



Maddie Miller shows the power of a smile, a hug, or a handshake goes a long way in Zambia.

Trip Changed Our Lives

By Barney Feiberg-Dale

My wife and two adult daughters came with me on a CWB-coordinated trip this summer, and it changed all our lives. We were volunteers, helping schools operating on a shoestring in the poorest neighborhoods of one of the world's poorest nations, Zambia. About 35 percent of Zambia's population is under 11 years old. Many are homeless or living as second-class members of the households of distant relations. The \$100/year cost for books, shoes, uniforms and fees to a government school is impossible for them.

The community schools CWB supports with money, in-kind donations and volunteer work are a carefully chosen few, made up entirely of orphans and other vulnerable children. Special attention is given to girls, who have often suffered additional trauma and need additional support to stay in school and succeed.

CWB has one paid staff member, Jessie Phiri, a former teacher who helps to ensure the proper spending of the CWB contributions. A cadre of dedicated volunteers in the US, some of whom travel to Zambia each year, visit the schools, create and maintain the necessary relationships, and even pitch in on site.

While one of my daughters helped with teaching and running health clinics, the other was the official trip photographer. My wife helped run clinics and "Tree of Life" workshops for teachers and health workers. I helped fix broken desks, paint buildings and establish ties with local leaders. But the Zambians themselves do most of the work of daily teaching and caregiving for the orphans and other children at risk.

One of the appealing things about CWB is that a donation of only \$100 pays for a child to attend a full year of school. CWB is a perfect partnership of people doing what they can to help some of this world's neediest children.

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Teachers at Garden Provide Critical Support



For more than five years Mumbi Ngosa and Carol Tembo have been the teachers at Garden, where they work hard

to prepare the children for government schools. Solana Baer, Sabrina Freiberg-Dale, Lilly Brownell, Maddie Miller, and I spent four days teaching. We worked on the alphabet, numbers, colors, and animals. We are all impressed with the teachers who go above and beyond to support the children in Garden, from taking urine samples for health screening to providing food for children who might not otherwise have any. The children are so lucky to have them.

Hand-knitted Dolls Bring Smiles

People have knitted and donated dolls for a number of years to give to children we support along with other orphans or vulnerable children. My grandmother Janet Irwin knitted 13 dolls for me to bring on the trip this year. What a joy it was to share the dolls with some of the children we have been working with at Garden. To see the smiles on the faces of the recipients was priceless. Eda was one of the students in the older class. She often was responsible for caring for her young baby sibling during the snack break and did it so effortlessly. She has such a big heart.



Above: Eda holds doll brought by a CWB traveler



Bertha Banda and Dr. Lise Johnson

Teachers Get Health Training

What a wonderful time we had at Living Hope Monday, June 29. Dr. Lise Johnson, a long-time Communities Without Borders supporter and volunteer, got to meet the two recipients who attended the Healthy Kids, Brighter Futures Health Workers Training. Mary Namukulai and Bertha Banda, whom Lise sponsored, were excited to share their experiences with us about the training they received. They have started keeping records to document the children, their illnesses and types of recommended treatment.

We look forward to having them assist us with the upcoming health screenings.



Mary Namukulai at Living Hope



New Sight at Garden

People say it's special to see the world through the eyes of a child.

Mwenya has been at Garden for the last three years. We were surprised to see him back again this year since his classmates all went on to grade 1 in government schools.

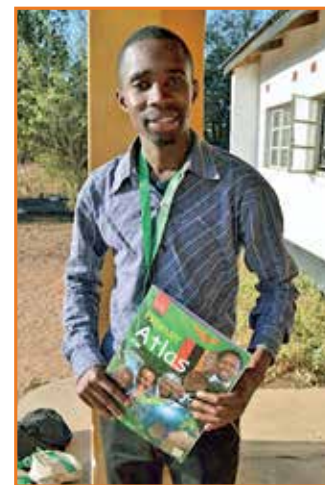
Although Mwenya did go to grade 1, it was recommended that he sit at the front of the class because his eyesight is poor. The government school claimed he was not ready and sent him back to Garden.

We were so happy to be able to make it possible for him to have a pair of glasses. The pure joy he and his family expressed was a memorable experience that even brought his classroom teacher to tears.

In working with Mwenya for the past two years, we know that he has a bright future. We hope to give many other children glasses so that they too can go forward in the years ahead.

Books to Aid Sekelela Students

One of the major needs our new partners have identified is purchasing local curriculum books. Stephen Nkata, a teacher at Sekelela



Community School, is holding one of the books Communities Without Borders bought for the school.

The books will help support instruction for Sekelela's 368 students.

So far, CWB has provided funds for 300 books for Living Hope and Sekelela.



Keep up with CWB at:
www.communitieswithoutborders.org

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

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Mail donations to:
Communities Without Borders
PO Box 111, Newton, MA 02468
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CWB is a non-governmental organization established as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation; your contribution is fully tax-deductible IRS #20-0842080.

Except for "Trip Changed Our Lives," all articles were written by Amy Archibald who led our 2015 trip.

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Garden Community
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