



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.

ZOA Celebrates its 10th Anniversary!

Newsletter

Spring 2011

founder's

Ten Years of Zambia Orphans of AIDS (ZOA)

As we celebrate ZOA's tenth anniversary, we rejoice and give thanks for what our small organization that started with support to six school children has done, touching the lives of over 8000 orphans and other vulnerable children.

Just eleven years ago, three women from Zambia who met each other at Chipembi Girls Secondary School years earlier, were in a small restaurant in Washington DC. They met there to discuss how they could respond to the many challenges

their copatriots back in Zambia were facing. Their frequent visits to Zambia



indicated help with children orphaned by AIDS was one such challenge. The three were Kekelwa Nyaywa Dall, Shimwaayi Muntemba and Gertrude Zulu.

That meeting in a small restaurant marked the birth of ZOA. The three decided to speak with fellow Zambians, others of African origin and Americans particularly those who had lived and worked in Zambia and Africa. Gertrude Zulu who by then had lived in the DC Area for about twenty five years was able to mobilize many friends and colleagues. A group of about twenty people met, listened and discussed the issue of AIDS and its impacts on children in Zambia.

Together it was decided to think towards forming a registered organization to enable fund-raising, and mobilize other aspects of support such as information and various supplies. By August 2000 the group had agreed on a name and was

Save the Date



June 18

ZOA Picnic, McLean, VA — come enjoy the summer weather and wonderful spread in a lovely backyard setting!



September 30

Silver Diner, Tyson's Corner, VA — Support ZOA and enjoy a great meal in this fun 1960's atmosphere!



October 11— 13

McNamara World Bank Craft Show, Washington DC — ZOA will be selling many beautiful hand-crafted items, so please stop by and support our orphans!

registered as a private voluntary organization in Washington DC. The Board comprised Zambians and Americans, while two former US ambassadors to various African countries agreed to serve as advisors, helping the organization in its institutional approaches in order to gain the confidence of possible donors and other supporters. In Zambia, the group relied on individuals versed in HIV/AIDS and human rights. Most of these were friends and former colleagues. Under the able chairpersonship of a former Pro-Vice Chancellor of the University of Zambia and Catholic Priest, a committee was formed to help in the identification, assessment of projects and to monitor the use of the funds received. We believe that having such a committee helped build the confidence of our supporters in the United States.

But needs grew with the number of children we were helping. In 2003, ZOA was registered as a non-governmental organization in Zambia. Its responsibilities grew from identification, assessment of projects and monitoring them to assisting with capacity enhancement to enable mainly community based organizations run more efficiently and also seek further financial support from other agencies. The United Kingdom has always had closer ties with Zambia. After much discussion, Zambia Orphans of AIDS, with a strong local team, became registered in the United Kingdom in 2006. Thus now we have ZOA US, ZOA UK and ZOA Z, The first two focus on fund-raising and connecting groups in Zambia to possible donors, while ZOA Z identifies, assesses, monitors and evaluates the projects.



Projects ZOA has supported: Zambia Orphans of AIDS did not set itself as an implementing organization. Thus, our objective has been to provide support to registered organizations and institutions that care for orphaned and other vulnerable children.

(i) Initially, ZOA started by helping with paying fees and school supplies for six of the nearly 50% of orphans at St Mary's in the Eastern Province. The Rector at the school came up with the idea of supporting it with income generating equipment to enable the school reach more students. Thus we started with the concept of **Income Generating Activities (IGA)** as one way to help the groups who care for orphans in Zambia. The experiment we had with St Mary's was so encouraging that we adopted this as one method through which to help organizations and institutions.

(ii) **Social support:** Again responding to the needs presented, we have supported projects to feed babies and infants as well as meet

medical needs. Some of the babies and infants we have supported are HIV positive. Our dietary support seems to be making a difference to the kids' health. In this category we have also supported children meeting their school needs such as fees, uniforms, shoes and other school supplies.

(iii) **Skills Training:** Many of the children from poor families, especially orphaned children, cannot get into formal tertiary institutions. Skills centers have emerged to respond to the needs of such children. The most commonly offered skills are in carpentry, metal fabrication, brick making, tailoring, catering and IT. It is gratifying that since 2002 when we first assisted such a center, we are receiving success stories from some of the young men and women who went through this educational system



Growth and Future Ten years ago when we launched ZOA, there were no visible clouds in the global economic sky. Africa was on the move, the world economy was on a growth trajectory, and people were in a giving mode. Ten years ago, philanthropy was alive and well. The story has since changed, and as the world goes through its worst crisis in decades, important questions surface, needing urgent attention but as we head into our second decade, the challenges that face us in our determination to support orphans are even more daunting. But when the going gets tough ... the tough must get going!

Thank you to every supporter of ZOA over these past ten years!

Shimwaayi Muntemba, Founder and Gertrude Zulu, Co-founder

Mulele Mwana Skills Training Centre (US)

ZOA supports 177 children and youth. The funds support skills training and feeding programmes. ZOA also supports the graduates of Mulele Mwana to start their own small businesses in 2011.

Angelina Tembo Girls School

We have been able to feed more than 200 pupils for the past three years. This nutrition is key to students doing well at the secondary school level. ZOA also pays tuition fees for five girls who are pursuing a degree in education at the Nkhumba College University. These girls would have never had the opportunity to attend college.

El Hassan Child Care Association

ZOA supports 250 orphans. The funds were used to invest in cementing their vegetable farming initiative. The profits were then used to assist the orphans.

Passion School & Orphanage (formerly Tangata Community NGO)

ZOA supports 260 orphans. The resources sent were spent on school supplies and feeding programmes.

Kafue Gospel Singers Community Project (US)

ZOA supports 110 orphans at this community. Funds are used to purchase school supplies and to support their food programme.

St Anthony's Children's Home

ZOA supports more than 100 orphans since 2004, a year after it opened its doors to orphans mainly infected with HIV. There are 36 children in residence with 42 in need of special care. 30 children receive antiretroviral therapy. These new drugs have given hope to HIV infected children and improved their lives.

St. Mary's Junior Seminary & Boys Secondary School

ZOA supported many orphans and vulnerable children since 2001 thru grants and profits realized from the grinding mills project. ZOA has contributed to the mitigation of HIV in Msupadzi area.

Chisomo Home Based Care

ZOA supports about 1200 children. The funds are used to purchase school supplies, provide psychosocial training. A small amount of funds helped to renovate the school.

Rising Fountains Development Program

ZOA supports 326 people. Funds train caregivers and psychosocial counsellors, purchase school supplies and clothes, and also provide micro loans.

Twapia Transient Home Based Care (US)

ZOA supports about 45 girls and 44 boys who are cared for at this home. ZOA has offered professional support to train 10 teachers, 1 bio medical student, 1 secretary, 1 marketing officer, 5 caterers, 1 mechanic, 1 carpenter, 1 driver, 1 agricultural officer, 2 fashion designers and three college students.

Limulunga Babies at Risk of Malnutrition

ZOA supports 23 orphaned babies with infant formula. The price of baby formula has doubled in cost resulting in less future purchases.

Tikondane Home Based Care (US)

ZOA supports about 1200 people. The funds are used to support the communal gardens, school supplies, and blankets.



Celebrating Ten Years of Zambia orphans of AIDS (ZOA)

Message from Father Michael J. Kelly, S.J.,
Patron of Zambia Orphans of AIDS,
Lusaka

For so many of us, January 1st 2000 was a great occasion – the beginning of a new millennium, a new era. New hopes; fresh visions; exciting challenges; new determinations to make this a better world.

But for millions of children across the world it was just another day of struggle to get the bare necessities of life; another day of loneliness, without the reassuring presence of their mother or father; another day with little to look forward to and little prospect for the future.

And then during the year, it happened. The hopes and visions and determinations of one group met the struggles and loneliness and hopelessness of the other group. Zambia Orphans of AIDS was born and things changed forever thereafter. They changed for the better for thousands of orphaned children in Zambia and they changed for the better for all those who gave ZOA the support it needed to help these orphaned children. Because of your generosity, orphaned and vulnerable children are living fuller, more humane, decent human lives. They are healthy, hopeful and happy.

As far as numbers go, all we can say is that ZOA has brought benefits to thousands and thousands of young people in remote rural areas, in towns, and in cities across Zambia. The earliest beneficiaries are now young adults. Thanks to ZOA, they are alive today and better equipped to manage their own lives, productively and with dignity. The most recent ones are still only children, some of them very young and some of them with disabilities.

For these, the ZOA projects continue: income generation for orphan support activities through poultry rearing, hammer mills, baking, tie-and-dye and other undertakings; entrepreneurship training; skills training in various areas; support for community schools; care for abandoned, vulnerable and severely disadvantaged children; the rehabilitation of orphaned street children; ongoing support for orphaned children in high schools; providing particularly needy children with essential school supplies; and more.

For all of this and for so much more, thanks to each one of you at ZOA. Thanks to you for giving your time, your talents, your money. Thanks to you for your dedication and commitment.

To paraphrase the words of Martin Luther King, “This is the time to rise from the dark and desolate valley of poverty and sickness to the sunlit path of prosperity and health. This is the time to open the doors of opportunity to all of God's children throughout Zambia. This is the time to lift our nation from the quick-sands of stigma, and women’s inequality, and violence, and poverty, and food insecurity. In ZOA’s first ten years, you have already done wonders, and all the other injustices that surround HIV and AIDS.”

Yes, this is the time to put our hands to the plough, without looking back, so that we can forge ahead to create a Zambia that is renowned for its healthy, happy and laughing children.

Fr. Michael Kelly, S.J., is a leading supporter of Zambia Orphans of Aids in Lusaka.





Stephen Low

It is with deepest sympathy that the entire Bd. of Zambia Orphans of AIDs (ZOA) mourns the loss of Stephen Low, our original supporter and champion of the organization. We are grateful for his friendship and leadership over the many years of his life and his dedication to ZOA. We also express our deepest thanks to his wife, Susan Low whose participation and leadership has helped to expand ZOA's donor base around the world over these past ten years.

Stephen Low, 82, a career U.S. diplomat who participated in negotiations establishing black majority rule in what is now Zimbabwe and retired as director of the State Department's Foreign Service training institution, died Nov. 15 at his home in Bethesda. He had congestive heart failure.

Mr. Low's 31-year career in the Foreign Service included assignments in South America and Africa, including service as ambassador to Zambia and Nigeria.

In Zambia in the late 1970s, Mr. Low worked closely with a British government official in heading negotiations that tried to end the long and bloody conflict in neighboring Rhodesia. The Rhodesian leader Ian Smith, who was white, led a racially segregated government that terrorized blacks and tried to kill guerrillas opposed to his regime.

Mr. Low and the British official, John Graham, tried to work with rebel leaders and an interim Rhodesian government to present Anglo-American peace initiatives. Ultimately, in 1980, rebel leader Robert Mugabe was named prime minister of the newly named Republic of Zimbabwe.

After leaving Zambia in 1979, Mr. Low spent two years as the ambassador to Nigeria before being named director of the Foreign Service Institute.

Based in Arlington County, the institute trains American diplomats for government assignments overseas and in Washington. As director, Mr. Low initiated an effort to build the George P. Schultz National Foreign Affairs Training Center, a 72-acre campus that is now home to the institute. The Schultz Center's library is named after Mr. Low.

After retiring from the institute in 1987, Mr. Low was appointed director of the Bologna Center, a satellite campus in Bologna, Italy, of Johns Hopkins University's graduate school of advanced international studies.

Mr. Low returned to the United States in 1992 to become president of the Association for Diplomatic Studies and Training, a nonprofit organization that he helped start a few years earlier. It is also housed by the Schultz center. He retired in 1997 and remained involved in efforts to create a museum that would open the State Department's diplomatic history to the public.

Stephen Low was born in Cincinnati on Dec. 2, 1927. He served in the Army from 1946 to 1947. He was a 1950 graduate of Yale University. He received a master's degree in 1951 from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University. He received a doctorate in 1956 from Tufts and joined the Foreign Service the same year.

He received the State Department Distinguished Honor Award and two Presidential Meritorious Service Awards. His memberships included the Cosmos Club, the American Academy of Diplomacy and DACOR (Diplomatic and Consular Officers, Retired).

Survivors include his wife of 56 years, Helen Carpenter Low of Bethesda; three sons, Diego Low of Holliston, Mass., Rod Low of Honolulu and Jesse Low of Cairns, Australia; and five grandchildren.