

# **Communities Without Borders Annual Report for 2008**



**Senge Zulu, Chawama Community, now a CWB student at National Resources Development College**



## President's Message

This year marked steady progress in the accomplishment of CWB's core mission- to provide educational opportunities to orphans and vulnerable children who otherwise would not be able to be in school. Including both children in government schools as well as those in community-based pre-schools, we are now supporting over 1100 children. Most of these are in primary grades 1-6, but with the help of a new CWB program designed to provide tutoring and preparation for exams, some sixty children passed the 7<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> grade exams, allowing them to progress to next level. The number of children now at the secondary level is 144 and two of the students whom we support attend the National Resources Development College.

Later in the summer CWB was able to arrange for purchase of a school building for Ng'Ombe at a cost of approximately \$15,000. The community of children and care-givers were overjoyed at the turnover ceremony. Now they have a real school of their own. Support for this purchase was made possible from funds donated by the Unitarian Universalist Church in Blacksburg, Virginia and by First Parish in Lexington, Massachusetts.

Over the course of this year four new Boston-based churches have become partners with communities in Zambia: The Wellesley Congregational Village Church, The Eliot Church in Newton Corner, The Union Church in Waban and Pilgrim Church in Lexington. New communities in Zambia have been added as well: Family Support Homes in Fumbelo and in M'tendere. And the Chipego Women of Hope in Linda Compound, who have been supported directly by Communities Without Borders, now have a U.S. community partner-The Eliot Church. Thus, we are realizing our objective for a measured and consistent increase in the number of communities participating in our mission.

We have also begun to meet our long-term plans to strengthen our own organization. Sharon Sisskind, an experienced and skilled manager, has joined CWB as Executive Director. In addition, we held a strategic planning retreat- which has already begun to sharpen the focus of our efforts. Examples of this impact include an improved set of metrics to measure our program outputs, soon to be published electronic newsletter to our supporters, and additional field support for management of our operations in Zambia.

I would like to conclude my annual letter with a short narrative about Senge Zulu, who is featured on the cover of this year's 2008 Annual Report. Senge lost both parents to AIDS as a small child and was raised by his aunt, who had a major problem with alcoholism. He lived and still lives in a very poor one room household in Chawama Compound, one of the peri-urban compounds supported by CWB. Senge joined the CWB program as a child and this gained him access to a formal education. After completing high school Senge became a volunteer teacher in the Chawama pre-school. He taught there for three years with nominal reimbursement of about \$17 per month. He really wanted to continue his education and finally got his chance two and one-half years ago when we were able to support him to attend NRDC- The National Resources Development College to study crop science. This year we learned that Senge is number one in his class. We also learned that during school vacations he returns to Chawama and participates with the children in the pre-school, thus giving back to the community that has supported him. Senge is a humble, intelligent, industrious young man who will help to re-build Zambia, where so many have died of AIDS.

Richard N. Bail, MD, MPH  
President and Founder,  
Communities Without Borders

**Cover Photo:** Senge Zulu, orphaned as a young child, from the Chawama community.

## ***Spotlight on: Ng'Ombe***

*Ng'Ombe, one of the original communities to be supported by CWB, is matched with First Parish and Pilgrim Church, both located in Lexington, MA. Today, one hundred and thirty orphans and vulnerable children are supported by CWB in Ng'Ombe- about half attend primary or secondary school and the rest are in pre-school. These students attend either Ng'Ombe Basic School or the Roma Girls School. In 2008 eight students passed their 7<sup>th</sup> grade national exam.*



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*Cherie Noe, from First Parish, seen cutting the ribbon for a new community home in Ng'Ombe.*



Ruth Litchfield had a particularly positive experience teaching with and mentoring Nina Sakala, the volunteer teacher in Ng'Ombe. Until the purchase of this building, there was no classroom and the children were taught under a tree. Ruth has arranged continuing support for Nina to receive teacher training.

**DEDICATED  
TO THE  
CHILDREN  
OF  
NG'OMBE**

**MADE POSSIBLE BY THE  
GENEROUS  
SUPPORT OF MEMBERS AND  
FRIENDS OF  
FIRST PARISH IN LEXINGTON,  
MA (USA)  
AND THE UU CONGREGATION  
IN BLACKSBURG, VA (USA)**

**THIS IS A JOINT  
COMMUNITIES WITHOUT  
BORDERS AND SWAAZ  
INITIATIVE**

*Plaque placed on the new  
community home in Ng'Ombe*

# Highlights of 2008

- Four new U.S. community partners joined Communities Without Borders. These partners have already become actively involved with their communities and initiated several programs to increase support and knowledge about each other. Many have already been to Zambia and worked side-by-side with the people and communities they are matched with. We are so pleased to welcome:

- Eliot Church of Newton, MA which is paired with the Linda community in Zambia.
- Pilgrim Church of Lexington, MA which will partner with First Parish Church, also in Lexington to support the community of Ng'Ombe.
- Union Church of Newton enabled CWB to adopt M'tendere.
- Wellesley Congregational Village Church has been matched with Fumbelo.



*Members of Wellesley Congregational Village Church with children from Fumbelo.*

- Ten teachers from Newton and Lexington traveled to Zambia this past summer to share their expertise with teachers and trainees. Some of these teachers had special training or expertise not often found in Zambia, including speech pathology, learning disabilities, vocational technology, journalism and other areas. Their experiences and expertise were shared with Zambian teachers and trainees in direct meetings and workshops. These were a great success and were much appreciated by our Zambian colleagues! Our teachers provided the backbone for a two day weekend workshop held by the Zambia Open Community Schools organization (ZOCS) as well as two other workshops for Zambian high school teachers. A number of American teachers also participated in classroom teaching in the schools, thus experiencing directly the challenges and opportunities faced by Zambian teachers.
- 48 students passed their 7<sup>th</sup> grade exams and 12 students passed their 9<sup>th</sup> grade exams. There was an equal split between girls and boys passing.
- Communities Without Borders became an associate member of Community Works, a federation of locally-based non-profit organizations. In 2008 CWB launched a payroll deduction plan that was available to Atrius Health employees. Over \$1,000 was pledged during the brief targeted campaign. Next year CWB will participate in the statewide campaign and we hope to receive many more pledges.



*Memory Bwalya proudly shows off her acceptance letter for passing into the 10<sup>th</sup> grade.*

- The Health Clinic in Simukanka (pictured at the right), which was built by the people of the village with funding from and grant from CWB, was completed. The clinic was outfitted with medical equipment and supplies thanks to funds from the Canadian Foundation. The official dedication celebration will be in 2009.
- CWB Council was established to bring together local U.S. community partners. This group represents members from each of CWB's U.S. community partnering communities in the Boston area and meets quarterly to share ideas, exchange resources, and plan events.



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- CWB volunteers collected, sorted and shipped 149 boxes of books to the children we are supporting in the Lusaka area. Shipping and transportation of the books was made possible through the generous support of Children International in Kansas City.



*Books arriving at the warehouse in Lusaka, Zambia.*

- Established partnership with Zambia Open Community Schools organization (ZOCS) where our teachers and students will have access to the ZOCS resource center and library. CWB built carrels and bookshelves and donated some of the 149 boxes of books to the Resource Center.



- 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Youth Group Coffee House at First Unitarian Society of Newton (FUSN) broke all records. The high school students collected over \$4,500 in one night! Pictured on the left, high school students from FUSN met with students from the Olympia High School while working in Zambia during the summer.

## FINANCIAL OVERVIEW OF 2008

This summary complements the publicly-available Form 990 filed with the Internal Revenue Service and Form PC submitted to the Massachusetts Division of Public Charities. The data comes from CWB's management accounts and may help interpret the public financials.

**CWB's income statement** shows that while gifts from our US partners and individuals grew by 20%, total revenue did not grow over the prior year. The increase in gifts from individuals is significantly due largely to new community partnerships coming on stream. New partnership contracts were signed with Wellesley Congregational Church, Pilgrim Church in Lexington and Union Church and Eliot Churches in Newton.

Total expenditures grew at 26%. The expense in Zambia was \$6,181 and primarily represents the costs of CWB's envoy in Zambia. US expenses increased in 2008 to \$4,806 for strategic planning consultant honoraria, staff travel to Zambia, and additional printing expenses. The other costs are primarily bank charges and filing fees and greatly understate the true economic cost of CWB's administration and development activities. CWB is a volunteer-run and volunteer-supported organization.

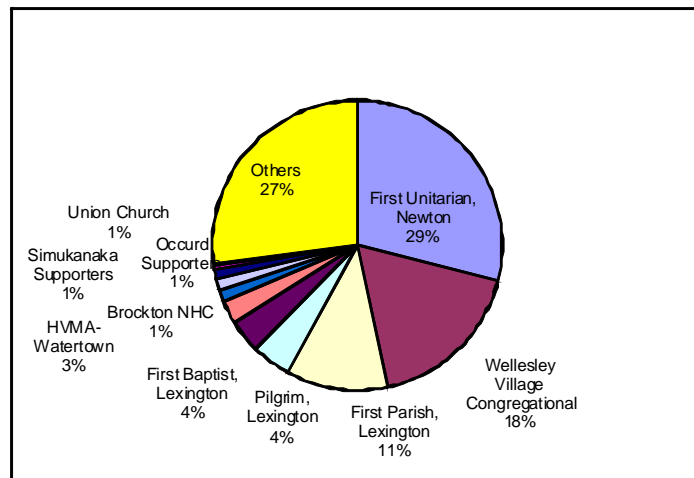
<b>Income Statement &amp; Fund Balance</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2006</b>
Gifts from U.S. community partners (incl. Matching Funds)	\$83,464	\$69,619	\$40,002
Grants and Other Sources (incl. Matching Funds)	15,000	26,000	35,326
Investment Income and Other	<u>(2,557)</u>	<u>3,888</u>	<u>990</u>
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$95,907</b>	<b>\$99,507</b>	<b>\$76,228</b>
Grants to Overseas Communities	\$74,433	\$63,841	\$44,572
Program Support in Zambia	6,181	3,569	2,695
Administrative and Other Expenses in the USA	<u>4,806</u>	<u>482</u>	<u>536</u>
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$85,420</b>	<b>\$67,893</b>	<b>\$47,803</b>
<b>Change in Fund Balance During Year</b>	<b>\$10,487</b>	<b>\$31,615</b>	<b>\$28,425</b>
<b>Total Fund Balance at Start of Year</b>	<b>\$86,636</b>	<b>\$55,021</b>	<b>\$26,596</b>
<b>Total Fund Balance at End of Year</b>	<b>\$97,123</b>	<b>\$86,636</b>	<b>\$55,021</b>

One anonymous grant for \$15,000 was received in 2008. This and prior years' grants are segregated for book-keeping purposes and are being used to expand CWB's organizational capability; to support college scholarships; and for tutoring and teacher training.

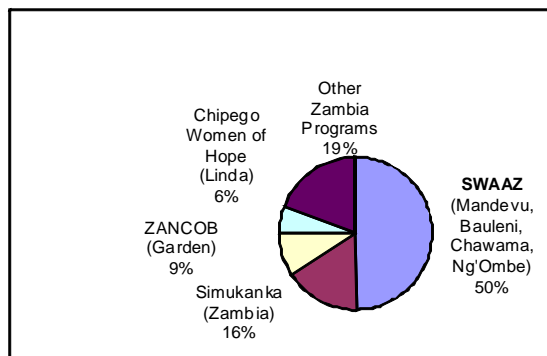
The loss in investment income was a result of the global financial crisis. Despite the high quality of the short-term corporate obligations CWB holds, a \$4.714 unrealized capital loss was recorded in 2008. The good news is that markets have subsequently rebounded and, it appears, that this loss will be more than offset by a gain achieved in 2009. Total grants made in 2008 grew by 17% to \$74,433. A major item of note was the \$15,000 awarded to SWAAZ to acquire a building for the feeding and educating the children (a Family Support Home, which they had been lacking) in Ng'Ombe compound.

**Fundraising in the US** in 2008 by the U.S. community partnering communities was boosted by the efforts of First Unitarian Society of Newton, Wellesley Village Congregational Church, and First Parish, Lexington, which accounted for 58% of the revenue from U.S. community partnering communities.

Grants and expenses totaled \$74,433 in 2008. The Other Zambia Programs category in the chart below includes additional support for the same Zambian partners identified for programs and expenses such as tutoring for 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grade exams and teacher training. These activities fall outside our basic, and regular, recurring support for the education of OVC's (orphans and vulnerable children).



**Fundraising by U.S. Community Partners**



**Grants to Programs in Zambia.**

The sources and uses of funds do not exactly match the nominal partner community relationships because the limited fundraising capability of some, long-term US-based communities cannot match the educational expense for the number of children in their partner communities. The CWB board votes to offer additional assistance from available funds without restrictions to such communities.

**CWB's balance sheet** at December 31, 2008 shows an unusually large fund balance due to the end-of-year gifts received. The large checking account balance includes gifts made in 2008 and other transactions in process at the end of the year.

<b>Locations of Assets:</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2007</b>
Checking account, Citizens Bank, MA	\$44,269	\$ 0
Certificate of Deposit, Citizens Bank, MA	0	10,693
Vanguard Short Term Investment-Grade Bond Fund	45,033	61,736
Checking account, Standard Bank, Lusaka, Zambia	6,625	14,399
Petty Cash, Lusaka, Zambia, & other	1,196	808
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$97,123</b>	<b>\$86,636</b>

<b>Summary of Fund Balances:</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2007</b>
Unrestricted	\$33,233	\$27,331
Targeted to OVC education and partner community support	26,970	16,842
Other segregated funds (scholarships, grants, Simukanka, etc.)	36,920	42,463
<b>Total Fund Balance</b>	<b>\$97,123</b>	<b>\$86,636</b>

*The mission of CWB is to educate AIDS orphans and other vulnerable children, primarily in Africa, in order to nourish hope for a better future for them, society and the world.*

*Our approach fosters building ongoing community to community relationships at the grassroots level in order to increase the quality educational opportunities for these children.*

## **Board of Directors**

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## **Contact us**

- *Could a community in which you live or work be linked to a community in Africa?*
- *Please send us an email 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](mailto:info@communitieswithoutborders.org)**

**Web site: [www.communitieswithoutborders.org](http://www.communitieswithoutborders.org)**

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