



The Protea

Elizabeth Bowers Zambia Education Fund

Vol. VIII No. 1

An education scholarship program for Zambian girls and women

May 2013

Getting to Know Beth's Girls

Term 1, 2013, has 17 girls in Grade 9, 9 girls in Grade 10, 10 girls in Grade 11, and 7 girls in Grade 12. Two Beth's Girls are at Mukenge School for Girls and four are in college for a total of 49 Beth's Girls on scholarships. You are creating new futures for young women in Lumwana West, NW Zambia.

Asked about their village, Peggi Chilumbu (Age 15, Grade 9) replied, "In our community there is co-operation. We live as a Christian community, and we love and help each other." Christabel Ntambu

(Age 15, Grade 8) added, "My community is very good because people work hard when there is a project."

The roles of village women include cooking, washing, sweeping, farming, cutting fire wood for cooking, pounding cassava, fetching water, taking care of children, selling goods along the road, and "telling their children good behavior to not insult their elders" (Giveness Kombe, Age 15, Grade 9). Memory Manda (Age 15, Grade 9) adds, "Women carry their



Secondary School Beth's Girls at Mwinilunga HS

babies on their backs, and they always carry heavy loads on their heads."

Beth's Girls' roles in the village include "Encouraging my fellow friends to study hard" (Gloria Njolomba, Age 13, Grade 8). Christabel says, "When there is a project I carry stones and fetch water." "I go to the pre-school and teach them songs. And I go in the village to work for the old people," adds Florence Lubeba (Age 14, Grade 9). Gracious Moloka (Age 16, Grade 9) insists, "I play an important role of encouraging women and girls to stand on their own not depending on their husbands."

Sarah Katoka (Age 15, Grade 9) notes, "Education is very important to me because without education I will be dust, suffering here in the village for the rest of my life." Gloria speaks for Beth's Girls, "I want to thank you for supporting me, and I am praying that almighty God may fill up your houses and businesses with blessings. Long live people in the USA!" You are helping to change lives on the other side of the world. ☺

Beth's College Girls



Prudence in her WVZ office

Prudence Masanyinga works for World Vision Zambia's Lunga Area Development program as a community development facilitator. She is in year 3 of a 5-year program in sociology from Mulungushi University. Prudence is a premier role model for younger Beth's Girls.

Justina Salumawu has two terms left in her 3-year program in radiography at Evelyn Hone College. She is happy working with patients to make a difference in effective health care. Her sister, Julia Salumawu, is in her first year at the same college studying physiotherapy.



Priscovia Sangenjo

Priscovia Sangenjo works hard at Teachers College in Solwezi. She will write her exams next term in preparation for practice teaching in 2014. She studies Zambian languages with orthography approved by the Ministry of Education. ☺

Thank you
to our generous donors who support the education of Beth's Girls. 100% of donations goes directly to EBZEF programs. Our Founding Supporters pay overhead costs.
Donate online at www.bethsgirls.org.

Mary Moves to Angola

Mary Lundeba has accepted a challenging career-developing opportunity to become Aquaculture Project Manager at the Ministry of Agriculture in Angola. She is helping with interior reconstruction of the country by establishing a new national fisheries program.

She says, "I arrived in Angola on a chartered plane on February 20, with 7,000 baby fish for stocking the first 10 fish ponds. I'm a traveler, but never in my life have I had a thunderous welcome like the one I got here! I felt like a Hollywood star."

As a PhD in Fisheries Science from Penn State, Mary adds, "I'm very happy with this project because I get to put what I have learnt into practice, and, most importantly, it's a food security program. Once fish farms are established, we will then start training the rural communities how to grow fish." Mary will make a major difference in Angola's ecology, food production, and economy. ☺



Mary Lundeba

EBZEF to Begin New Phase in Lumwana West

With your support the past ten years, EBZEF has created a viable program for education and literacy in the remote village of Lumwana West in NW Zambia. The Zambian Ministry of Education (MOE) pays for educating children through grade 7. Most cannot afford to continue their schooling. Lumwana West maintains a Basic School through Grade 9. Grade 10-12 students attend a distant boarding school, a hardship which prevents students from completing their education, especially girls.



Beth's Girls in EBZEF T-shirts in 2006

Over 308 Beth's Girls have received scholarships from EBZEF. In 2002, only four girls attended secondary school. In 2012 alone, 43 girls attended secondary school and 9 girls pursued higher education under EBZEF scholarships. To complete our vision of providing a sustainable educational program in the village, EBZEF is working to help establish a secondary school. This is important since the MOE now intends to provide basic education only through grade 7. Grades 8 and 9 will need to attend boarding school to continue their education. ☞

A Vision for Education

From 2002–2007 we established the EBZEF scholarship program, enlisted a responsible partner to ensure funding accountability (World Vision Zambia), and developed an education-focused donor base. We helped define the image of Beth's Girls as responsible community members, pledging, like Beth, to "give back" to the village in a significant way. Your support made this possible.

The next five years, 2008–2012, EBZEF continued the scholarship program and built the Elizabeth Bowers Memorial Library through a Peace Corps Partnership



Elizabeth Bowers Memorial Library, 2009

Program. We stocked the Library with 20,000 volumes from Books For Africa, added solar panels, lights, and computers, built a librarian's house, and sponsored a Beth's Girl in Library Studies as our librarian. The Library is a center of "Light and Literacy" for the entire province.

The final five years, 2012–2017, will complete the vision with a sustainable program, offering a full grade 1-12 education. From our earliest visits to Lumwana West, the village has dreamed of a secondary school, with a high school education and literacy accessible to the entire community, regardless of age or gender. The Memorial Library and the science lab under construction by Engineers Without Borders are two huge steps toward making this dream a reality. ☞

Final Phase of Development

Secondary education is a luxury in remote areas of Zambia. The MOE has no plans to create a secondary school in Lumwana West. However, if the village finds outside support to build the school facilities, the MOE has agreed to certify and staff it. The EBZEF Board has agreed to partner with World Vision Zambia (WVZ) and others to make this happen.

Classrooms, staff housing, and office buildings are needed before the MOE can conduct a lengthy "gazetting" process involving various ministries to approve the school. For these tasks, WVZ will manage construction and coordinate with the MOE to initiate gazetting, which can run concur-

rently. The EBZEF Board will serve as a Steering Committee to work with the community and project partners, and will focus on funding. A concept proposal is available at the EBZEF website (<www.bethsgirls.org>) for further information.

As EBZEF takes this final step toward realizing a locally sustainable program, it is phasing out the scholarship awards, discontinuing one grade per year. EBZEF will continue to support all current Beth Girls through grade 12, but will no longer take on new scholarship recipients. As we are able, EBZEF will continue to fund the college tuition of Beth's Girls who desire higher education. ☞

How You Can Help

EBZEF needs your sustained encouragement and support now more than ever to fulfill our stewardship of Beth's vision. Please continue to donate to the Beth's Girls scholarship fund and EBZEF's literacy projects. We also need donors to fund school-related buildings and furnishings. We need help identifying and contacting companies to become corporate donors. As we refine the list of needs, we will continue to let you know how you can help.

The impact of a secondary school in the village is immeasurable. It will draw students, not just from Lumwana West, but from 16 primary schools in the area. EBZEF's achievements over the years have been remarkable, far beyond our hopes and expectations. If we can bring secondary education to the village, our efforts will have significance reaching well into the future.

The construction of a secondary school seems an ideal closure to our EBZEF project, a natural evolution toward the sustainability of education for women, of maintenance for the Memorial Library, and of the fulfillment of Beth's vision. Please help us establish future access to a quality secondary education for all children in Lumwana West. ☞



Beth's graduation Earlham College, 2001

Zambian/African Books for Library

The EBZEF Library Committee, with the help of Jean Hunleth from Northwestern University, has assembled books to build the Zambian/African collection of the Memorial Library. The books traveled to Lumwana West with EWB Kyle Mayfield in April. Sandu Matthews, a volunteer from the village now at the University of Zambia, is selecting University Press volumes to document national political history. Board member Fordson Kafweku will take the books to the village in May.

Hearing the voices of their own people may inspire the community to record Lunda history and lore, perhaps on tape to be transcribed into texts for the Library. Tamara Weiss hopes to initiate an oral history program when she visits the village again in Summer 2013. ☺



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

Weiss Presentation to CIED Conference

Tamara Weiss, doctoral student from the U. of Minnesota, spoke to the Comparative & International Education Society in New Orleans on March 12th, 2013. Her paper, "The incentive to take inaction: An analysis of the lack of early childhood education policy reform in Zambia," drew on her research and experience in Lumwana West in summer 2012. Tamara and her colleague Judith Merinyo from Tanzania plan to work again in Lumwana West in August 2013 on issues of early childhood development and literacy. ☺

Science Lab Under Construction

Mid-Columbia Chapter of Engineers Without Borders Project Manager Kelsey Edwardsen and new husband Galvin Clancey traveled to Lumwana West in December 2012 to assist in the construction of the new science lab. This is step 2 (after the Memorial Library) toward helping build a secondary school in the village. The community is working as hard as it can to support the effort toward fulfilling its educational dream. ☺



Kelsey & village workmen curing a concrete foundation

Schirle Elementary School Penny Drive

Once again Carrie Hare has led the children of Schirle Elementary School to bring in their pennies to help buy supplies for the pre-school children of Lumwana West. In just one week they have raised \$1081.94 to help purchase paper, pencils, crayons, play equipment, chairs, floor mats, and mattresses for the concrete floor of the small church in which the village children meet. Thank you SES students for helping children on the other side of the world to get a head start on their education. ☺



Thank you for your pennies!



Tamara with pre-schoolers



Give a life-altering gift this Mother's Day, Graduation, Birthday, or Wedding!

Share in the work of changing lives and offering hope to the young women of NW Zambia. So little goes so far:

- \$45 funds school supplies
- \$70 funds a uniform
- \$300 funds pre-school books & supplies
- \$105 sponsors a student in grade 9
- \$445 sponsors a student in grade 10
- \$375 sponsors a student in grade 11
- \$403 sponsors a student in grade 12
- \$5,000 funds a two-year college degree
- Any amount funds textbooks for the library.

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

Yes! I want to support Beth's Girls. 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.

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EWB crew with Headmaster Mbongo Njolomba



Preschool supplies from Schirle



Eager preschoolers—We're ready to go!



Sandra makes nshima for her EWB guests



Children carrying rocks for the science lab foundation



Angela Wanak and Carrie Hare speak with children at Schirle



Thank you, Schirle Elementary!

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 education 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.

To Fulfill a Vision By Linda Bowers

When Beth died in Africa in 2002, her family and friends were moved to sustain her Peace Corps efforts toward global peace and understanding in a small, rural village in NW Zambia. Given her respect for the Lunda women of Lumwana West, a scholarship for girls was born to offer an alternative to early marriage and innumerable pregnancies. Beth was a role model for the educated woman.

These remarkable young women called themselves Beth's Girls. They studied hard and began to change the way the village looked at the education of women, at women themselves, and especially at the way they viewed their own lives. A number of Beth's Girls have completed secondary school, gone on to higher education, are gainfully employed, and are excellent role

Remembering Beth



Linda, Beth, and Gerry

models for younger girls.

Our original plan was to provide scholarships for five years to make a difference to as many girls as possible within this time frame. However, EBZEF seemed to take on a life of its own, as the village and our donors responded to new challenges and accomplishments.

The second five years focused on building an education and literacy program in the village, with Beth's Girls and the Elizabeth Bowers Memorial Library at the center. Our hard-working Board, many of whom have been with EBZEF since its inception, along with a highly responsive village community, and our steadfast, supportive donors brought Light and Literacy to Lumwana West.

Another five years should fully address the vision initiated by Beth 11 years ago to ensure a sustainable education program for all children in the community. As responsible stewards of that vision, we hope to leave a lasting impact on the other side of the world to honor Beth's desire to "give back" in a meaningful way. The secondary school project is an ideal closure for EBZEF, a natural evolution. We invite you to continue on the journey to help fulfill this generous vision, inspired by Beth and embraced by us all. 🌸