

ANNUAL REPORT

2024



**Elizabeth Bowers Zambia
Education Fund**

WHERE IS LUMANA WEST, ZAMBIA, AFRICA?



Annual Report prepared by Michal Wert
February 2025

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***“If you educate a man, you educate an individual.
If you educate a woman, you educate a family, a community, and a country!”
– Zambian Proverb***

OUR VISION

Elizabeth Rachel Bowers (1979–2002) shared her compassionate spirit with the people of Lumwana West, 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.



OUR MISSION

The mission of the Elizabeth Bowers Zambia Education Fund is to empower women, children, and their community in Lumwana West to break the cycle of poverty through education.

WHAT WE HAVE ACCOMPLISHED

EDUCATION

314 GIRLS received secondary school scholarships from 2003-2014

48 GIRLS received college/vocational training scholarships since 2005

103 PRESCHOOL CHILDREN in 2024

GRADES 9-12 OFFERED by the Ministry of Education in Lumwana West since 2016



CONSTRUCTION

LARGEST LIBRARY in the NW Province, furnished with over 22,000 books and computers and new books added regularly

9 FURNISHED SECONDARY SCHOOL CLASSROOMS

3-CLASSROOM FURNISHED SCIENCE LAB

3 FURNISHED PRESCHOOL CLASSROOMS with playground

9 TEACHERS' HOUSES

SOLAR PANELS bringing electricity to library and science lab

3 COMMUNITY WELLS for pre-school, secondary school, teachers' housing, clinic, and science lab

GIRLS & BOYS LAVATORIES with drainfields

PRESCHOOL LAVATORY almost complete



COMMUNITY SUPPORT

LUMWANA WEST VILLAGE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL formed to advise on local issues/priorities. Continues as **LUMWANA WEST PTA/LIBRARY COMMITTEE**

ADMINISTRATIVE

OREGON 501(c)(3) PUBLIC CHARITY since 2007

WORLD VISION USA/ZAMBIA contracted to administer funds locally & manage construction since 2003

MBONGO (Larry) NJOLOMBA contracted as local EBZEF representative in 2009

COMMUNITY PARADIGM SHIFT supporting girls' education

“Parents who will be found marrying off their female children below the age of 23 in this area will be punished... This is a generation of educated people. We cannot afford to be marrying off our girls at the expense of empowering them with education.”

High Chief Sai'lunga, 2018

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT! Over \$125,917 donated in 2024.

REMEMBERING ELIZABETH RACHEL BOWERS

April 1979–March 2002

“I have an entirely new appreciation for the women here. It always amazed me how strong they looked, and obvious that this strength came from going to the fields every day. But today I went with my “mom” to her field and spent the morning hoeing grass and dirt into mounds of earth... After walking 45 minutes back at what I like to call “farmer-pace” (AKA a very fast walk) she proceeds to pound up the nshima (no easy task) and make dinner for my ‘dad.’ Geeze—these women are pretty incredible.”

Elizabeth Bowers
Peace Corps Volunteer

The Elizabeth Bowers Zambia Education Fund (EBZEF) was founded to continue Beth’s desire to make an impact on the world. Beth lived a rich and active life. She became a Peace Corps Volunteer in remote Lumwana West, in NW Zambia, Africa, after spending a year studying in Japan and receiving a BA in Japanese Studies from Earlham College. She died as the result of a bicycle accident in Lumwana West in 2002. In addition to her legacy in Lumwana West, Beth’s organs and tissues enriched the lives of more than 23 people in Zambia.



Those of you who knew Beth celebrate the influence she has had on your lives. Many of you have been inspired by the story of her life to support EBZEF’s programs in the village Beth came to love.

“I want to feel as though I have accomplished something, and that I have helped other human beings in some way.”

Elizabeth Bowers
Peace Corps Aspiration Statement



“Elizabeth was a vibrant intelligent lady that gave a very good example to our community. Of late in Africa (Lumwana West) women were considered to be house wives and people that were not allowed to make decisions on their own. But the coming of Elizabeth brought great impact to women that made women realize their value in society. Hence, we celebrate her life together with you.”

Sandra Kamulosu
Librarian

BETH'S LADIES

EBZEF sponsored 22 women for college or vocational school in 2024. A number of Beth's Ladies graduated in 2024 and several are extending their studies beyond the certificate level to a Bachelor's degree and beyond the Bachelor's to the Master's degree. In spite of a difficult year, our scholarship recipients were fully engaged in their studies. The covid threat continued, a serious cholera epidemic delayed school opening, and severe drought affected Zambia. With courage and resilience, Beth's Ladies met the administrative loss of exam results, a course failure (due to loss of both parents) with repeat coursework, a stolen computer, a pilfered advanced textbook, and absence due to illness. Sponsor encouragement sustains the spirits of Beth's Ladies. They work hard and we are proud of their success.

FAREWELL PRISCOVIA 1993-2023



Priscovia Sangenjo and her sister Agatha were two of the first girls to receive EBZEF secondary school scholarships in 2006. Despite very poor vision, they persisted in their quest for an education. EBZEF

worked with the Nakana Lions Club, who funded life-changing cataract surgery for both girls.

Priscovia graduated from Mwinilunga Secondary School in 2010. She received a teaching certificate from Solwezi Teachers College in 2015, a B. S. in English & Civic Education from Chalimbana U. in 2022, and planned to pursue a Master's Degree. She taught English and Religious Studies at Lumwana West Secondary School from 2016–2023. Priscovia is greatly missed by all who knew and loved her.

“She had a chance of going anywhere else like most of Beth's ladies, but she chose Lumwana West to give back to the community that made her what she was.”
Mbongo Njolomba

“Priscovia was intelligent and wise. She was a creative, innovative person who inspired me. She was a pillar, an example that her family and community members looked up to.”
Sandra Kamulusu

CONTINUING STUDIES

MARGARET KAMBILI



Year 3 of 3,
Electrical
Engineering,
Northern
Technical
School

REBECCA LUBEBA



Year 3 of 3,
Metal
Fabrication,
Northern
Technical
College

MUTINTA CHILUMBWE



Year 3 of 3,
Electrical
Technology,
Mwinilunga
Trades
Institute

VISAKA KAPALU



Year 7 of 7,
Medicine &
Surgery,
Lusaka Apex
Medical Univ

ANIPHER MBIMBI



Year 4 of 4,
Clinical
Medicine,
Eden
University

CHRISTABEL SWETA



Year 1 of 2,
MS in
Pharmacy,
U of Lusaka

KARREN KAMULOSU



Year 4 of 7,
Medicine &
Surgery,
University
of Zambia

CAREN



KABULAYI
Year 2 of 2,
Clinical
Ophthalmology,
Levy
Mwanawasa
Medical U

THELMA SAMBAULU



Year 4 of 4,
Nursing,
Oak
University

ABIGAIL NJAPAWU



Year 4 of 4,
Nursing &
Clinical
Medicine,
Silver Maple
College of
Educ. &
Health Sci

“Am really grateful to my sponsors. I have reached my dream career because of you. I really appreciate it. I have become a life saver because of your support.”

Abigail Njapawu

KERRON CHILUMBWE



Year 4 of 4,
Nursing,
Ndola
Nursing
School

REGINA KALULU CHILUFYA



Year 3 of 3,
Registered
Nursing,
Mukuni
Nursing
Trust Inst

BRENDA SAMBAULU



Year 3 of 3,
Registered
Nursing,
Kaleni
College of
Nursing

DIANA MULONGOTI



Year 2 of 3,
Registered
Nursing,
Ideal School
of Nursing
& Midwifery

MAILEN MUTAMBO



Year 2 of 4,
Nursing &
Midwifery,
Chreso
University.

LYDIA



NJOLOMBA
Year 3 of 3,
Sustainable
Nat. Resource
Mgmt &
Climate
Change,

Copperbelt U

ETHEL KAWAYA



Year 4 of 4,
Public
Admin,
National
Institute of
Public Admin

CHISANGA CHILUFYA GIFT



Year 2 of 2,
General
Hospitality,
Mushili
Skills
Training
Center

JEAN MUTEPUKA



Year 3 of 3,
Early
Childhood
Education,
Gideon
Robert
University

GRACE MUTAMBILA



Year 3 of 3,
Teaching,
Solwezi
College of
Education

**CHARITY
MASHATA**



Year 4 of 4,
Civic Educ.
& Religious
Studies,
Kwame
Nkrumah U

“The girls I teach do not attach value to education, prioritizing marriage and childbearing. I try to help them realize the power of education. I hope with time the community’s attitude will change.”

Charity Mashata

**BELINDAH
KALUMBA**



Year 1 of 2,
Literacy &
Language
Education,
West East
Institute

ALUMNA PROFILE

Beth’s Lady Anipher Mbimbi studied Clinical Medicine at Eden University with plans to graduate in 2023. She continued her studies even after losing a beloved sister, passing the theory part of her final exams. But she and other students were informed that their clinical exam results were lost! This was to be her final year, but now she had to repeat another 9 months and would not graduate until 2024. She was distraught but EBZEF encouraged her to repeat her final year.

“The terrible incident has left much bitterness and pain in my heart! Because of your encouragement to see that I accomplish my goal, am pulling up my socks to make courage to study and pray everything goes well next year.”

Anipher Mbimbi



Anipher graduated in October 2024. She said, “EBZEF has given me a boost in confidence. My instructor is proud of my performance and practicum exam results.” Then came a Health Professions Council of Zambia’s Licensure court case and no licenses were issued until the case was resolved. Finally, “We took licensure exams for competency and, Thank God, I made it! I am a confirmed clinical officer!”

Congratulations to Anipher! She is an outstanding role model for us all!

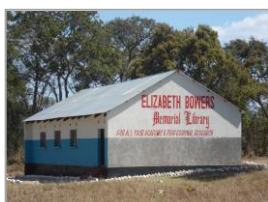
LUMWANA WEST COMMUNITY

Zambia’s worst drought in 20 years had a devastating impact on Lumwana West and the Pre-school. Limited rainfall led to crop failures, water scarcity, and food insecurity with many families in Lumwana having one meal per day—or nothing. A cholera epidemic disrupted school calendars and delayed classes for over a month.

“We witnessed children leaving left-over food to take home to their families. The situation is particularly dire for vulnerable communities like Lumwana, including single women and child-headed households who rely on agriculture and wage labour for survival.”

Ireen Sandu, Pre-School Headmistress

ELIZABETH BOWERS MEMORIAL LIBRARY



The Ministry of Education is changing curriculum and Librarian Sandra Kamulosu requested funds for new textbooks. These included textbooks on agricultural science, the social sciences, languages, and encyclopedias in different subjects. A continuing supporter of EBZEF, the Salem Rotary Foundation responded with a literacy grant to help fund new textbooks.

“The performance of the learners keeps improving because of the Library—not only for research, but also because we carry copies of classroom texts, which are otherwise unavailable outside the classroom.”

Sandra Kamulosu

Sandra reported that “the library is used by both community members and pupils. The illiteracy level is slowly reducing because people are using the library as a centre for reading. Even a seven-year-old child realizes the importance of a library. They can interpret information using illustrations or pictures.”



Students using Library textbooks

SECONDARY SCHOOL

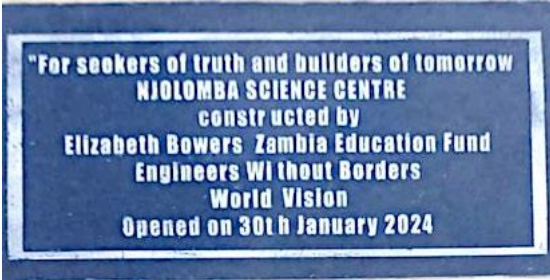
State-run schooling became free for all students in 2021. Since then, 2 million children have flooded secondary schools across the country. Lumwana West Secondary School is full to over-flowing. Teacher accommodations in rural areas continue to be an issue.

Lumwana West Secondary School enrollment for 2024 included 224 girls and 283 boys, for a total of 507 students. These numbers fluctuate as tests in Grades 8 and 10 determine who proceeds to the next grade.

GRADE	GIRLS	BOYS	TOTAL
8	55	48	103
9	67	63	130
10	13	14	27
11	23	68	91
12	66	90	156
TOTAL	224	283	507

“Since Lumwana West Secondary School has the facilities to help learners have successful results, a good number of pupils who dropped out of school are coming back to learn, for they do not need to scout for funds to pay tuition.”
Teacher/Librarian
Sandra Kamulosu

The Njolomba Science Centre opened for classes mid-February. EBZEF donors funded a new well, lab stools, essential science equipment and supplies, and locking cabinets for security. Solar panels allow evening classes to help alleviate classroom overcrowding. Science labs in secondary schools are rare in Zambia, especially in remote rural areas. With a large plaque outside the building, the community remembered Beth and recognized the contributions of EBZEF, World Vision, and Engineers Without Borders.



PRE-SCHOOL

AGE	GIRLS	BOYS	TOTAL
3-4 years	30	21	51
5-6 years	32	20	52
TOTAL	62	41	103

The number of children enrolled in pre-school is consistent over the years, with 103 attending in 2024. Providing food for the children is an important strategy to reduce absenteeism. The food program continued in 2024 but was reduced to a cup of tea with fritters for breakfast and no lunch because of limited resources. There was no maize to harvest because of insufficient rain. Not receiving a hoped-for grant this year, EBZEF stepped up to fund the Food Project for Lumwana West Pre-School.



The country is changing the national curriculum from a focus on academic learning to vocational skill training. Basic and Pre-School Headmistress Ireen Sandu attended national Early Childhood Development curriculum workshops and is now a trainer of all the headteachers in the Northwest Province. She is a role model for the Pre-School, with its modern lavatory, feeding the learners, and its garden project.

“I am always made to stand up and tell our superiors how EBZEF has helped Lumwana community women and children through our beloved daughter, sister, and friend Elizabeth Bowers who is still a living testimony in Zambia today.”
Ireen Sandu

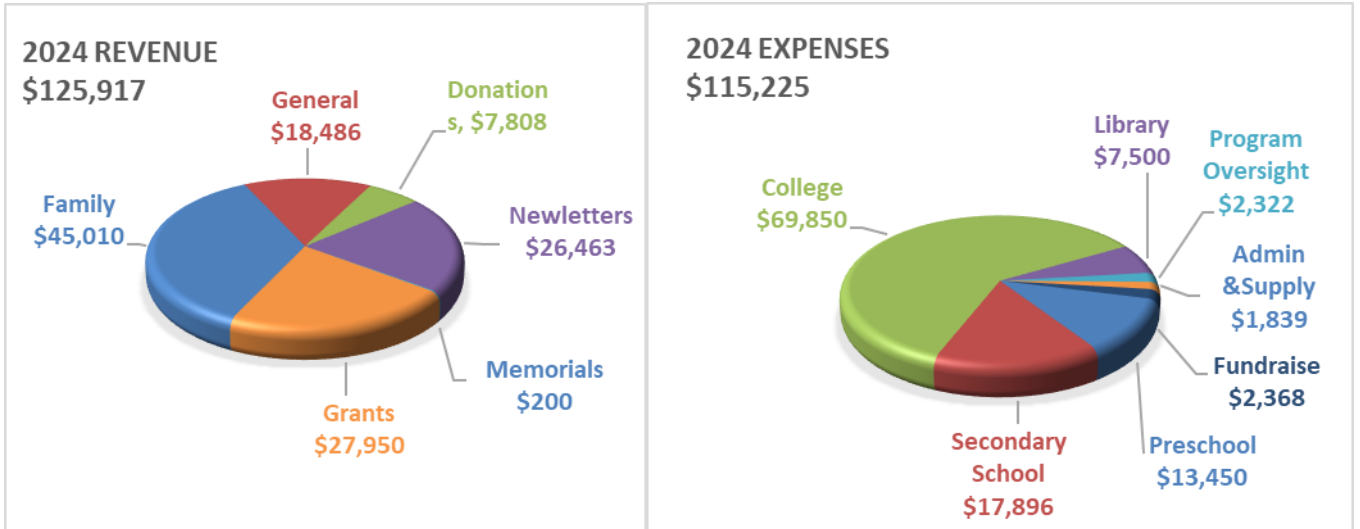


Completed lavatory exterior

For the Preschool lavatory project, the inside and outside are complete. Water is connected in the lavatory and the flow of water has tremendously improved. The septic tank is the final challenge to complete the project. While construction by local craftsmen is slow, it increases community pride in the outcome.

REVENUE & EXPENSES

EBZEF is a fully volunteer organization that relies on donations and grants to invest in education and related community projects in Lumwana West. A statement of 2024 financial activities is available upon request.



EBZEF continues to be a member of the Nonprofit Association of Oregon and holds the 2024 Candid Gold Seal for Transparency. GlobalGiving, a crowdfunding platform for grassroots charitable projects, has recognized and supported EBZEF since 2019.



EASY WAYS TO SUPPORT EBZEF

Donate to companies that share their proceeds with EBZEF

PayPal Giving Fund	https://www.paypal.com/us/fundraiser/charity/1901999
Fred Meyer Community	https://bit.ly/ebzefm
Guidestay	https://bit.ly/ebzefstar
Network for Good	www.networkforgood.com
Volunteer Match	https://bit.ly/ebzefvm
Ebay Charity	https://ebzy.to/3APf1f3
BottleDrop Oregon	https://bit.ly/ebzefbottle
GreatNonprofits	https://bit.ly/ebzefGNPP
GlobalGiving	https://goto.gg/43633

Visit EBZEF online

EBZEF website	www.ebzef.org
LinkedIn	https://bit.ly/ebzefin
Facebook	www.facebook.com/EBZEF
Twitter	twitter.com/EBZEF
Volunteer link	https://bit.ly/ebzefvm
PROTEA newsletter	https://ebzef.org/news



Donate to change lives and offer hope to Beth's Girls and their community

So little goes so far:

\$25	funds a classroom blackboard
\$40	funds books for the Library
\$50	funds one month of Library night watchman salary
\$125	funds one month of pre-school aide salary
\$500	funds graduation fees
\$600	funds a Library computer
\$2,500	funds a year of college study
\$3,600	funds a class block solar system
\$15,000	funds a family teacher's house

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

EBZEF has been an Oregon 501(c)(3) public charity since 2007

WHO WE ARE

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



LINDA BOWERS
Executive Director
Retired Assoc. English Prof,
Willamette Univ.
Salem, OR



KAREN CHITTICK
Secretary
Retired Assoc. Dir. Academic
Admin, Tokyo Int'l Univ.
Salem, OR



KATHY ELLIS-KELEMEN
Treasurer
Retired CFO
Kelemen Adv. Assoc.
Salem, OR



GERARD BOWERS
Director
Retired English Prof.
Willamette Univ.
Salem, OR



DAN IRVINE
Director
Sr. Adv. External Engagement
World Vision Int'l
Hudson, FL



FORDSON KAFWEKU
Director
Children Int'l Dir.
Lusaka, Zambia

ADVISORY BOARD



**CASSANDRA
FARRIN**
Publishing Director
Erewhon Books
Emmett, ID



BOB KISTER
Non-profit
Communications
Reedsport, OR



ANGELA WANAK
JD/MBA Willamette
Univ.
Salem, OR



MICHAL WERT
Retired, Principal
MW Consulting
Newberg, OR

EBZEF does much of its work through committees of volunteers, see Attachment A. Our amazing partners in our programs are included in Attachment B.

LOOKING FORWARD TO 2025

Since its beginning, EBZEF has focused on education and literacy in Lumwana West. What EBZEF has accomplished has far exceeded our expectations. Over 300 girls have received secondary school scholarships and almost 50 girls have continued to college or vocational training. Construction projects for education facilities are extensive and complete. All students in Lumwana West now have access to education from pre-school through secondary school, with a science lab unheard of in a rural community. The entire community continues to use its lighted library for research, reading, and community gatherings.

Working with the community to achieve these significant accomplishments has been so rewarding for us all. Having completed the intent of EBZEF's program, we are now working to transition our program to others over the next two years.

Support Beth's Ladies - EBZEF will continue to support all girls who initially received secondary school scholarships to fund their educations through college or vocational training. All of the current girls on scholarship will be supported through the conclusion of their education, and it is anticipated that all scholarships will be completed by 2026.

Evaluate long-term support for the Elizabeth Bowers Memorial Library - The Memorial Library was a gift from EBZEF to the community; it does not belong to the Ministry of Education. Librarian Sandra Kamulosu is engaged to discuss transitioning current EBZEF involvement to the community.

Support for the Pre-school - With completion of the lavatory drainfield in 2025, pre-school construction will be complete. Although it is part of the Ministry of Education complex, EBZEF will work with Headmistress Ireen Sandu to explore potential partners to continue a direct relationship with the pre-school.

Secondary School construction completed - EBZEF completed construction of 12 furnished classrooms and 9 teacher's houses, with supporting community wells, lavatories, and solar panels for electricity. These secondary school facilities have been the responsibility of the Ministry of Education since 2016. The continuing need for teachers' housing will be considered as funds are available over the next two years.

Establish community-based organization - EBZEF continued its commitment to helping Lumwana West transition to independently continuing the work that we have done together. We are exploring options to work with the community to establish programs to apply for assistance and funding, and to explore opportunities for EBZEF donors to continue to support the community directly.

ATTACHMENT A: EBZEF Committees

Executive Committee, Linda Bowers, chair

Purpose: Make decisions and act on behalf of EBZEF in emergencies and between Board meetings. Offer direction to the various EBZEF committees in line with the mission, values, and goals of the organization.
Meets prior to each Board meeting, to discuss pending issues and to set the agenda. It meets between Board meetings as needed to respond to immediate issues and opportunities. Members of the Executive Committee include Executive Director Linda Bowers, Board Member Gerry Bowers, Secretary Karen Chittick, and Advisory Board member Michal Wert.

Finance Committee, Kathy Ellis-Kelemen, chair

Purpose: Keep full and accurate accounts of EBZEF financial records, oversee disbursement of funds, and make regular financial reports to the Board of Directors.
Prepares an annual budget and provides regular financial accounting updates to the Board. Coordinates with tax consultant to prepare annual taxes for EBZEF and provides regular bookkeeping reports for the Finance Committee to monitor finances.

Education Committee, Angela Wanak, chair

Purpose: Monitor scholarship recipients, maintain student lists, and provide reports to the Board of Directors.
Maintains an on-going list of girls receiving EBZEF scholarships.

Grant Committee, Linda Bowers/Karen Chittick, co-chairs

Purpose: Identify opportunities and oversee grants and scholarships for EBZEF.
Coordinates with the Salem Rotary and other potential grant opportunities. Works closely with the Fundraising/Advisory Committee to develop grant applications.

Fundraising/Advisory Committee, Linda Bowers, chair

Purpose: Develop and implement a fundraising strategy for the Board and volunteers. Oversee publicity and events for EBZEF. Advise the Executive Director on EBZEF activities and opportunities.
Strategizes on raising funds for the secondary school and other projects. Advises the Director on ongoing issues. Social media consultant Jennifer Bowers supports this Board committee.

Library Committee, Karen Chittick, chair

Purpose: Responsible for oversight of library operations and furnishings, acquisition of books, librarian oversight, library programs and policies, memberships and subscriptions, and general facility maintenance. Also monitors and supports the preschool program.
Coordinates with the Lumwana West Librarian to identify needs and solicit grants for new books, supplies, equipment, and building maintenance.

Technology Committee, Michal Wert, chair

Purpose: Investigate opportunities for how technology can improve the quality of life for Lumwana families.
Jennifer Bowers posts regularly on Facebook, Twitter, and other social media platforms, and maintains and regularly updates the EBZEF website.

Intercultural Advisory Committee, Fordson Kafweku/Dan Irvine, co-chairs

Purpose: Advise the EBZEF Board and Committees to ensure sensitivity and suitability of approaches to programs and to the people of Lumwana West and Zambia.
Dan and Fordson provide valuable insight on all aspects of working with Lumwana West and other partners in Zambia, as well as advising on opportunities for international fundraising.

ATTACHMENT B: EBZEF Partners

EBZEF greatly appreciates the many important partners in our programs:

- **Community of Lumwana West** – on-going partner to evaluate scholarship recipients, build the Memorial Library, initiate and develop the preschool and secondary school construction projects, construct teachers' housing, and provide local advice and coordination.
- **Baal Dan Charities** – supported preschool construction and offers grants for on-going preschool programs. www.baaldan.com
- **Books for Africa** – donated books and shipping for the Memorial Library. www.booksforafrica.org
- **Caritas Foundation** – supported shipping books to Zambia. www.claritascreative.com
- **Columbia River Peace Corps Association** – variety of project grants. www.crpga.org
- **Engineers Without Borders (EWB) Mid-Columbia Chapter** - worked with villagers, EBZEF, and World Vision to construct a 3-classroom science lab. www.ewb-mid-columbia.org
- **Fort Vancouver Lions Club** – supported the Memorial Library. www.fortvancouverlions.org
- **GladRags** – donated reusable menstrual pads for Beth's Girls. www.gladrags.com
- **GlobalGiving** – crowdfunding for secondary school facilities. www.globalgiving.org
- **Goodman Family Foundation** – supported the solar power project for the Library. www.goodmanfamilyfoundation.org
- **Kitwe Zambia Nkana Lions Club** – paid for cataract surgery for two Beth's Girls. www.e-clubhouse.org/sites/kitwe_nkana.
- **National Solar** – supported solar project for the Memorial Library. www.natsolar.com
- **Peace Corps** - Peace Corps Partnership Project helped initiate the scholarship program and oversaw construction of the Memorial Library. www.peacecorps.gov
- **Salem Rotary Literacy Committee** – Library book grants. www.rotaryclubofsalem.com
- **Salem Shirle Elementary School** – conducted Penny Drives for EBZEF. www.schirle.salkeiz.k12.or.us
- **Salem Adam Stevens Middle School** – conducted fundraising and educational programs. www.stephens.salkeiz.k12.or.us
- **Shalaby Trust** – supported the Memorial Library.
- **South Salem High School** – sponsored a Zambia Club for fundraising and education. www.southsaxons.com
- **Willamette University, Atkinson Graduate School of Management** – consulted on program development. www.willamette.edu
- **Willamette University Pi Beta Phi Sorority** – conducted fundraising and education programs. www.willamette.pibetaphi.org
- **World Vision USA/International/Zambia** – helped ship books to the Memorial Library; oversaw construction of the preschool, the secondary school, teachers' housing, and general infrastructure; coordinates projects with the Ministry of Education. www.wvi.org