



Orphans of AIDS
in our Hands

ZOA brings together Zambians and friends of Zambia to face the AIDS pandemic challenge and seek ways of responding to the desperate need for support for the children who are its victims.

Newsletter

Spring 2010

“A Welcome Gift”

“It so happened that I stepped out of the house just after 7:00 p.m. on January 2, 2010, and there in front of me, on the door step, lay a bundle. I was surprised! One of my sisters rushed to help me and picked up the bundle. She looked at the peaceful little face of a baby fast asleep.

Numerous thoughts ran through my mind: Why did the mother dump her beautiful baby boy? Why would she not treasure her own flesh and blood? Was she a school girl? Was she single or married? Was she destitute or did she have “the” terminal illness? Had she no shelter? Was she

aware that she deprived the child of him in the future? all the love and care only a mother can give to prepare him to face a tough world? Will she not be missing

What about the little boy who will never know his mother, his family, his cultural roots?







*Baby abandoned at
St. Anthony Children's Village*

Even though an orphanage does everything it can to help children to grow up healthy and content, many children do not get all the attention they need. Let us remember that each child is a gift from God, and as such should be cherished. The baby was named Thomas Yande. 'Yande' means 'a welcome gift'. Thomas is now four months old and doing fine.”

*Sister Philomena Schwegmann, O.P.
St Anthony Children's Village, Ndola,
Zambia*

SAVE THE DATES

-  **June 19** **ZOA Picnic, McLean, VA** — come enjoy the summer weather and wonderful spread in a lovely backyard setting!
-  **October 31** **Marine Corps Marathon, Arlington, Virginia** — please help to sponsor the runners who are participating on ZOA's behalf.
-  **November 2 - 4** **McNamara World Bank Craft Show, Washington DC** — ZOA will be selling many beautiful hand-crafted items, so please stop by and support our orphans!
-  **October 15** **ZOA's Tenth Anniversary Gala, Washington DC** — join us for this event-filled evening to celebrate all that we have accomplished together in the past ten years!

Dulles Rotary Club Members visit ZOA Projects

By Andrew Wade, ZOA Board Member

As President of the Washington Dulles Rotary Club, I traveled to the Copperbelt province in northern Zambia in May 2009 to visit three new water boreholes that our club financed through the Rotary International Matching grant program. The boreholes were located at three different community schools.

While visiting Zambia, ZOA Z arranged for me to visit St. Anthony Children's Village and Twapia Transient Home in Ndola. We were introduced to Sister Philomena Schwegmann who was as in-

idea behind these programs is to give students skills they can use to support their families. With most of the country unemployed, this is a drive to create something sustainable.

The Rotary Club representatives and I were so impressed with the ZOA projects we visited that upon our return, we requested and received a Simplified Grant totaling more than \$9,300 to support two ZOA projects, Chisomo Home Based Care and Twatasha Youth Formation. In August 2009, The ZOA US Board voted to accept me on the Board of Directors.

In May 2010, I returned to Zambia with Scott Didericksen (the current President of the Dulles Rotary Club), Jacob Lee Johnson, and Margaret Wade (my mother) and we visited

Sister Philomena, her staff, and the 135 orphans they currently support. It was a beautiful sunny day in Ndola. The environment which Sister Philomena creates is amazing. It continues to be clean, organized, and overall a happy place. There are paid staff as well as volunteers. Some of the volunteers are specialized in working with children with cerebral palsy, for example. There is also a kitchen staff that goes to the market place and purchases fresh food — not like a typical institution. Currently, budgets are fragile so the very fresh fruits and vegetables and meats which are essential to good health are not always available.

The stories of the children at St. Anthony are both tragic and uplifting.

First, there is little Edmond. His caregivers or parents were evicted from a house in the Mushili Compound (outskirts of

Ndola). Edmond was left in tall grass near the house in the yard. On December 29, 2009, neighborhood kids went to the market. As they walked, they heard a little whimper, which they thought was a dog. It was little Edmond. The children told their parents, who contacted the police and social services. Edmond was in the hospital for two weeks before being



Abandoned Baby Edmond

legally placed at St. Anthony Children's Village. Today, he is thriving and you would not know he had been a victim of neglect.



Twatasha Youth Formation Target Programme—Masonry

credible as were the facilities. Sister Philomena ran the organizations like a top-notch CEO. The facilities were very clean, well organized, and comfortable. The children were happy & well taken care of and the ratio of adults to children seemed to be more than adequate.

Later that afternoon, we drove over to Kitwe and visited the Twatasha Youth Formation Target Programme, which teaches young adults skills that include sewing, carpentry, food service, masonry, welding, and also coffin production. The



Sr. Philomena Schwegmann and Andrew Wade

Next we have little Grace in a blue sweater being held by Maureen, the 'house mother' of St. Anthony's. Grace's mother was delusional and was walking around outside her

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Dulles Rotary Club

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Rescued Baby Grace

around outside her house trying to sell Grace as if she were food in the market. Fortunately for Grace, her grandmother saw what was happening and reported her own daughter to social services. Social

service workers, knowing about the excellent care St. Anthony's staff provides, quickly placed Grace there. Like Baby Edmond, Grace is doing well.

Lastly, we have a follow up on little Thomas (See page 1). Thomas was left on the front door stoop of St. Anthony's back in January. He was almost stepped on by the staff as they were leaving to go to the market place. Everyone rejoiced that he was still alive and he continues to thrive at St. Anthony.

I became a member of the ZOA Board in August 2009. I hope our ZOA and Rotary Club partnership can provide the basic necessities of life and

help meet the needs of many orphans and OVCs. I am happy to be on board.

Andrew Wade

**Washington Dulles Rotary Club
Past President '08 – '09**

ZOA and Dulles Rotary Club Partner

The Rotary Club of Washington Dulles International Airport partnered with ZOA US in July of 2009 to fund two ZOA projects, raising more than \$9,300. The first is Twatasha Youth Formation Target Program (Kitwe, Copperbelt Province, Zambia), a skills training center for orphans and OVCs, many of whom head households. The second project is Chisomo Home Based Care -- *Launching Young Lives*, (Chipata, Eastern Province, Zambia), a community based project that reaches more than 1200 orphans through a community school, home and psychosocial care for AIDS patients and their families, and training workshops.

The Dulles club received help from six other northern Virginia Rotary clubs to finance the projects. Thank you, Washington Dulles Rotary Club and Rotary Clubs of northern Virginia!

Projects Update

September 2009 - March 2010

Angelina Tembo Girls School Kabwe, Central Province

ZOA first supported this school in 2006 with a poultry project, both to provide protein to the orphans at the school, and to raise some income for their supplies. The school has extended its income-generating efforts to include a piggery enterprise that ZOA has also funded. The number of orphans supported has grown to 270. In 2010, ZOA provided assistance to five Angelina Tembo graduates studying at a Teacher's Training College. Providing support beyond High school is a new undertaking for ZOA US, but is in line with our focus on outcomes.

St. Anthony Children's Village Ndola, Copperbelt Province

St Anthony started the year with 127 children resident at this campus. They include children that are HIV positive, infants as old as one day, and special-needs children. HIV-positive youngsters are on anti retro viral (ARV) therapy and benefit greatly from the treatment and good nutrition provided by the Village. The Village provides a preschool for the youngest residents, while healthier older children attend Primary and High School nearby. ZOA has supported St Anthony in partnership with St. John the Beloved Catholic Church, McLean, VA, since 2004. St Anthony has also been the recipient of two grants from the International Monetary Fund.

Chisomo Home Based Care Programme, Chipata, Eastern Province

This community-based initiative reaches 1200 orphans through its many activities: it runs a community school for more than 400 children; it provides school fees and supplies for community orphans in public High Schools, it offers gardening skills to guardians for improved nutrition, and it offers workshops in critical psychosocial care to cope with HIV/AIDS, grief and loss. A grant from ZOA in 2007 gave 26 care givers and 6 educators training in psychosocial care; they have gone out to assist the guardians, orphans and other vulnerable children to respond to the orphan crisis adequately. Continued support for Chisomo in 2010 has been provided by the Washington Dulles Rotary Club, Northern Virginia.

El-Hassan Child Care Association, Katuba, Lusaka Province

ZOA US first helped El Hassan in 2006 by providing funding for a water borehole and pump. Since last year, ZOA has supported El-Hassan by funding school fees and school supplies, as well as transportation for the children in Boarding schools. Last year, ZOA financed 33 children to attend Boarding schools scattered in the central province of Zambia. In 2010, ZOA has supported 25 of the original 33. The borehole continues to benefit the Association by facilitating a gardening venture through which another 250 orphans have been assisted. While the borehole has been productive, the Association hopes to upgrade its system to one that would be more efficient.

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Note from the Chair

The people of Zambia have been living with the consequences of HIV/AIDS for well over two decades now. The country came to a full recognition of its plight as knowledge of the disease increased, costly therapies became necessary, and care systems proved to be inadequate.

The social safety nets were quickly overwhelmed as public systems of care collapsed under the weight of an unfathomable epidemic. Of all that continues to befuddle our human sensibilities and challenge our understanding about HIV and AIDS, the impact on infected and affected children remains the most heart-wrenching.

Ten years ago, a small group of concerned global citizens came together in Washington D.C. to seek ways of contributing to meeting the challenge of a growing orphan population. The Zambia Orphans of AIDS (ZOA) Private Voluntary Organization (PVO) was born. It soon established sister organizations in Zambia and the United Kingdom, and they now go by the acronyms: ZOA-US, ZOA-Z and ZOA-UK.

ZOA has come a long way since September 2000, providing resources and assistance to organizations in the country that support children who have lost parents to the disease. With generous contributions from its members and concerned donors, ZOA has been able to make funding available for the feeding, clothing and education of more than 8,000 young girls and boys in districts across Zambia.

This October, ZOA will celebrate its tenth anniversary! It will be an occasion to recognize wonderful organizations that have partnered with ZOA-US through the years: Community Connections, The World Bank, Washington, DC; Helping Hands, International Monetary Fund, Washington, DC; St. John the Beloved Catholic Church, McLean, Virginia, the Washington Dulles Rotary Club the and Zambia Association in Canada. We will use the opportunity to also express our gratitude to current and founding members, to the marathoners who run every year "for the children of ZOA", and to the many donors who continue to make it possible for ZOA to carry out its mission.

The Embassy of Zambia in Washington DC deserves a special thank you as well, for allowing us to hold so many functions on its premises over the past ten years.

It is an honor to be serving as Chair of ZOA

US on the occasion of our tenth anniversary and I extend my personal thanks to you, our friends and supporters, for your generosity to our cause.

Eric Chinje, Chairperson, ZOA US

Projects Update *continued*

Taonga Community Home Based Care Kabwe, Central Province

This project, formed in 2004 to provide support services to people infected with and affected by HIV/AIDS, includes nearly 300 orphans and other vulnerable children. ZOA funded a poultry project to raise income to provide school supplies, tuition and education for up to 100 orphans. This project also supplements food supplies for 60 households. Members visit homes where both parents are dying of HIV/AIDS to provide care and to prepare the children for the impending deaths of their parents, and continues to provide nutritional and educational support to the orphans.

Projects Update *continued*

Ipusukilo Street Women Rehabilitation Club, Ndola, Copperbelt Province

Ipusukilo, "Where One is Rescued," attracts young women, most of whom are heading households, out of prostitution and trains them to access alternative sources of income with a focus on establishing a viable market for the goods they produce. Some of the young women have been trained as caregivers and placed at St. Anthony Children's Village, a ZOA supported project. Recently, ZOA provided funding to support a new restaurant venture for graduates of the program. To prepare them for an effective enterprise, ZOA Z arranged for them to receive training in Business Management and Entrepreneurship.

Mulele Mwana Skills Training Centre, Lusaka Province

Mulele Mwana, "Care for the Child," is located in a depressed area of Lusaka. The program provides a variety of skills training including carpentry, mechanics, electrical and computer skills, sewing, knitting and home management to orphans and OVCs, each year. The church also runs an open community school for 165 children. ZOA has been assisting Mulele Mwana's tailoring training program since 2002. In addition to continued funding for this activity, ZOA supports the community school, an income-generating activity — the sewing of graduation gowns for college students — and a program to teach catering skills. ZOA partnered with St John the Beloved Catholic Church in McLean, VA, in 2004 to provide continuing support to Mulele Mwana.

Limulunga, Namushakende Babies at Risk of Malnutrition Programme, Western Province

ZOA has been supporting the Sisters of the Holy Spirit infant feeding program, which provides infant formula, hygienic supplies and medical care for sick babies, since 2006. The Project of Hope, also run by the Sisters, provides nutritional and educational needs to children from preschool through primary school. The project not only supports the children in school, but provides daily breakfasts and lunches to other local community children who otherwise would do without. The first grant ZOA gave contributed to the building of two thatched-roof structures where the preschool is held. ZOA US and ZOA UK have partnered to support the program jointly, with ZOA UK funding the education component and ZOA US the Feeding program

Twatasha Women's Club: Youth Formation Target Programme, Copperbelt Province

Twatasha Women's Club runs the Twatasha Youth Formation Target Programme (TYFOTAP), which provides quality vocational skills to Orphans of AIDS and OVCs. The Programme trains orphans and OVCs in such skills as tailoring, carpentry, catering, metal fabrication, bricklaying and plastering and knitting to support themselves and their siblings. ZOA first supported the Programme in 200 . The generosity of the Dulles Rotary Club and six other Rotary Clubs of northern Virginia has helped to advance the work of the training project.