



ZAMBIAN CHILDREN'S FUND

CHISHAWASHA NEWSLETTER



SEPTEMBER 2011—PUBLISHED QUARTERLY

VOLUME XII • NUMBER 4

Make A Difference Day

This year, the Zambia Children's Fund is hosting "Make a Difference Day" on Saturday, October 22, 2011. We will be collecting children's clothing, shoes, school supplies, books and old jewelry. The event will be held from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall at Rincon Congregational Church, located at 122 North Craycroft, Building 4, Tucson, AZ. We are asking donors to bring all donations by 1:00 so we have sufficient time to pack everything, for later shipment to the Chishawasha Children's Home of Zambia.

More specifically, the items we need are gently used or new children's clothing (for ages 4 to 18), shoes, school supplies, books in English for all ages and grade levels, linens, fabric and metal zippers, old jewelry (our girls turn it into new jewelry using beads and seeds), household items, kitchen wares (non-electric) and musical instruments. Soccer shoes and uniforms are always welcome. For more information, visit our website at www.zambianchildrens-fund.org or call us at (520) 323-2504.

If you have a large vehicle or truck, we will need help transporting the packed boxes to our storage unit



PHOTO: CCHZ

Linda & Iness with their new clothes!

after 1:00 p.m., and strong adults who can lift heavy boxes.

We will have experienced packers to train volunteers to sort, count and box all of the donations as they come in. Invite your family and friends and make a day of it...or come for an hour

or two. If you only have time to drop off your donations, they will also be greatly appreciated.

Together all of us can **Make a Difference** for orphaned children in Zambia.

Peggy Njlovu has a Dream!

KATHE PADILLA

One of the nicest things to happen this summer in Zambia, was a visit by Peggy Njlovu. You may remember Peggy's story when she came to Chishawasha in July of 2001. Initially, she told me she had no siblings and was left alone after her parents died. She was a quiet, shy girl of 12 who was always very helpful around the house. Then in October, she confessed she had a brother who really needed to come to CCHZ, so we took him in. In January, she confessed to a sister, who was also taken in. By that time, I realized Peggy was a very brave young woman who came to live with a strange white woman who was taking in orphaned children and was being the family guinea pig to ensure the safety of her younger siblings. Eventually, Peggy's youngest sister, Charity, came to live at CCHZ once we had built the two big houses on our current campus outside the city. Charity is still living with us and is in our 9th grade class.

Peggy is no longer living with us because she graduated from high school and chose not to go into a skills program. In 2010, she found a job as a clerk in a primary school in Lusaka, but after working most of the year she realized that was not what she wanted to do with her life.

When I first brought a little hand-cranked sewing machine to our house in Lusaka, Peggy immediately started sewing. In all the years she spent at Chishawasha, Peggy was the most prolific seamstress we had. She regularly made and designed clothes for herself, her younger sisters and even some of the other children. She was a sewing wizard!



PHOTO: CCHZ

Peggy and the bags she made with her new machine

When Peggy came to visit, she was wearing a dress she had designed and sewn herself, and she brought purses and several bags she was hoping we would buy for resale at our store. She told me she had realized that designing and sewing really was what she wanted to do with her life and she was trying to raise the K3,000,000 (\$650) it will cost her to go to college and major in fashion design in January 2012. I had always tried to encourage her to go into some kind of business where she could use her sewing skills, so I was delighted to order 10 purses and 10 shopping bags from her to sell here in the States. I also told her that if she could raise the first K1,000,000 (\$200), I would try to raise the rest of the costs for her.

After further discussion, Peggy told me she had to pay a "friend" by the hour in order to use her sewing machine to make things. I then e-mailed home to Tucson about Peggy and asked if anyone was willing to put up the \$200 to buy Peggy a sewing machine. The couple who had sponsored Peggy for years immediately volunteered to buy her a new machine.

The best day I had this summer in Zambia was the day Peggy and I went to town and bought her a pretty new Singer treadle sewing machine with an attached motor (for when electricity is available). We drove Peggy home to a neat little house in a very poor compound and unloaded her sewing machine. Her bedroom has a tiny single bed,

continued on back



PHOTO: CCHZ

Peggy and her new Machine

We Want to Build a Secondary School

We have been talking for years about the possibility of building a secondary school for Chishawasha students. There are a number of good reasons to build one. First, secondary schools are very expensive in Zambia and if we have twenty or more students needing to go to a secondary school off-campus, it will cost us over \$50,000 a year, and the costs of transportation would be an additional \$20,000 to \$25,000 a year. Currently we have 22 students in our 9th grade class.

The most important reason to build, however, is the quality of education. In Zambia, even schools that cost thousands of dollars a year frequently have very low standards. We want to prepare all our students to be well-educated, hard-working adults. Furthermore, we would like all our students to receive good skills training while they are in secondary school, which is not available in most schools in Zambia.

A local tribe has granted us 25 acres of land for a school, three kilometers off the paved road, about 15 K from the current CCHZ campus, but they want us to start building on it as soon as possible. There are huge mango trees on the property and we will start farming it at the beginning of the rainy season in October. We will always keep part of the land for farming, as we do at our current campus, and will be able to sell the excess produce.

The reason we have not yet started building the school is financial. We need to have a stronger donor base in the U.S., Canada and in Zambia before committing to a project of this size. We will need funding for water, electricity, and classrooms (\$25,000 each), but we especially need donors

willing to make a commitment for 5, 10, or more years, to ensure the school will be able to continue educating our children. For this to be possible, ZCF is looking for individuals, corporations, foundations and other groups to commit to donating \$1,000 to \$50,000 each year, so we have a solid base from which to build. If you would like more information about plans and budgets for the new secondary school, please contact us and we will be happy to forward information to you.

As the orphanage and school grow we have been working very hard at Chishawasha to create projects capable of being profitable and help us become self-sustainable. This year, we realized the laying hens were costing us more than purchasing eggs on the open market. We are now purchasing day-old chicks and selling them when they are five or six weeks old as fryers. They have made a profit for us almost from day one. We expect to make \$4,000 from the sale of chickens this year. In addition hundreds of chickens are used as food for the houses and the school. Since we did not start raising chickens until May, we hope to be able to double our profits in 2012.

An unexpected source of sales for our store in Mumbwa came in May when we realized local farmers wanted to sell us their corn for half the price the government will pay because they need immediate cash. Farmers do not have the means to transport their corn, and then have to wait for months to get paid by the government. Once we realized how profitable this could be, we purchased 640 bags. This year we made more than \$2,500. Next year, we hope to

purchase even more and continue to build this business in Mumbwa.

Once we have the skills programs in place at the Secondary School, we expect to be able to create new businesses, as we teach the children additional skills. Classes will include automotive repair, culinary skills, construction, childcare, etc.

For The Zambian Children's Fund to undertake this next important step we look to you, our partners, to spread the word and help by pledging your support. Together we can take this important step.

MEMORIAL

We were deeply saddened to learn of the recent passing of Gladys Collins. Gladys was a dear friend and supporter of The Zambian Children's Fund, who served as a dedicated Board member from 2004 until 2010. Gladys came to sort and pack donations faithfully every week for several years until her health prevented her from making the long drive from Green Valley, AZ. Many of you also received handwritten thank you notes from Gladys, which she did for years. She loved building relationships with our many donors. Gladys always talked about her beloved husband Fred, her wonderful family, and also the African family they helped to support for many years, who finally came to the U.S. Her joy for life, sense of humor and love of her Church were constants. We are so grateful to have known her. She blessed our lives and will always be carried in our hearts.

a little dresser and just enough room for the sewing machine. We were both so excited. Peggy proclaimed "now I can sew all night and will be happy forever!"

If you would like to make a donation to help Peggy with college tuition, please mark your check Scholarship Fund. Any funds raised above Peggy's school costs will go to help our four other students who will be attending college in 2012.



KIDS HELPING KIDS

Lilly Koren, age 8, and Grace Kurban, age 9, of Denver CO were inspired this summer to help the children at Chishawasha. When they found out there would be a home tour in their neighborhood, they set up a lemonade stand for charity. They made a big poster about the orphanage and set up on a prime corner. With help from Grace's mother Kim, her younger sister Jules and little brother Noah, they made \$85 to send to ZCF. Lilly and Grace challenge other kids to see how they can help at their school or in their neighborhoods. For ideas and help call Barby Goldschmid (520) 237-8881.



**Give to ZCF through
United Way at work.**

Would you prefer to receive your ZCF Newsletter via e-mail? Please email us at info@zambianchildrensfund.org if you wish to be added to the list.

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Mission Statement:

To provide support for the care, education and development of Zambian orphans to become healthy, productive members of society.

Zambian Children's Fund founded the Chishawasha Children's Home, located near Lusaka, Zambia. Chishawasha is an orphanage and school that raises 94 children in 8 houses and educates 155 children in our primary school. In addition, we support another 10 children in secondary schools throughout Zambia.



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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. SEUSS**

Visit our website: www.zambianchildrensfund.org