

bana (child)

NEWSLETTER OF COMMUNITIES WITHOUT BORDERS



VOL.4 - NO. 1

MARCH 2008

New York Times sequel: Alone Banda rescued !



Front page photo from New York Times article 2006

Last year nine-year-old Alone Banda's plight, pounding stones into dust to sell for cement, working with his grandmother, was a front page story. The two of them were able to finish a bag every two weeks earning three dollars. That was enough to buy food for that period. It was sobering and disheartening. He was such a frail and grim little boy wielding such a heavy hammer with bits of rock flying in all directions and no eye protection. Alone was barefoot and his clothing was in tatters. Though he was about nine years old, from his size he looked about six. His growth was stunted and his nutritional status was poor. The same week the story ran, we enrolled Alone in our program.

Fast forward now one year. We are back in the Chawama Family Support Home. We are conducting lessons in English to help the children in the community pre-school develop basic skills, which one day might facilitate their admission into government primary school. We ask for Alone Banda and his grandmother, and the next day they come. We learn that Alone is no longer working on the rock pile and he is attending school quite regularly. I ask Alone to participate in our classroom. Now I see a happy, smiling little boy who has obviously put on weight. He is affable and likes to joke with his friends. He has on a clean, pressed shirt and sturdy shoes. In class we are studying a world map (the first ever in this school). Alone is attentive and responds accurately in English. We have a



Alone Banda August 2007



crafts activity making bracelets from beads, and Alone loves this. He proudly displays his new bracelet. Lastly, we go outside to play soccer, and this is the coup de grace. Alone excels! This year he is transformed.

by Dick Bail

New slide show ready for your group

We have developed a new power point presentation with recent photographs of our Zambian communities and a description of how your organization or community can participate as a U.S. partner with our programs. Call us at 617 233-6071 to set up a time for us to visit your organization.

Health report

U.S. and Zambian medical students collaborated on health histories and tests of children in Ngombe



Three Harvard medical students, a Boston nurse and three Lusaka medical students organized by our founder Dr. Richard Bail spent six weeks this summer assessing children's health in a Zambian in one of our communities. The Ngombe community near Lusaka where we support the education of AIDS orphans was the site of the team's work. With a generous grant from Abt Associates in Cambridge, Massachusetts they were able to test and find a surprising result—a high incidence of schistosomiasis.

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

USA Partner Activities Newton & Lexington:



2007 volunteers gather in Zambia before returning to the U.S.

Returned U.S. volunteers tell stories

At a November 2007 presentation to a packed house of the representatives of several U.S. partner communities, service volunteers from Newton and Lexington told their emotional stories of their experiences working along side our Zambian partners this past summer. Held at the First Unitarian Society in Newton, the travelers talked about working on the construction of a medical clinic, teaching orphans supported by Communities Without Borders, conducting a teacher workshop, extensive health testing and treatment of children, demonstrating solar ovens, testing the safety of drinking water in four of the communities, and the many other experiences that they had on their summer trip.

Malaria bednets



Six women in Simukanka given bednets by the school principal

Mosquito-protected bed-nets were distributed this summer to 200 families with pregnant women or children under five who are most at risk for malaria. We are most grateful to our donors who helped with this urgent need. Six children died from malaria in Simukanka in the previous year alone.

Simukanka celebration



Simukanka health workers house is finished on our arrival

This summer Communities Without Borders service volunteers traveled to the rural village of Simukanka to help with construction of a health clinic. Our generous U.S. donors raised over \$30,000 for this critically needed facility. The villagers hand made over 40,000 bricks and supplied their labor. The donations paid for the windows, doors, hardware, bags of cement, metal roofs, and other materials that the villagers had to purchase. A five room house for the government supplied health worker was complete as of our arrival and the clinic was completed by December 2007 !



Villagers made 40,000 bricks by hand for the new medical clinic



Everyone helped sort and stack the bricks - it was a team effort

We need pre-school books !

Have your children/grand children outgrown their pre-school and primary school books?

Communities Without Borders has arranged for free shipping of books to our AIDS orphan communities in Zambia! We need books in good condition ideally with lots of pictures and large type. Call 617 233-6071.

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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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.