

good news

NEWSLETTER OF COMMUNITIES WITHOUT BORDERS



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Angels of Mercy

During Communities Without Borders trip in August 2006, we focused much our discussions with the care-givers of our children on health needs. We learned that our children have almost no access to simple health services. Financial barriers and distance barriers often result in no treatment for potentially life-threatening infections such as malaria, diarrhea, cholera or pneumonia.

We have developed a relationship with a new non-governmental agency in Zambia called "Angels of Mercy," which will provide health care to some of our children. Angels of Mercy was established by Annah Mhango, a career community health nurse in Lusaka. She has worked for decades with orphans and vulnerable children in the compounds of Lusaka. Over the past year she has brought together other community health nurses, clinical officers, lab technicians and a physician adviser, and has begun to perform screening health exams and providing basic preventive services for children in community schools.

Our children in Garden Compound were among the first to benefit from this service. Angels of Mercy has carefully recorded each child's history and physical exam. They have done vision screening, given tetanus immunizations, Vermox (a de-worming medicine) and vitamin A (which reduces the



Annah Mhango founder of Angels of Mercy

impact a childhood infections).

On our trip to Zambia this summer we were able to deliver antibiotics worth about \$11,000 to the Angels of Mercy for treatment of infections in children. The antibiotics were donated by the California non-profit, Direct Relief International (DRI). We expect to encourage a continuing relationship between DRI and Angels of Mercy, which will enable them to provide a wider range of health services. Treated bednets for malaria prevention and simple treatment of malaria would be widely appreciated.

The 'magic school bus' makes deliveries

When we visit Zambia we travel between sites on a medium sized bus. This year we nick-named our bus, "the magic school bus". Through careful research, one of our board members, Al Jacobson, determined that in Kansas City, there is a non-profit organization that specializes in shipping books to developing countries. Al was able to arrange for a large number of used schoolbooks to be sent to Lusaka.

The books are 10-12 years old, but in very good shape and very useable. The books

were picked up and stored by SWAAZ in Lusaka, and when we arrived we were able to pack hundreds of volumes into the back of our "magic school bus."

So, we were able to deliver hundreds of books to the Community School in Tara and to the government basic school in Simukanka, both in Southern Province. These were received with profound gratitude. To have been able to directly and substantively enhance the educational experience of our children was a most satisfying experience!

Our Partners African Organizations in Lusaka, Zambia

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

Partner Communities in Zambia

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

in South India

- Tamilnadu 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: **Zambian pen pals**



First Unitarian Society in Newton pen pals

The First Unitarian Society in Newton has established pen pals in supporting AIDS orphans in Zambia through the Communities Without Borders program. The Newton congregation's youth group sent letters to youth in the Chawama township and recently received letters from their pen pals. Judy Freidman who traveled to Chawama from Newton in 2005 arranged for the exchange.

A Virtual Village

What would it be like to be a ten-year-old girl in Garden Compound amidst poverty and difficult health conditions? What is her school like?

What would it be like to be Mary Tembo, Chairperson of the Garden Compound Development Committee, as she delivers home-based care to AIDS patients in her community? Soon you will be able to view the virtual reality of these experiences on your own computer or DVD player.

We have professional quality video footage taken this summer in Garden compound by Zambian TV cameramen. We are currently editing two pieces: "A day in the Life of a Small Girl in Garden Compound" and "A Day in the life of Mary Tembo." The editing is being done by Dr. David Hudacek, an accomplished film maker. He is being assisted by Andrew Nkumbula, a freshman at Harvard College from Zambia, who worked for our own Bernadette Sikanyika at Zambia Nsunga Communities Without Borders and knows the community well.

In a few weeks we will post the video on our website and we also hope to make it available by DVD. If anyone has a contact in public television, we would most appreciate your help in showing these tapes on public television.



Mary Tembo

Lexington: **Red ribbon award**

The First Parish Unitarian Church, Lexington was awarded the first Red Ribbon congregation award for their substantial activities in supporting AIDS orphans in Zambia through the Communities Without Borders program. Rev. William Sinkford, President of the Unitarian Universalist Association was to present the award at a service at the Lexington church on December third, commemorating World AIDS Day.



Why is Chanda smiling? (See article below)

University-level scholarships given

Through the generosity of two CWB benefactors, Vincent and Theresa Raso, we awarded university-level scholarships to four outstanding students who are themselves orphans and vulnerable children, but have distinguished themselves in their academic performance despite the considerable obstacles they have faced. Chanda, one recipient, is planning to study nutrition and hopes to apply her skills in helping mothers plan better nutrition for their children. Frederick will also study nutrition. Kennedy will study water engineering, and he hopes to benefit his own community of Mutendere with his new skills. Senge has been a volunteer teacher in the community school in the Chawama SWAAZ project for two years. He will study crop science and agriculture.

All will attend the National Resource Development Center in Lusaka. Interviews with these students can be found on our website: www.communitieswithoutborders.org.

In the past year we have also supported 15 students for secondary level education.

Contact us

Could a community 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

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Web site:
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New Community

We are pleased to announce that we have added a new community, OCCURD, in Tamilnadu, South India. More on this in our next newsletter.