

good news

NEWSLETTER OF COMMUNITIES WITHOUT BORDERS



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Who Are We?

Communities Without Borders is an all-volunteer organization responding to the world AIDS crisis. We seek to facilitate linkages between communities at home with those in developing countries to generate mutual understanding and support. We learn about the challenges faced by communities with few resources and we are making a real difference. It is cooperative micro-development.

What is our focus?

Our current emphasis is on Zambia's AIDS orphans – a crisis which typifies impoverished, AIDS-stricken, sub-Saharan Africa:

- Life expectancy has fallen from 54 to 37yrs in two decades, destroying the social fabric and the ability of extended families to cope.
- 98% of Zambians earn less than \$2 per day
- But 20% have AIDS, with even higher incidence amongst women in urban settings.
- There are roughly one million AIDS orphans in a total population of ten million.

Education is the only hope for the next generation of Zambians:

- But there is a backlog of 600,000 children waiting for primary education.
- 800,000 children are not attending schools.

Zambia video report

We recently received a video report from Bernadette Sikanyika the founder of Zambia Nsunga Communities Without Borders. On the video a mother of a child who has just started school expresses her appreciation to the communities in Massachusetts who support education for children:

"I want to thank those who brought Communities Without Borders to Zambia. It has helped educate my child. Before, my child used to just play. But now when he comes home from school, he helps his younger brother learn. He asks his brother to repeat after him. 'Say a,b,c,d.' and his brother responds: 'a,b,c,d.' Say 'Good morning.' It has made a big difference!"

Contact us if you would like to see a copy of the video.



Students in Zambia

2004 accomplishments

- Educational support to over 200 children.
- Income generating activities for care-givers.
- Skills training for youth.
- Students in all grades 1-7
- Typical child is 12 in grade 3
- Half the children are girls
- Example: In one community funds were used to purchase 90 pairs of shoes, 80 school uniforms, 120 school bags. Each student was given 2 pencils and 12 exercise books.

Treasurer notes success

As of the end of September, Massachusetts supporters have provided 600 gifts totaling more than \$24,000. CWB's board has approved 2004 community grants totaling \$15,000 to three Zambian non-profit groups serving six groups of orphans and vulnerable children. Our two year budget gives us confidence that we will be able to continue the children's education.

CWB is working closely with our Zambian partners to improve information flow (school progress reports, photos, budgets) and to formalize procedures and controls.

Our Partners

African Organizations in Lusaka, Zambia

- Society for Women and AIDS Zambia
- Zambia Nsunga Communities Without Borders

Partner Communities in Lusaka, Zambia

- Bauleni Community
- Chawama Community
- Garden Community
- Linda Community
- Mandevu Community
- N'Gombe Community

USA Partner Communities

- Brockton Neighborhood Health Center
- Concord Academy,
- First Baptist Church, Lexington
- First Parish Unitarian Church, Lexington
- First Unitarian Society of Newton
- Watertown Harvard Vanguard Health Center

USA Partner Activities

Newton: Coffee house

The youth of the First Unitarian Society in Newton hosted a talent show and coffee house each year for three years to raise funds to support the education of AIDS orphans in Chawama Community. Each of the teens has performed or helped organize these enormously successful shows. Many parents and friends from outside the church community have attended.

Visitor meets Zambian students

Fran Clancy is the administrator for the First Unitarian Society in Newton, one of our six U.S.A. partner communities. She traveled to Zambia this summer to work with volunteers on a Habitat project. At the end, she and five of the volunteers met with a group of Zambian women and students who are being supported by Communities Without Borders. They met in a small building, used as a preschool, which the women hope to purchase. Fran said she was impressed with the sincerity and reliability of Bernadette Sikanyika who leads the program. She felt that the educational activities, especially those that involved the prevention of AIDS were exemplary and very important.



Chawama Holiday Party

Lexington: \$100 for 100 children

It costs approximately \$100 to send one Zambian child to elementary school for one year. This includes the cost of school uniforms, shoes, book bags, books and supplies, transportation, as well as some meals and medical services.

Using this figure as a target, last spring members and friends of First Parish UU Church in Lexington set a goal of raising \$100 each for 100 Zambian orphaned or vulnerable children. Within a very brief period of time, the goal was reached and even exceeded. Contributors were thrilled about the opportunity to invest in the future generation of countries like Zambia that have been ravaged by AIDS. In an earlier fund raising effort, members of First Parish raised funds for the women of N'gombe to purchase sewing machines. The machines were then used to sew uniforms and school bags which in turn generated income that was reinvested in the community.

Brockton: Payroll deductions

Many of the employees at the Brockton Neighborhood Health Center are recent immigrants or first generation Americans. They understand the hardships faced by the poor people in our African partner communities. But, they decided that a very small payroll deduction every two weeks when multiplied by a large number of participants, is every bit as effective as a few larger donations. This supports school for orphans in the Bauleni Community.

Contact us

Could one of your communities in which you live or work be linked to a community in Africa? Please send us an e-mail and we will help to make it happen! We will come to meet with your group. We invite your creative thinking on how to make this project even better! Call: 617 965-4713
e-mail:

info@communitieswithoutborders.org
Web site:

www.communitieswithoutborders.org

Mail donations to:

Communities Without Borders
206 Waverley Avenue
Newton, MA 02458

Three students in Zambia



Patricia Mitti, 10, Hearing deficit
Lives w/grandmother, Hopes to be a tailor



Frank Phiri, 8, Lives w/grandmother
Hopes to be a carpenter



Maria Lumina, 9, Brought by
grandmother, Hopes to be a teacher

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