

Living Hope Magazine



Near Living Hope's main gate on Ngwerere Road in Roma Township, Lusaka, Zambia, students arrive for classes at the school.



Inside

- **Mission statement**
- **Director's update**
- **Health services**
- **New library**
- **Transit home**
- **Teaching Cinyanja**
- **Grades 8 and 9**
- **Clubs**
- **Special days**

Living Hope Magazine aims to reach out to all well wishers and inform them about the activities and challenges of Living Hope Foundation. The Living Hope teachers below contributed articles for this issue.



Living Hope Foundation



Emely Banda teaches grade 1.



Angela Daka teaches grade 6.



Sarah Ngoma teaches grades 2, 8 and 9.



Martha Mubanga is a pre-school teacher.



Martiana Mumba teaches grade 5.



Brian Mundia teaches grades 3, 8 and 9.



Emmanuel Mutale teaches grades 8 and 9.



Farai Mweetwa teaches grades 7 and 9.



John Phiri teaches grades 4, 8 and 9.

Photography by Peter Smith with Peter Kapasula
Editorial consultant Helen F. Smith

Living Hope Foundation
Plot No. 139A, Ngwerere Road, Roma. P.O. Box 31624. Lusaka, Zambia
Livinghopefoundation@live.com

Living Hope Foundation (LIHOF), formerly known as Zambia Shanty Development Organization, is a Non-Governmental Organization (N.G.O.) formed on the concept of Love.

It was established October 12, 1996 in order to participate in community development in view of the many social and economic problems in peri-urban and shanty dwellings of Zambia.

OUR VISION

Our vision is to progressively improve the livelihood of the orphans and disadvantaged families in the shanty communities in which we operate, training them in ways that will make them self-sufficient economically and socially, and helping them to live healthy lives.

OUR MISSION

Our mission is to provide and facilitate activities that involve the community in their own development towards good health and economic self-sufficiency.



Communities Without Borders is a nonprofit organization in the United States and NGO in Zambia supporting Living Hope for three years. CWB funded college for a Living Hope teacher, Joyce

Banda and curriculum books for all subjects in grades 1-9. CWB volunteers bought & catalogued books and helped build Living Hope's library. In addition to providing students with glasses and supporting the feeding program, CWB has supported Tree of Life, a program that enhances students' strength and sense of purpose. Peter Smith is a founding director.

Anchor of Hope Charities is a U.S. organization that has provided thousands of shoes to the pupils at Living Hope School and many other children's organizations in Zambia. The shoes protect children from infection and enable them to attend schools that require them.



OUR APPROACH

LIHOF's approach is to help the community help itself by intervening in areas that are critical for their survival and that will have a long-term positive impact on their lives.

LIHOF works in the following areas:

1. Health: In relation to HIV/AIDS, we provide supportive and preventative counseling. We also aim to provide a platform for HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis awareness campaigns, as well as reproductive health sensitization programs.

2. Education: We provide basic education to orphans and other vulnerable children (O.V.C.) from pre-school, primary up to junior secondary (Grade 8-9) education.

3. Training: We provide basic skills training to widows, older orphans and youth in tailoring and design.

This is an important tool in ensuring that the people in poverty who have the energy learn the skills to become self-reliant economically.

4. Transit home: (orphanage) For children aged 6 years to 18 years.

This home is for children who have been neglected, abandoned or lack parental care.

The organization caters to their needs, such as schooling funds, food, shelter and access to health services.

Management has put in place a psychosocial support program as an ongoing process of meeting children's physical, emotional, social, mental and spiritual needs, all of which are considered essential elements for meaningful and positive human development support.



In science class, grade 8 pupils work on techniques of separating mixtures.

OUR MOTIVATION

Approximately one million children in Zambia are either single- or double-parent orphans.

Extended families barely manage to care for these orphans.

Some of the children end up as street kids; their experiences go well beyond the daily struggle for food and shelter.

They are exposed to dangerous activities such as theft, drug abuse, sexual abuse, prostitution and human trafficking.

Some lucky orphans are cared for by their grandparents, who must raise yet another generation: their grandchildren.

But many grandparents do not have the resources needed, either economically or physically. In recent years, abject poverty has also resulted in the illegal emigration of

persons to first world countries, especially in Europe. They seek to escape the vicious poverty in sub-Saharan Africa and find a better life.

We are members of this community that is experiencing devastating trends of high poverty levels and illness (mainly HIV/AIDS-related) resulting in high death rates among young and productive adults.

Consequences include unemployment, high crime rates, homeless children, high dependency rates, breakdowns of family support structures, and a high number of AIDS orphans.

These are problems that should not be accepted as the norm.

They constitute our motivation for involvement: to help our own people, with help from our generous donors.

City, village programs focus on helping vulnerable children

Since Living Hope began in 1996, it has tried to serve as an anchor and find the real issues, said Geoffrey Kamutande, Living Hope Foundation's executive director.

Mr. Kamutande and 30 others helped start the organization in response to "the devastating trend of HIV and AIDS," he said.

Living Hope, he said, was "formed to help vulnerable children."

"A lot were dying and there was a trend of too many street children going into town begging," he said.

"Our role is to educate orphans and vulnerable children."

First there were grades 1-7. In 2009, the organization added grades 8 and 9, Mr. Kamutande said.

Later, he said, in May, 2013, came the Living Hope Foundation—LIHOF—with schools and services in two locations: Roma in Lusaka and Kalindi Village, Mumbwa.

"The village contributed 20 hectares to LIHOF on the condition that LIHOF shows seriousness in developing the land," Mr. Kamutande said.

"If so, LIHOF gets the title to the land. The village needs a reasonable secondary school. The school will start from grades 8 and 9. LIHOF is helping."

LIHOF received money to clear four hectares of land and for seed and fertilizer



Geoffrey Kamutande

from Communities Without Borders with the help of CWB board member, Louis Licht, Mr. Kamutande said.

Two hectares will be for maize and two for soybeans, he said. Community members from the village will do the work, he said.

"The motivation is that the food we shall grow will be for children who come to Kalindi from places that are far away and for workers in Kalindi, both from the village and from Lusaka," he said.

"In October, we expect the rains to start, and that's when we shall start plowing the

field and sowing the seed. Weeding will be throughout. The harvest will be in May and June, 2018.

"Part of the field produce, for example the soybeans, will be sold to get income for LIHOF."

As to the school in Kalindi, Mr. Kamutande said, construction of a one-by-two-level classroom block has begun.

"It's now at roof level," he said. "We need a roof."

"In January, 2018, grades 8 and 9 will be able to use the facility.

"We are eager to see the school grow up to grade 12. We would like to add

- a three classroom block
- grades 10, 11 and 12
- a library and
- a laboratory.

"We need support."

Mr. Kamutande said the school in Kalindi will use solar electricity.

"We will continue to educate orphans and vulnerable children, and continue to keep sheltering and caring for them in Lusaka," Mr. Kamutande said.

In the village and the city, he said, the needs are different.

"By law, the number of children in the orphanage should not exceed 18," he said. "For those who need to learn agriculture, Kalindi will be a good place."

—Helen F. Smith

Health facility aims to add to its services

by **Martiana Mumba and Emmanuel Mutale**

To help children in need, Living Hope began its health program in May, 2015.

Two organizations, Healthy Kids/Brighter Future and Angels of Mercy, support the program and have trained Mary Namukwai and Bertha Banda who are now running the project.

The aim is to decongest the health facilities so that when children get sick at school, they can be treated there.

If the illness is serious, children can be referred to the nearest clinic, Chipata Clinic.

However, the health program faces some

challenges, one of which is the need for a proper place of its own.

Currently, the program uses the administration office.

Another challenge is that the two workers need more training than the short course they received from the two organizations that helped found the project.

For instance, they need to be able to train other teachers to be able to tell when children are ill in their classes.

Also, the organizations that helped found the program do not supply any medicine.

Therefore the school's management looks forward to having thoroughly trained, well equipped health workers.



Mary Namukwai, a school health worker, attends to a child at Living Hope School.



Grade 9 students and teachers study in the library. Teachers are Brian Mundia on the left in the white jacket and John Phiri on the right. Working with the computer is the project manager, Victor Sakal.

New library opens for daily use

by John Phiri

Communities Without Borders opened Living Hope's library in January, 2017.

Every school day the library schedule is from 7:30 until 16:30.

Morning classes can use the library during their lunch period after they eat. Also, teachers can send children to the library in the morning.

Afternoon classes use it from noon to 16:30. Teachers guide pre-primary pupils and those below 5th grade.

Farai Mweetwa is the teacher in charge of the library with assistance from Joyce Banda, who is currently on leave doing practice teaching with Communities Without Borders sponsorship.

Books are arranged according to groups. Children's books are in one area. Books for older students in another.

Reading materials available include dictionaries, science books, support books for building vocabulary, story books such as "Mother Goose," CDs for literacy learning and English books for beginners.

The library also has math calculation books for pre-primary and primary grades along with story books in the local language.

According to Geoffrey Kamutande, Living Hope's executive director, there are no curriculum books available in the library.

Other reading materials the library lacks include local dictionaries, creative technology studies books, information technology studies books and history books from the Zambia curriculum.

The library also lacks chairs and desktop computers for pupils to use.

"There is no borrowing of books," Mr. Kamutande said. "They must be read in the library."

Other rules include

- No eating
- Class teachers must be present with pre-primary through grade 4 classes to guide the students.
- Those who use the library must clean it before and after use.



A young pupil and Mary Namukwai enjoy one of the books CWB has donated to the library.

Transit home provides shelter, support for boys

by **Brian Mundia**

Transit home is for vulnerable children who have been neglected, abandoned or lack parental care.

Not every vulnerable child is given an opportunity to be in Living Hope's transit home.

There are certain procedures Living Hope must follow.

In Zambia, the Ministry of Community Development takes care of the children. Under this ministry Social Welfare handles the children by working hand in hand with the community.

In most cases in Zambia, vulnerable children are found on the street where they stay day and night asking people for money so they can have a meal.

They sleep along the roadsides.

When Social Welfare finds such children in the street, they take them to transit homes.

Transit homes provide shelter and, with the help of well wishers and donors, also provide the children with education. Living Hope Foundation's transit home is for boys only, not girls.

Vulnerable girls are taken to transit homes for girls only. Boys and girls are kept separately for fear of early marriages and pregnancies.

Currently, Living Hope's transit home houses eight boys.

By law in Zambia, a child is any person below the age of 18.

When the boys in Living Hope's transit home reach 18, they are considered adults who can be independent and on their own.

The plan is to train them in agricultural skills at Kalindi Village of Nangoma in the Mumbwa district.

No one has yet participated in such training.

However, children who reach the age of 18 and are still in grades 10-12 are given time to complete their education through grade 12.

Communities Without Borders supports young adults who have gone through Living Hope's program and go on to do courses at the university level, which is the biggest "survival skill".



Living Hope's transit home is for vulnerable children. Benson Mwansa (not his real name) lives in the transit home. He is in 12th grade at a nearby secondary school.

I was once in the transit home. After I had finished grade 9 at Living Hope, I completed my secondary education and then came back to Living Hope to teach.

Luckily, Communities Without Borders chose me, and they are sponsoring me at university where I am doing my teaching course.

I really thank God for such an opportunity.

The management of Living Hope takes care of the children in the transit home.

As Living Hope is a place of work for the people in management, two houses have been given to people who take care of these children when others in management are away.

At Living Hope

by **Farai Mweetwa**

Living Hope's administration works on admission procedures for residents to the transit home with the Social Welfare department in Zambia's Ministry of Community Development.

The children are picked from different streets and taken to different centers around Zambia.

One of the rules is that every child who comes to the transit home should receive training.

The schedule includes activities, such as cooking and working in the garden, to help the children attain skills that may help them in their endeavors.

All the transit home residents are male.

Facilities available

Living Hope's transit home has the following facilities:

- three bedrooms where children sleep. Currently there are eight children.
- one hall for activities such as dining, with three tables and eight garden chairs
- one kitchen where all the cooking is done on one small electric stove. The kitchen has one big stove that does not work because of some damage.

Just next to the kitchen is another room where kitchen materials are kept:

- four big pots where food is prepared and three dishes used for washing and keeping plates
- 16 bed spaces with 16 mattresses. Each bed has two blankets and one sheet.
- one room where the bathroom and toilets are. The two toilets are not in good condition. Water does not pass in the toilets because of damaged pipes.

Facilities needed

- two big stoves where food can be prepared
- a sink where plates and pots can be washed. Currently, plates are washed in dishes that have holes in them.
- tiles for the floors of the kitchen and bedrooms
- plates, cups and dishwashing equipment
- three big tables in bedrooms where the boys can study
- lockers where each child in transit can safely store his property.

Teaching Cinyanja

by John Phiri

Zambia has 72 languages. However, the major languages, Cinyanja, Bemba, Tonga and Lenje, are mostly learned at the primary level.

Nevertheless, since 1964, English has been considered an official language throughout the country.

I discovered a simple method of teaching the primary grade local language of Cinyanja by dividing words I write on the chalkboard into syllables.

For example atate means father in English.

That noun can be divided as A TA TE. Therefore, it is easy for pupils to understand, read and write on the chalkboard.

Other examples of words in Cinyanja: Mulibwanji means hello.

Mwauka bwanji means good morning.

Zina langa ndine means my name is.

Sikulu means school.

Amai means mother.

Napapata means please.

Zikomo means thank you.

Muyende bwino means goodbye.



Grade 8 pupils report to school just before 12:30.

Program prepares pupils for higher levels

by Sarah Ngoma and Angela Mutuba

With 57 students in grade 8 and 56 in grade 9 in Lusaka, Living Hope’s program provides preparation for higher levels.

Starting with pre-school and going through grade 9, teachers are required to make lesson plans, weekly forecasts and schemes of work.

Pupils in grades 8 and 9 are supposed to learn how to speak and write Cinyanja, a local language. They also get exposed to computers through ICT, Information Communication Technology, which the Ministry of Education introduced in 2014.

Computers have been a challenge at Living Hope because they school does not have them. Donations of computers from well wishers would be extremely welcome.

Grade 8 classes meet in the afternoon, and grade 9 classes meet in the morning.

To go on to grade 10, students must sit for an exam that the Examination Council of Zambia prepares.

Grade 9					
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
7:20	Math	Religious Edu.	History	Science	History
8:30	Science	English	Expressive Art	History	Geography
10:00	break	break	break	break	break
10:30	Civics	Cinyanja	Science	English	Math
11:00	History	Cinyanja	Science	English	Math

Grade 8					
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
12:30	English	Cinyanja	Science	Expressive Art	Religious Edu.
13:10	Math	History	Civics	Math	Civics
15:00	break	break	break	break	break
15:30	Science	Religious Edu.	Clubs	Geography	History



Seventh-grade pupils leave for lunch in their homes at Chipata Compound. Behind them are the school buildings with the library on the right. A Zambian flag flies overhead.

Celebrating special days

by Martha Mubanga

As a community school, Living Hope includes different kinds of children with different talents and interests.

In Term One, which begins in January and ends in April, we celebrate Youth Day. This occasion motivates the students to do better in school so that it can empower them in the future.

Term Two begins in May and ends in

August. During this term we celebrate African Freedom Day. This celebration reminds us of how African countries struggled to gain their freedom from the British rule from 1850-1964, when Zambia became independent.

In Term Three, school starts in September and closes in December. During this term we celebrate Independence Day October 24, the day when Zambia became liberated.

Clubs provide opportunities

by Emely Banda

Along with the clubs that continue their activities, Debate Club is new this year.

Debate Club focuses on improving students' vocabulary, research skills and articulation of important issues.

Open to grades 8 and 9, the club deals with topics including child labor, gender equality and governance.

"Debate Club was mainly introduced for the students' intellectual development," said Emmanuel Mutale, the teacher in charge with John Phiri.

"Students should be able to use reasoning when articulating issues."

The club meets Wednesday afternoons.

Anti-AIDS Club activities affect people in real life. The club focuses on AIDS, how it is transmitted and what can be done to prevent it.

Meetings are Wednesdays and Fridays.

The teacher in charge is John Phiri.

Choir Club gives students an opportunity to praise and worship God through gospel music.

Teachers in charge are Emely Banda and Sarah Ngoma. Meetings are Wednesdays.

Chongolo and Conservation Club teaches students about nature.

The word "chongolo" means millipede, and this club concerns conservation of animals, birds and plants.

Chongolo and Conservation Clubs of Zambia formed in 1953 as a national movement. At Living Hope, the club began in 2006.

Farai Mweetwa is the teacher in charge.

In **Drama Club**, members learn about theatre. They acquire skills in acting and staging, and perform for the school and its visitors.

Martha Mubanga is the teacher in charge.

JETS Club encourages critical and creative thinking. Meeting Friday afternoons, its members solve mathematics and science problems.

JETS stands for Junior Engineers, Technicians and Scientists.

Brian Mundia is the teacher in charge.

Scripture Union Club aims to make God's good news known to children, young people and their families.

Along with reading scriptures, members sing songs in praise of God.

Emely Banda and Martiana Mumba are the teachers in charge.