



# The Protea

## Elizabeth Bowers Zambia Education Fund

Vol. III No. 1

An education scholarship program for Zambian girls and women

May 2008

The number of EBZEF scholarship recipients in 2008 is 92 with 36 girls in 8th grade, 40 in 9th, 9 in 10th, 4 in 11th, and 3 in 12th grade. In addition, Mutinta Chilumbwe and Regina Chilufya have been accepted at Solwezi Technical High School, while Kutemba Njolomba and Jennipher Mukwakwa are studying at Mukenge Girls' School. It is an honor to be selected for these schools.

The newest Beth's Girls, this year's 8th graders, are aware of their responsibilities to themselves, to the village, and to the country at large. As Kerrin Manjimela says, "My favorite subject is science because we are living in the world of science. When I finish school I want to be a teacher. I always dream of becoming one of the important women in the future." Precious Mumba agrees: "I want to be

### Beth's Girls Have High Hopes



Mwinilunga HS Beth's Girls receive school supplies.

a teacher also. I dream of becoming an important Lumwana girl."

The girls are developing a support community among themselves. Anipher Mbimbi tells us, "I am the second born in a family of eight children. I want to become a doctor. My dream is to help other girls in the future." Grace Mutambila adds, "My future dream is that, being one of Beth's Girls, I want to be a good model to the in-coming Beth's Girls."

They see the potential impact they could have on Zambia. "When I finish school I want to be a teacher so that I can help my fellow Zambians," insists Wana Muchenga. Grace Mufishi adds, "Education means a lot to me because I feel I can contribute to the development of my country positively." Ester Kagivwa adds, "Education is the key to all the people in my country."

### Peace Corps Offers Life Skills Training

A major obstacle for Beth's Girls in achieving an education is early pregnancy. Every year a number of girls leave school for this reason, as, traditionally, village girls marry young and have many children. EBZEF's policy has been to get girls back in school as soon as possible after the baby is born. Several of our girls have done so.



EBZEF's policy is in line with the human rights document "The African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child" which affirms that every child shall have the right to an education. It states that "Parties to the Charter shall have all appropriate measures to ensure that children who become pregnant before completing their education shall have an opportunity to continue with their education on the basis of their individual ability."

The need for Life Skills training for the girls and for the village is clear. Peace Corps volunteer Jessica Hillsley, working with local facilitators, has begun a series of girls' clubs in the local catchment areas which are working with the PC Life Skills

program. It "addresses the development of the whole individual—so that a person will have the skills to make use of all types of information, whether it be related to HIV/AIDS, STDs, reproductive health, safe motherhood, other health issues, and other communication and decision-making situations" (PC Life Skills Manual).

EBZEF fully supports the local capacity building of the Peace Corps program and hopes to see it develop as a community driven initiative which will include the boys of Lumwana West as well as the people of the village at large.

### Congratulations!

Four Beth's Girls graduated from Mwinilunga High School in 2007, including Sandra Kamulosu, Rachael Kamwandi, Nority Muke, and Rebecca Mukwakwa. This is double the number from 2006 (Eunice Kanema and Dianah Masumbah), which doubled from 2005 (Prudence Masanyinga). EBZEF supports their efforts towards higher education.

### Thank you

to our generous donors. 100% of your donation goes directly to help the young women of Lumwana West.

Donate online at <[www.bethsgirls.org](http://www.bethsgirls.org)>.



12th graders Juliet Muke and Bertha Chitalu.

## Upcoming Events

### DAY OF THE AFRICAN CHILD

Join EBZEF in celebrating the Day of the African Child on Saturday, June 14, 2008, at the World Forestry Center Outdoor Plaza in Portland, Oregon. Visit our display and help the world "to mark the place of the child in our society."

### WORLD BEAT FESTIVAL

Visit the EBZEF booth in the African Village at Salem's 11th Annual World Beat Festival on June 28-29, 2008, at Riverfront Park. Enjoy international food, music, crafts, entertainment, Dragon Boat races, and much more.

## Prudence Report



Prudence Masanyinga, EBZEF's first high school graduate, completed a two-year Certificate program in Community Development Studies at Chalimbana Government Training Institute, in December 2007. Mr. Pondani Daka, Course Director, reports that she "was among the few candidates nominated by the Institute to undertake an 18 month Advanced Diploma Program in Rural and Urban Management starting January 2008."

Because of her Certificate, Prudence will be exempt from the first level of the Diploma program and will complete her studies within 12 months. EBZEF Board member Fordson Kafweku says that the Diploma is equivalent to an Associate Degree in the US. Noting the message on Prudence's shirt, "I'm famous! You just don't know it yet," Fordson insists that it is "true to what she is."

Prudence hopes to continue her internship projects during intercessions in the village of Lumwana West. She is a true leader and role model for Beth's Girls. 🌿

## Letter from Mary

Beth's Girl Mary Lundeba writes about her work for the PhD program in Fisheries Science at Penn State University.

"My research is about the new species of fish in Lake Malawi. Fish provide much of the animal protein consumed by Zambians (60%) and Malawians (70%). The rising human population has exerted pressure on this

resource, now over-exploited, calling for effective management strategies. To devise such strategies, a majority of

fish need to be identified and described, and their biology and ecology understood.

This is the focus of my research. I am also a teaching assistant for a Vertebrate Laboratory course, which focuses on the anatomy and diversity of vertebrates."

Mary's 2007 PEO scholarship has just been renewed for another year. She has published two articles and is working on a

third. Mary passed her PhD qualifying exams in November 2007. She plans to visit her sons, Terrah and Terry, in Zambia this summer. 🌿



Mary at work in her lab.

## Passing Rates for NW Zambian Girls Soar

EBZEF Board member Fordson Kafweku shares good news with us. "Although this is at a global level, the Grade 7 results for 2008 are out, and Zambia has recorded a higher passing rate for girls than ever before. The Northwestern province has recorded the highest progression rate of 79.25% with 95.38% of girls making it to grade 8!" He assures us that though EBZEF is making "a small contribution, it all adds up to the global picture. Your efforts are not in vain. Be encouraged!" 🌿

## Africa Week at WU

Graduate student Angela Wanak (Business/Law) with undergraduates Carlee Kondo and Acacia McGuire gave an EBZEF presentation on "Students Empower Students: Educate Girls in Africa" on Wednesday, February 20, 2008, during Willamette University's 3rd annual Africa Week celebration.

EBZEF Board members and volunteers also offered an informational display at the African Market on February 22nd. 🌿



Intern Cassandra Farrin and Board member Karen Chittick at the informational display.



Jeani Bragg presenting EBZEF proposal.

## Grant Seminar

Board members Jennifer Roney, Jeani Bragg, and Linda Bowers attended a three-day seminar with The Grant Institute from January 22-24, 2008, at Portland State University. Facilitator Michele B. Morgan led rigorous and inspiring sessions to help EBZEF shape its grant-writing policies. 🌿

## More Happenings

### NEW BOOKKEEPER

EBZEF welcomes Barb Craven, of Barb's Professional Bookkeeping and Tax Service, as our new volunteer bookkeeper beginning in May 2008. Special thanks to Susan Beck, for her hard work, training skills, and patience in setting up the original books for EBZEF.

### NEW WEBMISTRESS

Welcome to Laura Simmons, web designer for Willamette University, as EBZEF's new web mistress. Special thanks to retiring web mistress Allison Towers who designed our beautiful <www.bethsgirls.org> website.



Elizabeth Bowers Memorial Library, April 2008. Artist's rendering by Gerard Bowers.

## Books for Library

Thanks to the generous efforts of EBZEF partners Books For Africa, the Caritas Foundation, and World Vision US, 22,000 pounds of books are currently enroute to the memorial library in Lumwana West. According to World Vision US Logistics Manager John Littell, the container "sailed on 3/21 onboard the vessel Maersk Georgia Voyage 0805, and is due to arrive in Salalah (Oman) on 4/19 where it will be transhipped to the

Cap Andreas V0809, arriving in Dar es Salaam (Tanzania) 4/28."

EBZEF is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit corporation. All contributions are fully tax deductible.

WVUS estimates it will arrive by truck in Lusaka, Zambia, around May 8-15, unless delayed by port congestion. From there, WV Zambia will handle transport to the Lunga ADP in the NW Province. The books should arrive in Lumwana West some time in late May.



EBZEF container aboard the Maersk Georgia.

## Library Construction Complete

Mr. Mbongo Njolomba, Lumwana West Basic School Headmaster, reports that the construction phase of the library/learning center is now complete. The last window panes have been installed, the doors are on, and the building has been painted. Local carpenters are building book shelves, tables, and chairs. EBZEF is soliciting funds for a solar power system and computers for the new facility.

When the books arrive, Mr. Njolomba with Beth's Girls Eunice Kanema and Dianah Masumbah as assistants, will begin to catalogue the collection. EBZEF hopes to hire a professional librarian to set-up and run the Elizabeth Bowers Memorial Library. To do so, we will need to build a librarian's house in the village. The library will prove a valuable learning center for the community of Lumwana West.

## Volunteer Thanks

Special thanks to Willamette University volunteers Carlee Kondo for In-Design layout and Oliver Donaldson for photo editing, Acacia McGuire, Shonnessy Gilmore, and Jordan Roberts. Thanks also to South Salem High School volunteers Eleanor Ellis and Rosemary Dorman who now serve on the EBZEF Education Committee.

## Student Fundraiser

The annual St. Patrick's Day male beauty pageant, held on March 14, and sponsored by the WU Kaneko Service and Morale Committee, donated its funds to Beth's Girls this year. Representative Jessica Piiohia said "As a community, we were proud to be able to raise \$100 for EBZEF in hopes of helping the women of Zambia receive a better education."

## Give a life-altering gift for graduation, birthday, or wedding

Share in the work of changing lives and offering hope to the young women of NW Zambia. *A little goes so far:*

- \$35 books
- \$55 uniforms
- \$195 funds a student in grade 8
- \$155 funds a student in grade 9
- \$480 funds a student in grade 10
- \$425 funds a student in grade 11
- \$510 funds a student in grade 12
- \$2,000 two-year teaching degree
- \$15,600 computers, printers, internet
- \$22,400 library solar power system

Amounts vary due to the fluctuating exchange rate between the US \$ and Zambian Kwacha.

**Yes!** I want to change a life and impact a family, a village, and a nation by supporting Zambian women's education.

I have enclosed a donation of \_\_\_\_\_  As a gift

**From:** Name \_\_\_\_\_ **To:** Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

*If donating as a gift, please include your name and address as well.*

**Elizabeth Bowers Zambia Education Fund**

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# Photo Gallery



Recent protea photo from South Africa by Howard Oesterling, Beth's uncle.



Angela Wanak presents on educating girls in Africa during Africa Week at WU.



South Salem High School EBZEF volunteers Rosemary Dorman and Eleanor Ellis assist Linda during WU African Market Day.



Board Members Gerry and Linda Bowers and Karen Chittick packing books for EBZEF memorial library.

## 20th Anniversary

Congratulations to Books For Africa on their 20th year of supplying books for schools and libraries in Africa. BFA has sent 18 million books to 37 countries since 1988, with the goal of "ending the book famine in Africa." Our special thanks to Asst. Dir. Deb McDonald for helping us to ship books to the EBZEF library.



Books awaiting their long journey to the Lumwana West library.

## The Elizabeth Bowers Zambia Education Fund

*One life made the connection.*

Now many carry on the vision of caring.



## Our Mission

The Elizabeth Bowers Zambia Education Fund is a non-profit organization created to provide education to girls from the Lumwana West area in NW Zambia. Elizabeth Rachel Bowers (1979-2002) shared her compassionate spirit with the people of NW Zambia as a Peace Corps volunteer. The Scholarship legacy sustains Beth's vision of service and global awareness by empowering young women to build positive change from within, to become leaders and educators, and to improve the quality of life in their communities.

## Beth Bowers Memorial Tree

Zambia Peace Corps Director Cindy Threlkeld reports "We have finally selected a wonderful tree to plant as a memorial to Beth on the Peace Corps grounds. It is a 'perfect fit' to honor her memory."

PC Program Manager Donald Phiri adds, "We have planted the moringa tree as the memorial for Beth Bowers. Of late, there has been a high demand for moringa seed

from the communities. Once it has grown, Beth's memorial tree will become a constant supply of the much needed seed, which can be difficult to obtain. As a result, over time, the benefit of the memorial tree will be spread country wide."



seedpod

flower

leaves/tree

**Moringa Oleifera** multiplies from stem cuttings or seed. Except for the bark, every part of the tree is edible. The young, tender leaves are eaten raw in salads and cooked as a tasty potherb. The cooked leaves are also placed in soups and curries. The leaves can also be powdered and used as a spice. The flowers, fresh or dried, are used for tea. The immature pods can be cooked whole or the seeds removed and cooked as peas. Mature seeds are roasted and eaten as nuts or pressed for their oil. The roots can be ground and used as horseradish.