



PARTNER UPDATE | ZAMBIA

July 15, 2010 – December 31, 2010

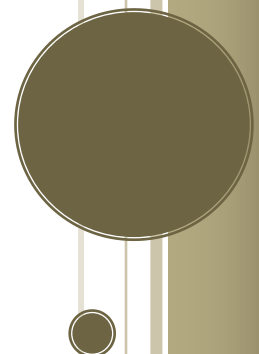
Spark Ventures exists to form partnerships with high-impact organizations around the world that help vulnerable children achieve their potential. Currently, Spark has one partner, an organization located in Zambia called Hope Ministries. Hope serves over 300 vulnerable children in the village of Twapia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

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

Spark Ventures | Zambia Report | Volume 4 | December 2010

Prepared for Friends of Spark

Partnerships helping vulnerable children achieve their potential



PARTNER UPDATE | ZAMBIA

July 15, 2010 – December 31, 2010

Hope House

The children of Hope House continue to be served well by their two house mothers, Mama Agatha and Mama Maureen, both of whom have continued to play a steady role in their lives. In addition to performing incredibly well in school – the majority of the Hope House children at Hope Community School have **tested among the top in their classes** – the children have also gained small business skills by making cards, balls and popcorn to sell in the community. These **small businesses** were set up specifically to teach the children basic business and survival skills, and the Hope House family is able to use the small amount of income on household goods.

Three children from Hope House – Cephas, Andrew and Jeff – were chosen based on their leadership and academic performance to attend a **youth training program** in late 2010. In a month-long camp, they gained leadership skills and wilderness survival skills that they are excited to bring back and share with their house siblings.



Hope House girls Joanna, Gift, Patricia and Marvis (from left to right with friend Grin) outside Hope House

Hope Community School

The Shelby Goldstein Schoolhouse, the new home of Hope Community School, saw the **close of its first school year** in November, having served over 300 students through free primary education. After hard work on the part of the teachers and Grade Seven students, including study sessions during school breaks, the school was thrilled to find out in December that 22 of the 23 Grade Seven students who sat for their national exam passed, **an incredible 95% pass rate**. The national exam determines which students will be allowed to go on to Grade Eight, and Hope Community School **significantly surpassed the national average** pass rate of 84%.

The school has already begun preparations for another successful year in 2011 with the **hiring of three new government-trained teachers**: Mrs. Dambire Mwale who joined the school in July, and Ms. Silvia Muliokela and Ms. Janet Kalunga who joined the school in September. These three teachers join Hope's existing staff of six full-time teachers, creating **Hope's largest and most qualified teaching staff to date**.



Teacher Ng'oma sharing successful Grade Seven exam results with two students who can now attend Grade Eight

Hope has continued to invest in its strong teaching staff through a **teacher training program** that the school has undertaken to allow teachers to share best practices and learn from experienced teachers from nearby schools. As a result of their training and initiative, the teachers implemented a **student merit award program** that rewards strong attendance and academic performance by giving school supplies and small gifts to high-performing students, and the program has already paid off with **tangible improvements in grades and test scores**.

In addition to encouraging and supporting the teachers and students, Hope Community School has built stronger relationships with the families of the children they serve, **continuing a successful PTA program** that has allowed the Twapia community to be more involved and invested in their children's education.

To learn more about the children it serves and improve the support it provides its students, Hope Community School has involved Mama Agatha and Teacher Angella, both **trained social workers**, in more aspects of the school, including evaluating applications for places in Grade One, assessing children's home circumstances and visiting homes of students with poor or irregular attendance.

Hope has already improved the twice-annual clinics it holds for its students with the construction of a clinic **building**, which was used for the first time during a December visit by students from North Park University in Chicago who helped to run the clinic for all the students at the school.



A North Park University nursing student with a Hope Community School student during a late 2010 check-up

Hope Poultry Farm

Some of Hope's greatest progress over the past six months has been in the poultry farm, which will be a local income generator whose profits will support Hope's child programs for years to come. As Hope and Spark worked together to **finalize the business proposal, draft and sign the contract and create a budget and financial forecast** to ensure the farm will be strong and sound, Hope workers steadily cleared the land for the farm and prepared to lay the concrete foundation of a chicken house that will open in the spring of 2011.

Hope has worked hard to ensure the success of the farm by bringing together experienced and dedicated leaders for the project. Hope's leaders have **hired Mr. Tembo, a farm manager** with a two-decades-long history of managing successful farms, to consult on the business and manage the farm once it starts operating its first cycle.

To augment Mr. Tembo's years of experience, Sandie Kandolo, the chairman of Hope Ministries' Board of Directors, recently started a small poultry farm of his own, hoping to learn important lessons about managing a poultry farm on a small scale that will be helpful to Hope's poultry farm. With mistakes on everything from disinfectant solution for trucks to wood shavings for the chickens, Sandie's farm and experience are teaching invaluable lessons that Mr. Tembo and the Hope farm workers are eager to put to use when they launch Hope's own farm.



Hope workers mix concrete for the foundation of Hope's poultry farm