



PARTNER UPDATE | ZAMBIA

August 15, 2009 – January 15, 2010

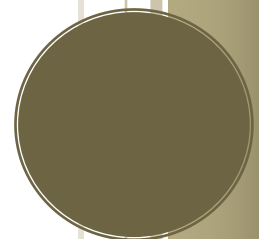
Spark Ventures exists to form partnerships with high-impact organizations around the world that help vulnerable children achieve their potential. Currently, Spark has one partner organization located in Zambia called Hope Ministries. Hope serves over 300 vulnerable children in the village of Twapia just 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

There have been many exciting changes at Hope House. After many months of construction and quite a few visits to the electricity company, the new orphanage was completed, and the sixteen children and two house mothers moved in. Hope House has continued using income-generating projects like selling popcorn, handmade cards and ice packets to help sustain the school. The cards have been very successful, but the ice packets have been less successful recently because of the rainy season. In August, Hope purchased a four-plate stove using the funds raised by the Young Partners of Spark, which has helped the house mothers prepare meals. Hope House also has eight new steel beds that have been very useful for the children, who have been doing well and attending school regularly. Four of the children were at the right level to study for the Grade 7 examinations, and all four scored well, with three receiving scores of excellent. All four will be moving on to secondary school and are a good example to the younger children.



Executive Director Charles and his wife Margaret outside the newly build orphanage

Hope Community School

The Grade 7 students at the school also took their exams, and the school had an 80% pass rate, which has enhanced the profile of the school in the community. Jane, one of the Grade 7 students, received the second-highest score of the students at the test location. She was also chosen to speak at a rally for Micah Challenge Zambia to ask for more government funding for community schools, and all the staff and students participated in some way, which has given more exposure to the school. High morale and positive attitudes amongst teachers and students have translated into strong attendance rates and an excitement about learning. On January 4, at the start of the new term, the students of Hope Community School had class at the newly built Shelby Goldstein Schoolhouse for the first time! While there are still a few building projects that need to be completed, the progress has been very encouraging to the staff and students. Children at the school received check-ups during the two-day medical clinic facilitated by North Park University students during the Spark Transformation Trip. The teachers have been working to reach out to the guardians of the students to improve communication and retention. An open house and the school's first PTA meeting were held, and guardians gave many ideas of how to keep the students in the school.



Students at Hope Community School

Hope Staff and Other News

Hope has created intensive learning programs for professional development among the staff. Hope Community School staff also received a training workshop, which was facilitated by a Government teacher trainer. A new house mother, Angela, was hired for Hope House, and she has transitioned to teaching at Hope Community School.

The bus that was purchased earlier in the year is now generating over \$750 a month for Hope to reinvest in their programs helping vulnerable children.

There have also been many discussions about the land for the poultry farm project that will raise money for the school and orphanage. The Board of Directors has met a number of times to finalize the business proposal.



A few Hope Ministries staff members