



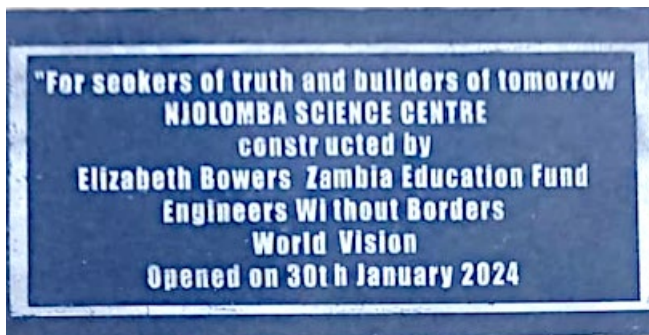
THE PROTEA

Elizabeth Bowers Zambia Education Fund

Vol. XIX No. 2

Breaking the cycle of poverty through education

December 2024



Zambia News Update

Extreme Drought Effects

Headmistress Sandu tells us Zambia's worst drought in 20 years is "having a devastating impact on Lumwana West and the Pre-school. Limited rainfall has led to crop failures, water scarcity, and food insecurity with many families in Lumwana having one meal per day—or nothing. 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." ❧

DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT!

Every dollar matched up to \$10,000 through December 2024!

Tuition-Free Secondary School

In 2021 the Zambian Government made state-run schooling free for everyone. Since then, 2,000,000 children have flooded secondary schools across the country with more than 100 learners in many classrooms. New schools, teachers, and desks are desperately needed. The government has committed to building 170 new schools and to hiring 55,000 new teachers by the end of 2026.

Lumwana West Secondary School is full to over-flowing. Teacher accommodations in rural areas are also an issue. Teacher/Librarian Sandra Kamulosu reports, "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." ❧

Administrator Honored

Basic School Headmistress Ireen Sandu attended national Early Childhood Development curriculum workshops. She reports, "The country is about to change the national curriculum from a focus on academic learning to vocational skill training. After being trained, I am now a trainer of all the headteachers in the Northwest Province."

Ireen has become "a role model for the pre-school, which has a modern lavatory in the province, feeds the learners, and has a 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." ❧



Njolomba Science Centre Update

The Njolomba Science Centre is now complete thanks to the support of EBZEF's generous donors and its partnerships with the Lumwana West Community, Engineers Without Borders, and World Vision. The project is named in honor of Mr. Mbongo (Larry) Njolomba, past Headmaster of Lumwana West Secondary School, who shepherded the




Cabinets in use

project from its earliest conception in 2010. It is designed "For seekers of truth and builders of tomorrow."

The final project, following EBZEF's funding of science equipment, supplies, and laboratory stools, was to build locking cabinets to store and secure class materials. They are now in place. ❧

Graduations Afoot


Several graduations should occur in late 2024. They will be celebrated in the spring issue of THE PROTEA. A number of scholarship recipients are extending their studies beyond the certificate level to a Bachelor's degree and beyond the Bachelor's to the Master's degree. Every one of Beth's Girls on tertiary scholarship has succeeded in her studies. 

Beth's Girls


TEACHING



Charity Mashata: (4 of 4) Teaching Certificate upgrade to BA degree, Kwame Nkrumah U (Civic Education Major/Religious Studies Minor). "Thank you for spreading love and empowerment to the girl child as the world invests in bridging gender inequality gaps."

Jean Mutepuka: (1 of 2) Sema College of Excellency, Early Childhood Education, upgrade from diploma to degree. "Thanks to my wonderful sponsors I have become a nice person in life." 


Belindah Kalumba: (1 of 2) BA in Literacy and Language Education, West East Institute, upgrade from diploma to degree. "For me to be called an educated person is because of you. I want to teach learners so they also become good readers and educated like me."


Grace Mutambila: (3 of 3), Teaching, Solwezi College of Education. "Your sponsorship is really helping me. I thank you for that." 


NURSING





Mailen Mutambo: (2 of 4) BS in Nursing and Midwifery, Chreso U. "Thank you for your unwavering support and belief in me. Your sponsorship has helped me pursue my dreams."


Diana Mulongoti: (2 of 3) Registered Nursing, Ideal School of Nursing & Midwifery. "Am so grateful for my sponsors. Am enjoying my studies. I will make you proud of me." 

Brenda Sambaulu: (3 of 3) Registered Nursing, Kaleni College of Nursing. "I always give thanks to you because what you have done in my life I will not manage to count. Without you I wouldn't have been at this level." 

Regina Kalulu Chilufya: (3 of 3) Registered Nursing, Mukuni Nursing Trust Institute. "May you continue helping poor people like us; may your love continue always. You made me to be the person I wanted to be." 

Abigail Njapawu: (4 of 4) Nursing & Clinical Medicine, Silver Maple College of Education & Health Sciences. "Thank you for your patience and understanding. Also for believing that we are going to make it and be role models." 


Kerron Chilumbwe (Kabongu Musenga Chilumbwe): (4 of 4) Ndola Nursing School. "My heartfelt gratitude for your sponsorship. This semester I completed occupational health and safety requirements in Kitwe Copper Belt." 

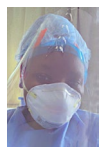
Thelma Sambaulu: (4 of 4) Oak U, Nursing. "Thank you for your support. Am enjoying my studies and am in my final year, about to write my pre-license exam." 

MEDICINE




Anipher Mbimbi: (4 of 4) Eden U, Clinical Medicine. "Due to your kind and loving hearts, my angels, I will graduate with three certifications: clinical medicine as well as HIV and TB management and prevention."

Caren Kabulayi: (2 of 2) continuing studies at Levy Mwanawasa Medical U for a BS in Clinical Ophthalmology. "Without you I wouldn't reach this far. You are a blessing. All the challenges that I face you are always there to give a hand." 




Christabel Sweta: Continuing for Master's degree in Pharmacy (1 of 2), U of Lusaka. "The program is quite involving, but I will continue to work hard and make you proud. Thank you for making this possible."


Visaka Kapalu: (7 of 7) Lusaka Apex Medical U, Bachelor's of Medicine and Surgery. "I'm so grateful for the support you have given me. May the good Lord bless you." 


TECHNICAL



Karren Kamulosu: (2 of 4) Computer Science, U of Zambia. "Thank you for the support by bringing a big change in my life."

Mutinta Chilumbwe: (3 of 3) Electrical Technology, Mwinilunga Trades Institute. "Thank you for supporting me through my journey of being an electrician. I wouldn't have made it if I didn't have you holding my hand." 

Margret Kambili: (3 of 3) Electrical Engineering, Northern Technical School. "I am so grateful for the love and support you have given me. I wouldn't be where I am without your help." 


Rebecca Lubeba: (3 of 3) Northern Technical College, Diploma in Metal Fabrication. "You do things so that I have a reason to be. You do not think about yourself before helping me out. Wonderful thanks for always being there." 

GENERAL



Chisanga Chilufya Gift: (2 of 2) General Hospitality (catering), Mushili Skills Training Center. "I really appreciate your sponsorship. Only God will reward you my parents"

Lydia Njolomba: (3 of 3) BS in Sustainable Natural Resources Management & Climate Change, Copperbelt U. "I like looking at the on-going climatic changes affecting both developing and developed countries. Am proud to say that I could now inform on how best to mitigate and adapt to these changes." 

Ethel Kawaya: (4 of 4) Public Administration, National Institute of Public Administration. "I am grateful for your sponsorship. It has brought a positive impact in my life and career." 



Pre-School Update

EBZEF did not receive a hoped-for grant this year to feed the children. Since it has been a time of national food crises, the EBZEF Executive Committee has funded the Food Project for Lumwana West Pre-School. Headmistress Ireen Sandu insists “without your support these children would have become malnourished. But see how healthy and happy they look because of your support. We really appreciate you dear friends.”

With the food grant, Patrick Chaba, Pre-School Secretary, reports

nutrition improvement, reduced absenteeism, increased enrollment, a lessened burden for parents, and better skill development. The garden program encourages pre-schoolers “to acquire skills and appreciate farming as a career which shall change their mindset as they grow not only to wait for a white-collar job.” He adds, “The funding has been a game changer where kindergarten education is concerned. We thank you our all-weather friends for being a shoulder to lean on.”

LAVATORY UPDATE

The pre-school lavatory project has received paint, 60 boxes of tile, 30 boxes of tile fix, and other materials to complete the inside job. The bricklayers are now fixing the interior tiles. A modern pre-school

lavatory is rare, especially in rural areas. While construction by local village craftsmen is slow, it increases community pride in the outcome.



Lavatory exterior complete

Library Update

Librarian Sandra Kamulosu reports 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. As an institution and community, purchasing new books will be most helpful due to the change of curriculum beginning next year. Our gratitude to the donors for continuing support. Literacy in our community has developed because of EBZEF”



Students & community patrons study at night



GIVE A LIFE-ALTERING GIFT THIS HOLIDAY SEASON!

Help change lives and offer hope to Beth's Girls and their community in NW Zambia.

So little goes so far:

- \$125 funds 1 mo. pre-school aide's salary
- \$250 funds college exam fees
- \$275 funds college practical/field work
- \$325 funds textbooks for Library
- \$400 funds college research project
- \$450 funds college graduation fees
- \$600 funds Library computer
- \$3,000 funds one year of college study
- \$15,000 funds family teacher's house
- Any amount funds Laboratory equipment

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

Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD)

If you are age 70.5 or older and must make mandatory distributions from your tax-deferred IRA, you are eligible to make up to \$100,000 per year tax-free donations to qualified charities like EBZEF.

Here's how to do it:

1. Instruct your IRA administrator to transfer funds directly from your IRA to EBZEF at P. O. Box 294, Salem, Oregon 97308-0294.
2. You avoid tax liability, and EBZEF receives the total amount of your distribution—a win-win situation!
3. You have until December 31 to complete your QCD for 2024.

Ways to Support EBZEF

EBZEF
Elizabeth Bwalya Zambia Education Fund

Check out our website
www.ebzef.org

Partner with eBay
<https://bit.ly/eBay-ebzef>

Join our Facebook page
www.facebook.com/EBZEF

Connect with Twitter
www.twitter.com/EBZEF

In OR, dedicate your BottleDrop refunds to EBZEF
<https://bit.ly/ebzefbottle>

In OR, WA, ID, AK, designate your Fred Meyer Community Rewards
<https://bit.ly/ebzefm>

Raise funds while shopping
<https://bit.ly/ebzefgood>

ebay for charity

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community rewards Where shopping & giving unite

goodshop

Tell your friends and family about us!



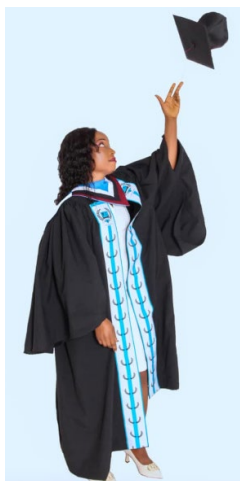
Courage, Tenacity, Perseverance



Beth's Lady Anipher Mbimbi studied Clinical Medicine at Eden University, with plans to graduate in 2023. She lost a beloved sister but continued her studies.

She passed the theory part of her final exams, but she and other students were informed that "your clinical exam results have gone missing." Anipher lamented, "2023 was my final year!!! But because of what transpired, I will complete in 2024; the same rotations have to be done for 9 months." She was distraught.

EBZEF encouraged her to redo her final year. Anipher replied, "The terrible incident has left much bitterness and pain in my heart! Because of your encouragement to see that I accom-



plish my goal, am pulling up my socks to make courage to study and pray everything goes well next year."

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 the Health Professions Council of Zambia's Licensure court case. 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, ANIPHER! You are an outstanding role model for us all!

The Elizabeth Bowers Zambia Education Fund

One life made the connection.

Now many carry on the vision of caring.



Our Mission

EBZEF empowers women, children, and their community in Lumwana West, Zambia, to break the cycle of poverty through education.

Our Vision

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

EBZEF | P.O. Box 294, Salem, Oregon 97308-0294 | 503-585-4605 | www.ebzef.org

To unsubscribe from the EBZEF newsletter, contact ebzefund@gmail.com.



A Letter from Beth

January 10, 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.

My "mother" with bare feet and a baby on her back, led me down the path (which was incredibly beautiful

Remembering Beth



and opened my eyes to a part of this area, and Africa, I hadn't seen before) to her field for 45 minutes.

Then we hoed, and those few people that passed by took great

pleasure in the "muzungu" hoeing away at what was probably a not-too-perfect job at making these mounds. They laughed, oogled, and one older lady even came over, whipped off her shirt to expose biceps like no other and started showing me how to hoe. "THEN, 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.