

December 1, 2006

The ZAMBIAN CHILDREN'S FUND

Chishawasha Newsletter

Update on Chishawasha

Our new six classroom school building is complete and the children now are attending classes there. We continue to have Kindergarten, 1st grade, a beginning accelerated class and a middle accelerated class with children ranging in age from five to sixteen. The two spare classrooms are being used as a kitchen and a dining room, so that we can easily feed all 50 of the children coming from the surrounding area breakfast and lunch. It has made everything so much easier now that we do not have Kindergarten in the living room of one house and First Grade in the other and we don't have to be cooking all day in the kitchen of one of the houses.

While I was in Zambia this summer, we decided to enlarge the school bathrooms to include showers because so many of the children who walk to our school every morning do not have access to the luxury of running water. The Boys Room has four showers and the Girls Room has four showers. We hired the grandmother of a couple of our students to wash towels from the showers on a regular basis. All we need now are towels. We will be happy to accept good new or used towels at the office in Tucson so the children can dry off before they put on their school clothes (yes, it is another luxury, but it feels so much nicer!)

We now have about 70 children attending our school, with another 10 of our children attending secondary school off campus.

By the time I left Zambia in early September we had set out the placement of the foundations for the three new houses, had started digging the trenches and were making the blocks. Each of the new houses will have three bedrooms and two bathrooms. Two of the houses will shelter 8 to 10 new children. The third new house is located closer to the school and will initially be used as a clinic for all of the children living in our houses and attending our school.



Ben is 16

Former Tucsonans, Bob Garrett, M.D., and Mary Hotvedt, Ph.D., (in Family Therapy) have volunteered to come to Zambia to open the clinic and run it until June 2007. They visited Chishawasha this past August and made arrangements with SOS Children's Village of Zambia to run our clinic under the auspices of the SOS Clinic.

If you are a Medical Doctor, a Nurse, or other health professional and would be able to volunteer for six months to two years in Zambia please contact us. (520-323-2504)

Ben & Amos join the CCHZ Family

Bernard, called Ben, came to live with us at CCHZ in January 2006. He was sixteen and had never attended school. He was orphaned at eight months and had survived by moving from family to family all his life. His grandmother had too many other orphans to raise and was never able to keep him for more than a few months at a time. When a child cannot settle down to live with one family in Zambia all hope of eating regular meals or getting an education is out of the question.

With that history, one might expect to find an angry, uncooperative, teenager. Ben is anything but; he is helpful, hard working and now that he has a home, a very happy young man. In fact, he is probably the best dancer and choreographer at Chishawasha.

When we heard Ben's Grandmother needed to find a place for one of Ben's cousins, we offered to take him in. In August, we surprised Ben by bringing Amos to CCHZ. Ben was working in the garden when he looked up and saw Amos in the truck. He left the garden running and followed the truck to the house, where he literally lifted Amos out of the back.



Amos is 12

The Ambuya Project

On occasion I read Zambian newspapers over the internet to stay up-to-date on what's happening in Zambia while I am in the U.S. I recently read that there are now more than two million orphaned children in Zambia. One in every three Zambian children is an orphan -- and one in every five Zambian citizens is an orphaned child.

While I was recently visiting with the ZCF working group in Ithaca, New York, they decided they wanted to help grandparents who are struggling to support orphaned grandchildren in Zambia. They decided to call it The Ambuya Project (ambuya means grandmother in Nyanja) and to encourage everyone, men, women or children, to "join hands with Zambian Grandmothers" and become an "Honorary Ambuya".

The Zambian Children's Fund for years now has been working with Zambian grandparents helping them to feed and educate their grandchildren in our Home Based Support Program. We hire grandparents with orphaned children whenever we can. Many of the children living with us at Chishawasha were brought to us when their grandmother was diagnosed with a terminal illness. Through The Ambuya Project, we hope to be able to expand our work with grandparents to help them raise and educate even more children.

We are asking for a donation of \$100 or more to become an "Honorary Ambuya". Each Honorary Ambuya will be sent a card congratulating them on becoming an Ambuya, a pin to help spread the word and two newsletters a year about Zambian Ambuyas, their grandchildren and how they are being helped by the Ambuya Project.

We hope people from all over the U.S. will want to help the Zambian grandmothers. In addition to becoming an Ambuya yourself, we encourage you to give it as a gift to your own parent, grandparent or friends.

The initial brochure for the Ambuya Project is enclosed for your own use, or feel free to pass it along. If you have any questions, or would like additional brochures, write, call (520-323-2504), or e-mail us at zambiancf@yahoo.com.

We're filling our container....

Last call for items to be shipped to Zambia! We are planning to finish packing boxes to go into our container in January so we can send off the container in February. We will have messages about packing days on our telephone machine and Barby will be contacting everyone who is on her volunteer list to set specific packing days. There are still a few items we would like to include in this container:

Radio flyer wagons to help in the gardens
Old fashioned T type outdoor clothes lines
Wire clothes hangers
5 shelf, steel storage racks
(or other easily dismantled shelves)

Mosquito nets and/or net fabric
Wire spring, wooden clothes pins
Metal zippers & sewing notions

ZCF Calendar

December in Tucson

- 2 We will be selling Zambian crafts at
the **Guamap Holiday Art Sale**
at: 1991 W. Calle Campana de Plata
- 2 & 3 St. Michael's Episcopal Church
Advent International Bazaar
602 North Wilmot
- 8, 9 & 10 Come visit us at the
4th Avenue Street Fair



Zambian Children's Fund
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Return Service Requested

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*Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot,
nothing is going to get better, it's not.*

~ The Lorax, by Dr. Suess