



PARTNER UPDATE | ZAMBIA

January 15, 2009 – August 15, 2009

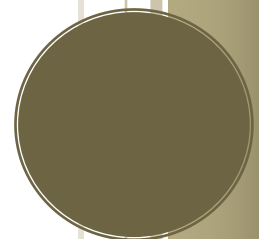
Spark Ventures exists to form partnerships with high-impact organizations around the world that help vulnerable children achieve their potential. Currently, Spark has one partner organization located in Zambia called Hope Ministries. Hope serves over 300 vulnerable children in the village of Twapia just outside Ndola through a 24 hour care orphanage (Hope House) and a primary school (Hope Community School).

The following report is a summary and update on some of the great work and progress being made through Spark's ongoing support of Hope Ministries.

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Partnerships helping vulnerable children achieve their potential



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Hope House

Things at the orphanage have been going very well despite some power outages and water shortages in the village of Twapia. The children are being strongly encouraged to speak English in the house and are now reading 2-3 books every month. School attendance has been consistent and the older kids are helping out a lot with homework and lessons. A new refrigerator was purchased by the Young Partners of Spark and has been a great aid to the house mothers. Funds for a new stove have been wired and the stove should be purchased shortly. One highlight has been the success of making and selling cards to visiting groups. Spark Global Interns (SGIs) Roxanna and Amanda helped teach the children how to make the cards and worked with the house mothers on purchasing materials needed for the project. The profits from the last batch of cards allowed the orphanage to purchase a wall clock with an alarm! The children and house mothers are very excited to move into **the new Hope House building** (pictured) once electricity is running to the home..



Hope Community School

In January, 80 children were registered in grade one alone. Overall attendance and studies have been going well. The teachers and students were saddened to have SGIs Roxanna and Amanda leave in March after having taught at the school for 6 good months. But Hope has hired two certified teachers (Mrs. Mweche and Charstarbelle Musa) to step in and help fill the void. Thanks to its growing reputation, the school received many new desks from USAid. Hope continues to build up its library of education and HIV/AIDS awareness books, though some materials were stolen earlier this year. Since then, new security measures have been taken to lower the risk of theft. In January and May, children at the school received check-ups during medical clinics facilitated by North Park University students participating in Spark Transformation Trips.

Hope Ministries Staff

Hope staff has been working very hard to enroll and keep their students at the school year after year. School supplies, soccer balls and other incentives are being used as motivation. An increased focus on the grade seven exams includes offering afternoon sessions and special tutoring. This will hopefully help more kids graduate and move on to higher levels of learning—which will inspire the younger children to stay in school and study hard. The **Hope staff** is also trying to find ways to engage and serve the guardians of kids at the school to increase their reputation in the community.



Building Projects

What a difference six months makes. A new orphanage has been built, a water source (borehole) has been tapped and the **new Hope Community School** is currently ahead of its estimated completion date of January 1st, 2010! Hope was able to purchase their own truck to haul materials to the work site which has helped greatly and will be at their disposal after the construction as well. Executive Director Charles Mumba commented on the impact of a school building saying, “It shows the children, the community and everyone else that we are here, we are good and we are in this for the long haul.”