



The Protea

Elizabeth Bowers Zambia Education Fund

Vol. IV No. 3

An education scholarship program for Zambian girls and women

December 2009

Beth's Girls' Goals

The number of Beth's Girls on EBZEF scholarship in 2009 is 75, with 29 in Grade 8, 26 in Grade 9, 5 in Grade 10, 7 in Grade 11, 5 in Grade 12, and 3 in tertiary schools. Your support makes it possible for Beth's Girls to forge new dreams and work toward a better future for themselves and for their community. Their career dreams range from nurses, doctors, and teachers to lawyers, police officers, and soldiers. One wants to become an engineer; another a reporter. A 13-year-old would-be agriculturalist, Anita Kasawan, says, "I want to help my village to produce different kinds of food."

These young women face significant educational challenges. Several list poverty, home chores, lack of materials to read, living at a far distance from the school, and how to get to school during the rainy season. Grace Kashila (grade 8, age 15) admits to being "a bit too playful." Melba Chitaua (grade 9, age 13) laments a "lack of power during the night. I use three candles every night, which is expensive." Mary Moloshi (grade 8, age 13) concurs: "I have too many subjects and limited study time because I don't have electricity."

Beth's Girls' Achievements



Angela Kasongo has been honored with the position of House Captain (Prefect). Kutemba Njolomba (grade 10, Mukinge High) is getting distinctions in her exams. Dianah Masumbah is successfully completing her first year at Solwezi College of Education. Angela Kasongo hopes to continue the internship phase of her study in Food Production at the Solwezi Mining complex. Sandra Kamulosu will graduate in December with a certificate in Secretarial Work and Office Management from the Solwezi Trades



Beth's Girls celebrate Memorial Library dedication

Training Institute. Prudence Masanyinga has been hired to work for World Vision Zambia as a Community Development Worker in the NW Province.

Headmaster Mbongo Njolomba insists that "we should not forget that even those of our girls who have not managed to go on to professional training and may be house wives are saying that the knowledge that they got through the scholarship is benefiting them very much in issues like home management, family hygiene, family planning, family budgeting, subsistence farming, and small business ventures that keep their families going."

Any education Beth's Girls receive beyond grade 7 is a mark of success for the EBZEF Scholarship Fund. It is their hope for the future.

Grace also cites a "lack of models to encourage me." Bridget Mutanga (grade 9, age 16) agrees: "My parents are illiterate. There are no educated peers in my home." "Sometimes you find that your parent has died" says Fridah Sakuwunda (grade 8, age 16). Stella Masanyinga adds, "My parents died when I was 4 years old, so it's hard to find groceries.

My grandma sells fruits at the market." Mildred Mukwakwa (grade 9, age 16) confides, "I have poor hearing; I try sitting in front of the class."

These young women want to "give back" to their community. Lebelina Kababa (grade 9, age 17) says she wants "to make sure that all of [her family] should be educated so that it can help them to become independent." Grace wishes "to develop the area by helping the young ones." Muyamba Kasonga (grade 8, age 14) insists "I want each child to go to school so that we can build a better village." World Vision Zambia Mwinilunga Area Development Program Manager Esther Nkumbwa adds "Thanks so much for the support and making the girls of Lumwana's dreams a reality."

Thank you

to our generous donors who support the education of Beth's Girls. 100% of your donation goes directly to EBZEF programs. Our Founding Supporters pay overhead costs.

Donate online at <www.bethsgirls.org>



Sandra Kamulosu, Prudence Masanyinga, and Dianah Masumbah

In Memoriam Grandma Helen Bowers



Grandma Helen and Beth

Helen Bowers, mother of Gerry Bowers, grandmother of Elizabeth Bowers, passed away at the age of 104 on November 10, 2009, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. As an elementary teacher for many decades, Helen was a major benefactor to EBZEF.

Helen funded the Memorial Library project and supported the scholarship program for Beth's Girls. EBZEF celebrates her long, productive life. We will miss her.

Volunteer Thanks

Thank you to our dedicated Board and Committee members, our wide-ranging Volunteers, and everyone who helped to make EBZEF's 4th Annual Zambia Night a success. Special thanks to the Beth's Girls Club from South Salem High School, to the Pi Beta Phi sorority from Willamette University, and to Tokyo International University of America students for outstanding help and support. Special thanks to Cassandra Farrin for this issue's PROTEA design and layout.

4th Annual Zambia Night Celebration

Thank you to all EBZEF friends and supporters who attended and supported the fall fund-raiser. The Baskets for Beth Silent Auction, created by Liesa Kister, was a huge success. The Zambia Market, the EBZEF booth with hot ground nuts, the Children's Corner, the Library and Education displays, and the AfriLink Corporation's donated African wine-tasting corner all added to the festive Zambia community atmosphere of the evening. The Solar Challenge Grant appeal moved the thermometer over halfway to its goal.

Dr. Brian's Temple's presentation on

Farewell Jennifer Roney

Farewell and thank-you to Jennifer Roney who served EBZEF well as Treasurer and Chair of the Finance Committee from 2007-2009. Jennifer's contributions to EBZEF have moved our program forward significantly.

Welcome Leonard Kelly

New Board Member Leonard Kelly will serve as EBZEF Treasurer. He is Vice-President of American Baptist Homes Foundation, headquartered in Pleasanton, California, and is



experienced in working with non-profits and as a Certified Fund Raising Executive. Leonard and his wife Linda have strong ties to the Salem community.

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

5th Annual Africa Week

Willamette University Africa Club's annual event will occur from February 15-20, 2010, with activities, speakers, African market, dance, music, a giant Africa puzzle and more.

the issues women face in remote rural villages in Africa was a reality check on the hardships Beth's Girls face as well. The new EBZEF video shared the results of our latest efforts in Lumwana West and the dedication of the Elizabeth Bowers Memorial Library. The Artemis Tribal Belly Dancers were back by popular demand, with special sword, veil, and basket dances. Mark Powers' Kola Nuts Percussion Ensemble, performing for the first time for Zambia Night, was a great hit! Emcee Bob Kister wove the evening together artfully. The Blue Pepper Gallery was our gracious host.

CONGRATULATIONS



Mary Lundeba, PhD

EBZEF's first Beth's Girl, Mary Lundeba, graduated from Penn State University on August 15, 2009, with a PhD in Fisheries Science. After three years of study in the US, Mary has returned to Zambia to her two sons, Terry (8) and Terrah (15). She was welcomed home in September by an extended family celebration. She insists that "I must go back and see what I can do towards the development of my country."

Fordson Kafweku, M. A.



EBZEF Board Member Fordson Kafweku graduates with an M.A. in Organization Leadership from Eastern University

in St. Davids, Pennsylvania, on December 10, 2009. Fordson is Operations Director for World Vision Zambia in Lusaka. Fordson serves EBZEF as a member of the Intercultural Advisory Committee.



Baskets for Beth Silent Auction

Library Use

Without a professional librarian, the Library is not fully open to the public. It is currently used as a school library with each class at Lumwana West Basic School (LWBS) spending an hour a day in the library under teacher supervision. The teachers use the library heavily for research. While Mr. Njolomba says the library makes teaching "much easier," a student-teacher ratio of 100:1 holds everyone back.

Mrs. Doris Kangulu, the Beth's Girls

Librarian's House



The Ministry of Education promises to pay the librarian's salary if EBZEF and the Lumwana West community build a librarian's house. When the house is complete, the LWLC will renew its membership with elections from the community. The committee has worked hard for three years to build, furnish, and supply the new library and the librarian's house. Without the dedicated partnership of the people of the village, the Memorial Library would not exist.

LIBRARY NEWS

Matron from LWBS, functions as volunteer Assistant Librarian to oversee limited community use during daylight hours. Pressure from outside the community is growing. The library committee has begun to assess external use at K5,000 (\$1.00) per visit. Both library and librarian's house need pit latrines. The committee sees outside use of the library as a fund-raising opportunity for the latrine project.

Librarian Search

Mr. Njolomba, Headmaster of LWBS, reports that Sandra Kamulosu, a Beth's Girl who is currently finishing up a Secretarial and Office Management course at Solwezi Trades Training Institute, has requested to go on to library school, an option not offered when she graduated from Mwinilunga High School. She will finish her current course in December and begin her studies at Zamtel in January. Sandra is accepted into the library program and should take her position as librarian at Lumwana West in July 2010. Sandra is a role model for Beth's Girls.



EBZEF's Library Committee will design special literacy programs for the early stages of library use. The Lumwana West Library Committee (LWLC) welcomes our efforts which they will adapt to the needs of their community. Such programs might grow into Beth's Girls teaching their own parents how to read and write. When the library is lighted with solar power, programs can continue into the evening hours.

Solar Challenge Grant

Help EBZEF meet a challenge grant of \$5,000 for a solar electric system for the Memorial Library. Every \$1 donated generates \$2 to bring Light and Literacy to Lumwana West. Imagine a well-lit place for people of all ages to learn to read and write after a long day at school or working in the fields. Generous donations so far total \$3,875.



CHALLENGE DEADLINE: DEC 31ST!



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
- \$70 uniforms
- \$160 sponsors a student in grade 8
- \$105 sponsors a student in grade 9
- \$280 sponsors a student in grade 10
- \$208 sponsors a student in grade 11
- \$350 sponsors a student in grade 12
- \$2,000 funds a two-year college degree
- \$16,000 funds computers & internet
- \$24,000 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.

or

Yes! I want to support Light and Literacy for Lumwana West
 I have enclosed a donation of _____ As a gift

From:

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____

To:

Name _____

Address _____

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

December 2009





Wild Zambia poinsettia.



Little drummer girls.

Jordan Martin, Tai White-Toney, Madeleine Tweedt, and Kelsey Lund at Zambia Night EBZEF booth.



Lumwana West community explores the library offerings.



Baobab tree.



TIUA girls in kimonos at Zambia Night.

You can help give Beth's Girls the gift of education this holiday season. Invite 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.

Remembering Beth

Dedication of the Elizabeth Bowers Memorial Library By Cassandra Farrin

As the heads of those gathered bowed for a moment of silence during the dedication ceremony last July, a wind swept through the village of Lumwana West. Beth's presence was tangible, bringing with her a renewal of her dream of global peace and understanding.

"Our daughter has taught us much," said Linda Bowers in her dedicatory remarks, "and now our Zambian daughters must teach your families much. And so the Library is a gift to you, to the Lumwana West community, from Beth."



Library Dedication Speech, July 9th, 2009

Speaking of Beth, High Chief Sai'lunga remarked, "We should love this friend of ours who has brought such beautiful things to us. There are no riches that surpass education." Gerry Bowers also spoke on education as he called his daughter's spirit into everyone's thoughts. "Education is not easy" he said, "but it is the answer to many of our

problems. When you educate yourself, you are with Beth's spirit." Recalling the song of Beth's Girls as they entered the dedication site, he said "You are 'Marching in the Light of God.'"