

May, 2004

The ZAMBIAN CHILDREN'S FUND

Chishawasha Newsletter



*Nicholas, age 7, joined the house
after attending our school for a year*

Update on our Efforts in Zambia

For the first time this year during the rainy season, we cleared a section of land and planted crops. We grew beans (dried, white beans), "Irish" white potatoes and yams. Photos of the children harvesting beans are inside. We also planted tree seedlings including papaya, mango, guava (both white and pink), and avocado.

In addition, we cleared another area large enough for two soccer fields and used the grass that was cut as thatch for the roofs of two ramadas. The ramadas give us a space in which everyone can rest and get out of the sun when we are farming, or when we take all of the children out to the "farm" for a picnic and "holiday".

In order to start building houses this August we need to put up a number of other structures. First, we have to build a small structure around the borehole that is being drilled for us by the Glassco Charitable Foundation for Children. This building, consisting of four walls, a roof and a door, serves two purposes; it protects the well and the electric water pump and it gives us the required "building" we need for the electric company to provide us with electricity. It will cost us about \$500.00 to build.

While the well and pump are being put in we will build a traditional hut for a guard and two young men. The young men will be the first apprentices in our general construction skill training program. The hut will have a corrugated metal roof, instead of the traditional grass thatched roof (which is highly flammable) and will cost us \$200.

Next, we need to build a much larger building in which we can safely store building tools and supplies. (It will also provide space for items shipped over in our container including books, clothing and school desks.) That will cost us another \$2,000 to build. By the time the work crew arrives in August, we hope to have blocks, cement, and roofing materials safely stored on site and ready for building. Once the three buildings are complete, we will start the foundation for our first house.

The World Food Program Is Helping us Help Children

Last year for six months, the World Food Program delivered a 25 kg (about 50 pounds) bag of soy meal, and a bottle of cooking oil once a month to our house in Lusaka. We used the soy meal for breakfast porridge and the oil in our everyday preparation of dinner. Although it didn't make a very significant difference in our food costs, it did help, and having a well known agency recognize our work made us feel like we are being accepted in the community of organizations working to help children.

Evidently, they decided the Chishawasha Children's Home is an agency they are willing to continue doing business with. This year the World Food Program has expanded their donations to CCHZ. For the next six months, they will be delivering thirty 25kg bags of soy and corn meal once a month. The grain is to help the children at our house as well as all of the children (and their families) that attend our school and the children in our Home Based Support Program. Most of the fifteen children from N'gombe Compound who attend our school have sisters, brothers and/or cousins who are either too young or too old for our school. A number of the children in our Home Based Support Program do not have any adult in their home, but all of them have other siblings. So, with the World Food Program's help, we are now helping to feed more than 100 children. We are really excited about the opportunity to help give orphaned children in **all** of our programs a significant amount of food for the next six months.



Shield



Paxina

In using CCHZ as a food distribution center, the World Food Program is acknowledging that the Chishawasha Children's Home is a well run organization that is making a positive difference in the lives of orphaned in Zambian children.

Life at 5 Njoka Road

In March, the Social Welfare Department of Zambia decided 25 children were too many children to be living in our three bedroom house in Lusaka. They told us either they would take some of the children, or we would have to find somewhere else for them to stay. They had allowed us to have so many children in the house until now because they thought we would be building houses by this time. Two months earlier we had taken in one of our 2nd grade students and her brother and sister who were three year old twins. We arranged with the children's grandmother to keep Estelle, age 6, in our 2nd grade class, but returned the twins to her until we have more space. Then, we had to figure out how to provide more living space for the other 23 children, most of whom have lived with us for at least two years.



Brenda, age 3, is one of the twins

In the backyard, there was an unfinished building which consisted of four bare concrete walls. We connected electricity to the building and the older children helped add a roof, a floor, a door, windows, and plaster, and then painted it. It took about two weeks, but our second and third grade class now has a nice new space. The other class moved into the garage which is attached to the main house. We then converted what we had been using as classrooms into a living space for the four oldest girls and one of the Mothers. (The building also has a toilet.) Everyone now has more space and the Social Welfare Department is letting our family stay together. Desperate people continue to come to the house and ask us to take in children, but we have to say no because we already have so many brothers, sisters and cousins of the children in our house and school on our waiting list.

3rd Annual Art Show and Silent Auction

Our 3rd Annual Art Show and Silent Auction will be held Sunday November 27, 2004 from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., at First Congregational Church 1350 North Arcadia. We are looking for artists and craftspeople who would like to have a table or booth. ZCF asks for a tax deductible donation of \$25.00 for a table plus one item for our Silent Auction and 15% of gross sales.

We also need nice items of value (they do not have to be art) for our Silent Auction. For more information, or if you would like to have a table or make a donation, please call Barby at 520-237-8881 or e-mail: zambiancf@yahoo.com

Growing Up in Zambia

Recently, I read an article in a Zambian newspaper about an orphanage located in the poverty stricken Northwestern Province. There were so many orphaned children in one village that all of the families had taken in children and there were still orphans without homes. The women of the village got together to start an orphanage to help the children who had no one to care for them. The orphanage now has 105 children and the women are struggling to feed the children two meals a week.



Bwilya & Nicholas

Many Zambians still prefer to think all orphaned children should be taken care of in their own communities.

Unfortunately, that means most orphaned children will have one meal every two or three days and go entirely uneducated. Most villages have no school and even in Lusaka there is no money to pay for everything necessary for a child to go to school. All too often, the children die a slow death from starvation or opportunistic diseases and parasites which they cannot fight off because of malnutrition.

Three years have now gone by since we first started taking children into our house in Lusaka. One of the most horrifying things that happened that first year I lived in Lusaka was finding out children had died a week or two after I had interviewed them and their families.

Sometimes when one of our children goes back to visit their relatives or grandparents for an extended time they return to us with malaria or other diseases or parasites. We immediately either take them to a doctor or give them whatever medicine is needed to return them to health.

One thing we do know we have succeeded in doing is keeping all of the children who are in our house alive and healthy.



Stephen is planting a guava tree

We have an Office & Storage Space !!

First Congregational Church has donated an office and storage space to ZCF. The church is buying a church building located at 1350 N. Arcadia (just north of Speedway and east of Swan) and expects to be able to start moving in on July 6. We need volunteers to help us move in and to help staff the office 5 days a week from 9:00 to 4:00. We are hoping to schedule volunteers one day a week (or even half a day) to keep the office open. We need people to help with office work, help pack boxes to be shipped to Zambia and various other jobs. If you can donate time, please call Kathe at 322-6856 before July 15, or after July 20 call Barby Goldschmidt at 520-237-8881. Or you can e-mail us at zambiancf@yahoo.com. Barby will manage the office and collection center during Kathe's absence.

Now that we have space, we welcome donations of children's clothing, household items, etc., (see list below). We have had four treadle sewing machines donated and all of our teenage girls in Zambia are anxious to start sewing. Eventually, we hope to have a sewing class offered as part of our high school curriculum, so we will need to have 20 to 25 treadle sewing machines. If you have any sewing items such as fabric, thread, patterns, metal zippers, etc, we would love to be able to ship a few boxes to Zambia just for our sewing classes.

List of Items Needed

Children's clothing, ages 1 to 18 years
Shoes (used & new)
Sweaters, sweats, light weight coats

Garden Tools
Building tools (hand tools)

medical/first aids items
Band-aids, neosporin, tylenol (both children's & regular) peroxide, cotton balls, etc.

Linens, sheets, towels, blankets, etc

School Supplies
Pencils, chalk, erasers,
pencil sharpeners,
English dictionary

Children's books, all reading levels
Computers
Computer printers

Treadle Sewing Machines
Fabric, Bobbins, thread,
Metal zippers, pins, patterns

Household goods & furniture
Kitchen items, large pots & pans
Mixing bowls, cooking utensils,
Dinnerware, silverware, etc.

Calendar of Events

- July 19 - Kathe returns to Zambia
- Aug. 3 - volunteers arrive in Zambia
to help build 1st house
- Aug. 17 - volunteers leave Zambia
- Sept 15 - Kathe returns to Tucson
- Sept 21 - Kathe to speak at Luncheon
at Trinity Presbyterian Church
- Late Sept, Oct & early Nov Kathe will
touring the U.S. & Canada
- Nov. 27 - Art Show & Silent auction



*Daniel is now 5 and can't decide if he
wants to help harvest beans or play the drum*

Kathe will return to the U.S. in September and will be available to speak to groups, organizations or churches throughout the U.S. and Canada starting the end of September through the first week of November. She will return to Tucson by mid-November and will be available for speaking engagements in Tucson and Arizona in November & December. If you belong to an organization that would like to invite Kathe to speak about the work in Zambia, please call 322-6856 by July 15 or 520-237-8881 after July 20, or e-mail us at zambiancf@yahoo.com.

Zambian Children's Fund
P.O. Box 42996
Tucson, AZ 85733



*Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot,
nothing is going to get better, it's not.
~ The Lorax, by Dr. Suess*