



COMMUNITIES WITHOUT BORDERS



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“Literacy is a bridge from misery to hope...the road to human progress and the means through which every man, woman and child can realize his or her full potential.” —Kofi Annan



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Reflecting Back and Looking Forward

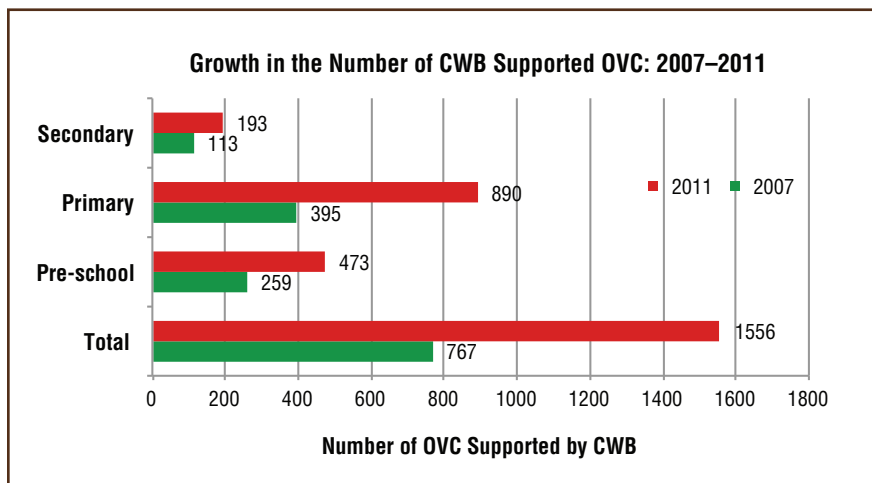
In this year-end edition of our newsletter, we would like to take the opportunity to reflect on where we have come over the past five years and where we hope to go in the future. Some of these changes are well known: our new partnerships with Village Congregational Church in Wellesley, Union and Elliot churches in Newton, and Pilgrim church in Lexington; our new Zambian communities — Fumbelo and Mtendere; and an expanded menu of services including teacher training, feeding programs, and tutoring for national exams.

But we were interested in something else — something we have sensed but in the past have had difficulty quantifying — how has the number of OVC children CWB supports changed over time? Understanding that the data we are dealing with are imperfect, the table on the left shows that in the last five years we have seen

a *doubling* of the number of children we are supporting! In 2011 CWB supported more than 1500 children in pre-school, primary, and secondary school, effectively double the number of children (767) supported in 2007. The increase is seen at each level of schooling. In 2011, the largest proportion of our children (57.2%) is still at the primary level with pre-school and secondary students at 30.3% and 12.4%.

What has this meant for CWB? Most immediately it has meant a significant rise in our total program budget with a larger share of the budget going toward the additional school fees and tutoring costs of secondary students. Primary school (grades 1-6) is a universal right in Zambia, so the cost of sending a child to school is largely due to the cost of shoes, uniforms, and books. In secondary school (7-12), advancement requires successful passing of the 7th and 9th grade exams and the payment of tuition in addition to the primary school costs, hence the cost rises from approximately \$100/ year for primary education to \$300/ year for secondary education.

What are our goals for 2012? We hope to expand our communities both in the US and in Zambia, increase the number of children supported, and continue to forge partnerships with other non-profits in Zambia. In the final analysis, however, our success is measured not in the numbers per se but in making a difference in each of the lives of these children, and on that score, we can all be proud of our accomplishments.





CWB Establishes Partnership with Bata Children's Program

Did you know that shoes are often the difference between children being sick or well? Going barefoot in contaminated soil and dirty water has a number of health hazards including contracting hookworm disease -- one of the reasons why the government of Zambia requires all children attending school to wear shoes. Did you also know that outfitting CWB's approximately 1000 primary and secondary children with shoes is a very expensive proposition? In 2011 the cost of each pair of shoes was \$22.00, which amounted to 15% of our overall budget.

Thanks to a new partnership arrangement between CWB and Bata Children's Program, the foundation affiliate of Bata Shoe Organization, a global footwear manufacturer, CWB will be able to purchase shoes at a significant discount. Nicole Voillat, Director of the Bata Children's Program based in Lausanne, Switzerland, said the partnership with CWB reflects Bata's commitment to creating a brighter future for children in communities where Bata operates. "Social responsibility has been in the DNA of Bata Shoes since its founding in 1894," Voillat said. The Bata Children's Program currently has 50 initiatives reaching over 25,000 disadvantaged children in 20 countries throughout the world.

According to Al Jacobson, CWB Director of Operations, the new agreement will save CWB \$12,000 to \$15,000 annually, funds that can then be used to send more children to school. CWB President Richard Bail, MD described the agreement as a major example of the way in which CWB will be forging new partnerships in order to strengthen and expand services to the children that we support.



CWB Offers Thanks

In this season of giving thanks, we would like to thank two important individuals. Peter Lloyd, one of the founding directors of CWB has stepped down from the board, but will remain active as the treasurer. Peter, a member of First Unitarian Society of Newton and an expert in financial analysis and planning, helped shepherd CWB from its infancy in 2000 to the present day. CWB President, Richard Bail notes that Peter brought patience, persistence, commitment, and an eye for detail that proved an invaluable asset to the organization.

It was also with sadness that we accepted the resignation of Sharon Sisskind, Executive Director of CWB in November. Sharon agreed to a one-year commitment in May of 2008 and 3 years later, with her youngest in college, she has decided to move on. Sharon's extensive involvement with non-profit organizations as well as her background in management consulting provided CWB with organization, leadership,

and a constant eye toward "getting our story out there". We are incredibly fortunate to have had the dedication of such gifted individuals and will be forever in their debt.



Students at Mtendere.

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M'tendere Community
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First Baptist Church, Lexington
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First Unitarian Society in Newton
Friends of Simukanka
Pilgrim Church, Lexington
Union Church, Newton
Harvard Vanguard Health Center, Watertown
Wellesley Village Church
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