



# 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*



*The table below shows that in the last five years we have seen a doubling of the number of children we are supporting!*

## Reflecting Back and Looking Forward

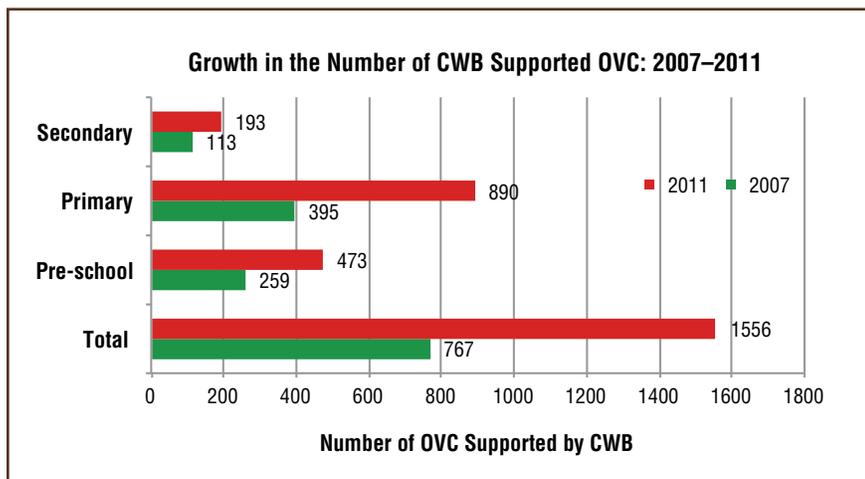
In this year-end edition of our newsletter, we would like to take the opportunity to reflect on where we have come over the past five years and where we hope to go in the future. Some of these changes are well known: our new partnerships with Village Congregational Church in Wellesley, Union and Elliot 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 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> 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.*

#### **Board of Directors**

Richard Bail, M.D.,  
*President*  
Brita Gill-Austern  
Alvin Jacobson  
Cherie Noe, M.D.  
David North  
Patrick O'Reilly  
Peter Smith

Sharon Sisskind,  
*Executive Director*  
Peter Lloyd,  
*Treasurer*  
Jane Ndulo,  
*Special Envoy in Zambia*

#### **OUR PARTNERS**

##### **AFRICAN ORGANIZATIONS IN LUSAKA, ZAMBIA**

Society for Women and AIDS Zambia  
Zambia Nsunga CWB

##### **PARTNER COMMUNITIES IN ZAMBIA**

Bauleni Community  
Chawama Community  
Fumbelo Community  
Garden Community  
Linda Community  
Mandevu Community  
M'tendere Community  
Ng'ombe Community  
Simukanka Village

##### **IN SOUTH INDIA**

Tamilnadu Community

##### **USA PARTNER COMMUNITIES**

Brockton Neighborhood Health Center  
Eliot Church, Newton  
First Baptist Church, Lexington  
First Parish Unitarian Church, Lexington  
First Unitarian Society in Newton  
Friends of Simukanka  
Pilgrim Church, Lexington  
Union Church, Newton  
Harvard Vanguard Health Center, Watertown  
Wellesley Village Church  
Congregational

#### **Contact Us**

Could a community in which you live or work be linked to a community in Africa? Are you interested in learning how to help? Please contact us:

**Call:** 617 965-4713

**e-mail:**  
info@communitieswithoutborders.org

**Website:**  
www.communitieswithoutborders.org

**Facebook:**  
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**Mail donations to:**  
Communities Without Borders  
63 Pickwick Road, Newton, MA 02465  
*or donate on the website*

CWB is a non-governmental organization established as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation; your contribution is fully tax-deductible IRS #20-0842080.



# COMMUNITIES WITHOUT BORDERS

## A PERSONAL PORTRAIT



### Queen Kayivwa: My Dream is to Become an Accountant

It's still very early in the morning. The sun has not yet risen but like she does every weekday morning, Queen rises quietly from her grass mat on the floor which she shares with her brother and a female cousin. She steps softly off to one side of the small two room, windowless cement block house she calls home. Quietly, so not to wake anyone, she studies her school lessons for the day. Now in the 10th grade at Libala High School, Queen's favorite subjects are English, biology, geometric and mechanical drawing, art, and physics. According to her teachers, Queen is a "bright" and dedicated student who often forgoes playing with other girls in school in order to concentrate on her education. She enjoys the quiet time of the early morning and after a couple of hours of study, returns to sleep at 5 o'clock.

When Queen wakes a couple of hours later, she cleans the house, washes the dishes, helps her younger brother and cousin get off to school, and carefully sweeps the dirt grounds around her house. Like many of the squatter compounds in Lusaka, Zambia, Chawama is home for tens of thousands of people squeezed into a few square kilometers. During the rainy season which runs from November to April, the low-lying compound near a river without adequate drainage and sewer pipes is a veritable caldron for cholera outbreaks and other intestinal disorders.

Because there are far fewer classroom positions than there are students who can attend, Queen's high school runs a double shift — morning and afternoon. Queen's session begins at 1:30. After she has finished her morning chores she begins to ready herself for school. She loves putting on her school uniform — a blue pleated skirt, a light blue shirt to match, a blue, red, and white striped tie, a navy blue jersey, black shoes and knee-high white socks. Queen likes the uniform

because she looks very "smart" in it. She heads off for school around 11:30, leaving plenty of time to walk the approximately four miles in order to get there on time. If she is very hungry she occasionally stops to receive a free meal at the community support home on her way to school. But most of the time, like her other peers and despite her hunger, she finds it embarrassing to join the younger children. She arrives at school on time but often hungry.

Queen lives with her aunt who took her in when her own mother died when Queen was 9 years old. Her father died five years earlier when she was four years old. Her younger sister, Charity, lives with Queen's grandmother. Money and food are constant struggles. Her aunt earns \$60 a month as a house maid and Queen earns extra money on the weekends plating women's hair.

Yet despite these daily struggles, Queen and her aunt are grateful. At age 17, most of Queen's girl friends have left school and are married. But thanks to Boston-based non-profit, Communities Without Borders ([www.communities-withoutborders.org](http://www.communities-withoutborders.org)) Queen is not only still in school but her dream of one day becoming an accountant is alive and well. Since she was in the second grade Queen and other orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) in her compound have received support for their education through CWB. Today, in Zambia, a country of 13 million inhabitants, there are close to one million school aged children who have been classified as OVCs. She remembers with great pride and appreciation the certificate she was awarded by summer travelers from CWB. Her hope is that CWB will continue to support her education as well as the education of other children in her community. It is a dream and hope that we all share.

#### Contact Us

##### Communities Without Borders

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