

The Lumwana West Memorial Library/Learning Center received 22,000 lbs. of books in late August, after many months of travel by land and by sea, hold-ups due to port congestion, and an overfull warehouse in Lusaka. Special shelves made of a rare hardwood called mukwa for strength and durability line the walls of the new library. Soon they will line the storage room. A local craftsman is completing the furniture for the library including 15 sets of tables with four chairs each.

A professional librarian from Mwinilunga will be sent by the Zambian Ministry of Education to oversee cataloguing the books with the assistance of several Beth's Girls whom he will train as library assistants. The EBZEF Library Committee, including professional librarians Lisa Hardey (Sprague High School) and B. J. Quinlan, (Children's Librarian at Salem Public Library), researched Library Science schools for interested Beth's Girls graduates. Your support can make this happen.



The EBZEF committee is working on library policies and literacy programs to share with the Lumwana West PTA/Library Committee to adapt to the needs of the village. Your support can put solar panels on the library to bring light and literacy to Lumwana West. With computers in the library/learning center, we can communicate directly with the village and connect Beth's Girls with the world at large. EBZEF is looking for partners to help move the project forward. You can help. 🌿

Volunteer Thanks

Special thanks to our hard-working volunteer Board, committee members, and website and fund-raising advisory teams. Thanks to all who made Zambia Night possible, including Willamette University and South Salem High School volunteers. Thank you to photographers Cherie Renae, McKenzie Stott, Lorenzo Lambertino, and

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. *A little goes so far:*

- \$35 books
- \$55 uniforms
- \$160 sponsors a student in grade 8
- \$105 sponsors a student in grade 9
- \$375 sponsors a student in grade 10 & 11
- \$435 sponsors a student in grade 12
- \$2,000 funds a 2-year college degree
- \$16,000 funds computers & internet
- \$20,000 funds library solar power system

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



Angela Wanak, Amber Buchanan, and Jeanette Teta, EBZEF Education Committee members, report on school projects.

3rd Annual Zambia Night

EBZEF celebrated completion of the new Lumwana West Memorial Library/ Learning Center and the arrival of books as well as Zambia Independence Day and the eve of Make A Difference Day at the Third Annual Zambia Night fundraiser, Friday, October 24. Partners Blue Pepper Café (host), Ten Thousand Villages (silent auction), and the Sisters of the Desert Moon belly dancers (entertainment) helped create a festive evening to thank generous EBZEF donors.



Eleanor Ellis and South Salem High Rotary Interact Club members host EBZEF table.

FIRST BETH'S GIRL GIVES BACK

In a milestone gesture, Mary Lundeba donated \$100 to support the EBZEF scholarship fund, insisting that "Charity begins at home, so I have to start thinking about Beth's Girls."

Nick Martin. Special thanks to Carlee Kondo for *The Protea* design and layout and to Jeremy Kraemer. 🌿

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

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December 2008





Board Members Karen Chittick and Michal Wert with guests at Portland's Day of the African Child Festival.



Books, books, books!



Salem children with pineapples (World Beat Festival); Lumwana West children with pineapples.



Executive Committee Board Members Jennifer Roney, Linda Bowers, Gerry Bowers, and Michal Wert at EBZEF Board of Directors Meeting, Summer 2008.



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.

Remembering Beth

By Daniel E. Irvine

with our neighbors--creates the peace that she so wanted to nurture.

Lumwana West is a beautiful area—lush, hilly. There was plenty for Beth to explore and learn about. In one of her letters home she described going out to work in a field with Mrs. Mwadimwansa. She marveled at the woman's strength while Beth worked up blisters on her own hands trying to keep up with the hoeing. Every day was filled with marvels, lessons, and reflections. Beth's peers admired her ability to stop and revel in something that caught her fancy, like a duck, or a half meter wide mushroom.

Beth is one of the finest examples of

sharing our culture with the rest of the world. She was a model ambassador and a strong advocate of world peace. In relation to our times, Beth was a solution. The Peace Corps family, of which Beth was a valued and beloved member, is proud to have had her amongst us. Her significant achievements, defined as much by her intent as the personal relationships she sowed with those she worked with, are lasting. Rest assured that her spirit of peace, so dear to us all, will continue to inspire us to carry on the work she felt so vital.

Dan Irvine was Beth's supervisor in the Peace Corps in the NW Province of Zambia. He is Operations & Resource Development Director for the Global Health Centre for World Vision International. Dan is a member of the EBZEF Board of Directors.

Beth's life was by all accounts a fine experience. She had great gifts. Among them were an innate happiness and a zeal for peace and harmony. Privy to the wisdom of these gifts, Beth's instinct was to share them with the rest of the world. In fact, she was in the process of defining this as the wonderful responsibility of her life.

When Beth came to Zambia she embraced this mission. She engaged Peace Corps training to become a fish farming extension agent, working amongst a rural population of subsistence farmers. She was quickly and successfully integrating into Zambian culture. In her assimilation of the local culture, Beth realized that understanding of the everyday practices of our lives--language, eating, living closely