



The Protea

Elizabeth Bowers Zambia Education Fund

Vol. II, No. I

An education scholarship program for Zambian girls and women

May 2007

Help! More Beth's Girls!

The number of scholarship recipients has risen from 65 in 2006 to 83 in 2007. Our visit to Lumwana West seemed to inspire the girls and to prove that people on the other side of the world care about them. In addition, Prudence served as an excellent role model for how education can change a life. The newly instituted tutoring program also seems to be affecting the number of girls who pass their qualifying exams.

Current figures show 41 girls in grade 8, 24 girls in grade 9, 6 girls in grade 10, 5 girls in grade 11, and 5 girls in grade 12, along with Prudence and Mary in college. Beth's Girls are most grateful for the scholarship opportunity. Priscovi Sangenjo, Grade 8, says "Education is



Beth's Girls juniors and seniors at Mwinilunga High School

very important to me. It means that a person who is educated would have a good future." Ruth Kapachi, Grade 9, adds "Education means it can help me in my life and it can help others."

Diana Mulongoti, Grade 10, urges us to "Please be patient and continue with the same spirit. I can't disappoint you

because the things which you do are very good." Also, Blessings Kazhimbala, Grade 10, insists, "If I finish my school, I will come back to Lumwana to teach my relatives, because I want girls at Lumwana to get an education." She pleads, "Please, please, don't leave us alone. If you leave us, no one does care for us."

Further insight comes from Zhaki Sampanyali, Grade 11, who tells us "I am appreciating what you have done for me because I was dormant, but for your mercy and kindness

I am now having a better life. I will continue appreciating this type of mercy which never happened to me before."

Perhaps Gift Chilombah, Grade 10, best understands the promise of EBZEF. "I am really trying to do my best in class work so that I finish my school, go to college, and become someone in the rest of my

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Congratulations High School Graduates

Dianah Masumbah and Eunice Kanema successfully passed their exams to graduate from Mwinilunga High School in 2006. EBZEF is proud of their effort and encourages them to continue with higher education. They join Prudence Masanyinga as the first Beth's Girls high school graduates.

Dianah, Deputy Head Girl at MHS, is grateful for EBZEF's support. "Other parents would not have bothered to give a golden opportunity to an African child like myself." She says, "You don't segregate. I really appreciate the heart of indiscrimination." Dianah promises that "this has taught me a lesson which, if God




Dianah Masumbah



Eunice Kanema

is willing, I will exercise too—people of high dignity caring for a child like myself." She is a good example to other girls.

Eunice is one of the original Beth's Girls. She repeated 12th grade to benefit from the newly instituted EBZEF tutoring program so she could graduate. Eunice says she has learned the importance of education. "My intention is to complete school and go on to college as I am following Beth's model. I will fulfill my promise and become a role model for the younger Beth's Girls and encourage them to seek a higher degree of education."

Eunice sends "warm greetings to all who know me as Beth's Girl. Never you stop encouraging me because you have proved to be my aid." EBZEF is making a difference in Beth's Girls' lives. 

Congratulations Mary

Mary Lundeba's studies at Penn State University in Fisheries Science have been outstanding--except for a snag in Statistics. EBZEF is supporting Mary's work with a tutor. As a result, she is getting better grades in Statistics than the tutor himself! She is also teaching and conducting labs for undergraduates and had a second article published



Mary's first winter at Penn State

this spring. Mary has just been awarded a PEO International Peace Scholarship.

As a primary role model, Mary offers a word to Beth's girls: "Let us make good use of this rare opportunity. Remember,

"Help!" Cont'd from page 1

life. When I will be educated I will stand for my people who are in our area. As a young girl from Lumwana West and my fellow young girls, we want to work hard together so that our parents will be pleased with us and you too. Many of our people from Lumwana West are not all that educated. So it is our duty to work hard for them so that our area will be developed."

we must help to sustain EBZEF. We can do this by using our education to hold influential positions in the interest of less privileged girls in Lumwana West and in Zambia as a whole."

Mary appreciates EBZEF's support. "I run short of words to express gratitude; sometimes I wonder what could have become of me without all this great help--you just refuel me and keep me going. You inspire me to work harder." EBZEF is proud of the efforts of our "first born Zambian daughter," as Mary refers to herself. Mary will be conducting field research at PSU this summer. 🌿

Supporting Beth's Girls enables the village to send more orphans who would not have had a chance of getting into school. The program has created excitement, not only among the girls, but among the parents as well.

These are Beth's Girls. This is the vision your donations support. With more girls we need more funds. Please help us to insure that no girl gets left behind. 🌿

Big things are happening at EBZEF

New Board Member

EBZEF welcomes Karen Chittick as a new member of the Board of Directors. Karen is the Associate Director for Academic Services at Tokyo International University of America. As an all-volunteer, working board, we appreciate Karen's willingness to help us support Beth's Girls. 🌿

Story on WU Website

Nadene Steinhoff's article is now on the Willamette University home page in circulation with five other stories. Hit "more stories" if it does not come up first at www.willamette.edu. The story has also been picked up on the Internal Peace Corps website. 🌿

Rotary Literacy Grant

The Salem Rotary Literacy Committee, chaired by Eric Kittelson, has awarded EBZEF a \$2,000 grant to send books to the memorial library. We hope to begin shipping in mid-May. Interested contributors may request a copy of our book collection policy. 🌿

News Page on Website

Beth's Girls' website now includes a regularly updated news page. Web mistress Allison Towers has also established on-line donation capacity for EBZEF. Watch for Automated Clearing House (ACH) monthly payment options coming soon at www.bethsgirls.org. 🌿

Prudence's Progress



Receiving scholarship funds from EBZEF Board Member Mr. Fordson Kafweku, WVI

Prudence Masanyinga, EBZEF's first high school graduate, is successfully pursuing her education in community participation at Chalimbana Government Training Institute in Lusaka. She has applied for an internship with World Vision Zambia, hoping to work with Esther Nkumbwa, ADP manager in Mwinilunga. Prudence will focus on Beth's Girls as she seeks ways to "give back" to and encourage the women of her village. 🌿

Thank you

to our generous donors who support the education of Beth's Girls. Every dollar you donate goes directly to help the young women of Lumwana West.

EBZEF Receives Tax Exempt Status

EBZEF is now a tax exempt public charity with 501 (c) (3) status from the Internal Revenue Service, thanks to the expertise of Attorney Kevin Mayne. All donations from March 8, 2006 are fully tax deductible. Donations go directly to Beth's Girls, as family funds pay administrative costs. 🌿

MP Katuka to Visit Library



Hon. Stephen Katuka

The honorable Mr. Stephen Katuka, member of Parliament from the Mwinilunga District, will visit Lumwana West to inspect the memorial library project. The village is one of 13 wards which compose the Hon. Katuka's constituency. A retired army officer, Mr. Katuka has lived in Mwinilunga since childhood. 🌿

Rotary Interact Club

Eleanor Ellis and Rosemary Dorman of South Salem High School are fund-raising in support of EBZEF through the Rotary Interact Club. Rosemary says, "We were looking for an international project through which we could directly help individuals in need. The mission of your organization is especially powerful for us because Beth's Girls are high school students like us who want an education just like we do."



Elena Johansen, Quinn Tolosa-James, Valerie Pitalo, Eleanor Ellis, Trinh Nguyen, and Rosemary Dorman

Eleanor adds, "We are also excited that we can write to the students, know their names, and see their pictures. If you are told that African girls are underprivileged, you can disregard it as another of the world's problems, but when you hear that Prudence Masanyinga is the only high school graduate in a whole village of bright young girls, then you want to take action." These young women have acted.

South Salem High has responded generously to the Club's project.

Give a life-altering gift for 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:*

- \$10 Basic School exam fees
- \$20 Basic School tuition
- \$35 books or Basic exam tutoring
- \$55 uniforms
- \$75 Senior exam tutoring
- \$210 HS tuition, room & board
- \$2,000 two-year college degree
- \$24,000 library/community center

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

New Faces, New Partnerships

New ADP Manager

Esther Nkumbwa, new WorldVision Zambia Area Development Program manager in Mwinilunga, will be EBZEF's agent for dispensing scholarship funds to Lumwana West Basic and Mwinilunga High Schools. Esther is from Monze and speaks English, Luvale, Tonga, and Nyanja.



Esther Nkumbwa

Ms. Nkumbwa has a BS degree from the University of Zambia with certificates of education for both primary and secondary schools. She is also certified in HIV/AIDS Psychosocial Counseling from Monze Hospital.

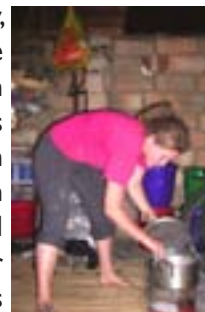
Esther has worked as a lecturer at Zambia College of Agriculture, as a psychosocial counselor at Monze Mission Hospital, and as acting ADP manager in Monze and Magoye. She is an excellent role model for Beth's Girls.

New WVZ Director

EBZEF welcomes Dr. Charles Owubah as National Director of World Vision Zambia. Previously, Dr. Owubah worked in Washington, D. C., as Director for Operations for the HIV & AIDS Team. He worked with privately funded HIV/AIDS programs and evaluated WV HIV/AIDS programs in Africa.

PC Volunteer Shift

Jessica Hillsley, 23, the new Peace Corps Volunteer in Lumwana West, is excited to work with us on the Elizabeth Bowers Memorial Library as agent for the Peace Corps Partnership Program.



Jessica Hillsley

From Longmont, Colorado, Jessica is an International Relations and Journalism graduate of Indiana University.

Jessica replaces RPCV Bob Wilder who initiated the project with PCPP and has supported EBZEF's work in the village. Like Beth, Jessica will be an inspiration to Beth's Girls, encouraging them by example to pursue their education.

As Peace Corps Zambia Country Director Cindy Threlkeld observes, "So the cycle continues."

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: _____ *To:* _____

Name _____ 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
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 503-585-4605

May 2007
www.bethsgirls.org

A good way to make a difference in a young woman's life and a community's future



One of Beth's fish ponds

Contribute online
at
www.bethsgirls.org



Automatic monthly payment
option coming soon



Beth's girls class in session

*"Beautiful ones are
yet to be born."*

The Elizabeth Bowers Zambia Education Fund

*One life made the
connection.*



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

Dear Linda and Gerry,

On Memorial Day, our nation remembered the service of the brave men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice for the freedoms we enjoy as Americans. In that spirit of remembrance, I stood before the plaque in the lobby of Peace Corps headquarters on which is etched the names of the Americans, including Beth, who died while serving as Peace Corps Volunteers, and said a silent prayer in honor of their service and sacrifice.

Just last week, I learned of your very generous donation in support of the educational goals that Beth was committed

to as a Volunteer in Zambia. Beth's spirit will remain alive in the Zambian students who will be the beneficiaries of your largesse.

As you know, I had been Director of the Peace Corps for only a few weeks when Beth died, and although I never met her, I came to know of her generosity of spirit. That spirit has resonated within me to this day, and I can assure you that Beth will always remain in my thoughts and prayers.

Sincerely,

Gaddi H. Vasques, Former Director
Peace Corps

WU Student Volunteers

Willamette University students Lindsay Dygert, layout designer, and Oliver Donaldson, photo editor, have worked both semesters on newsletters, the brochure, and the calendar. Acacia McGuire has researched the MIT laptop program for third world countries. Elspeth DeShaw helped with cataloguing letters and photos from Beth's Girls.

EBZEF is fortunate to have such inspiring support. Gerry Bowers observes that "people are gathering to EBZEF because the idea of Beth and Beth's idea are so real."