

2008 Report on St Nicholas Children's Home



St Nicholas in 2008 had 30 children, five of whom were new to the Orphanage. Among the new children admitted are three boys and two girls. Their names are Adam (7), Beriya (11), Chikondiwe (11), Kaoko (8) and Nicholas (4 months). Beriya and Chikondiwe are identical twins. Two came from within Lusaka, another two from Kafue, which is 45km south of Lusaka, and one from Mwembeshi, which is about 41 km west of Lusaka. The age range of the children is now between 4 months to 17 years.



Some of the children who have been in the orphanage since 2000 have been integrated into their families after writing their grade nine examinations. These are: Esther Chisenga, Elizabeth Mwamba and Emmanuel Soko; and they will be under the Home-based Orphan and vulnerable children programme. Memory Lyamba was also reunited with her family (grandfather). Eunice Soko and Peter Chirwa also joined their families.

The Centre has received five requests for places for children in the orphanage.

These requests are being considered. Once the process of verification is completed the children shall be admitted in the orphanage.

Volunteers/Visitors

The orphanage received eight volunteers and three visitors during the year. Two were from England and one from the Netherlands.

Mr Gordon and Mrs Julia Lowes and two of their relatives spent two weeks at the Orphanage. Mr Lowes suggested he would sponsor an agriculture production project for the children including the costs of training and materials.

Barbara Topley and Sheila Bennett visited on their way to Tanzania. They and several other church members from Little St Mary's Cambridge, UK are now providing a monthly sponsorship for two of our children, meeting the

costs of their support and education. We are extremely grateful for this kind of ongoing support!

Adam Singleton, a son of one American resident at the Centre volunteered to take the children on walks in the evenings whenever he is free.

Activities/Support

The swings in the children's park were repaired. Two wardrobes, two tables and eight chairs were made for the new extension at the orphanage, giving children more space.

Vegetable Project



The children are now doing gardening and the garden plot has been extended so that enough vegetables are grown. Three members of staff and twelve grown up children were trained in vegetable production.

The three members of staff who attended the training were awarded certificates of attendance. The staff were trained in order to enable them have the necessary skills, work efficiently, supervise the children during production and help the children have fresh vegetables for improved meals.

Garden tools and several inputs were bought for project from the donations given by the volunteers and visitors. We value their support greatly!

Water supply by hand pump

The orphanage had erratic water from January to September due to electricity power cuts which the Centre experienced. We are grateful to our donors who have helped the centre to install a hand pump. Now the orphanage has good and clean water from a reliable source.



Local fund raising

Makeni Ecumenical Centre management believes that local fund raising efforts are necessary to supplement overseas assistance to the orphanage. For that reason the following are some of the efforts we made towards fund raising.

(a) Agricultural Show

Some of the children's crafts and paintings were taken to the Lusaka Agricultural and Commercial Show for exhibition and sale. The Agricultural and Commercial Show is an annual event held in August where various companies and NGOs exhibit their goods and services and is a very popular event, attracting thousands of visitors.

(b) General sales

We sold second-hand clothes and musical CDs featuring the Anointed Lilies Praise team, which were produced by Dr Anton Dil. A few more CDs are still available for sale! The Anointed Lilies is a Continuing Anglican Communion in Zambia Christian singing group which includes the St Nicholas Orphanage Children and other young people of the Church of the Good Shepherd.

(c) Expansion of the tuck shop

The tuck shop was expanded in order to sell more merchandise targeting staff, residents in the Centre, the surrounding communities, visitors to the general clinic and students. Previously the tuck shop catered only for Basic School pupils.

Certificates Of Excellence



The Basic School annual awards ceremony awards deserving pupils certificates of distinction in various categories. Out of the 40 pupils who received the awards, 7 were from St Nicholas Orphanage. They were awarded certificates of excellence in sports, academics, discipline and hard work.

Social activities

The children visited Munda Wanga Botanical Gardens and Zoo for some fun. They also performed as the children's praise team (Anointed Lilies) at one of the Continuing Anglican Church of Zambia (CACZ) member's wedding. It was very colourful.

Education

All of the children, except Nicholas, are in school. Bertha, who was in the orphanage but later under the HBC/OVC Project, completed school with very good grades. She has been offered a place at the Copperbelt University by the Vice Chancellor and will be given a Bursary. We are waiting for the guardians to agree to the offer before we can proceed with all other arrangements. Audrey and Evelyn are doing their grade 12 and will complete in December 2008. The challenge before us, for these children, will be to see them go to tertiary education. More sponsorship shall be needed to help them achieve higher education.

There were four and eight children who wrote their grade 9 and 7 examinations respectively. All the girls in Grade 7 passed their examinations.

Extension Project



The extension project of the Orphanage has been completed and handed over to MEC by the Contractor. It was done through combined financial support from African Aids Angels (AAA) in Canada and the Friends of Makeni in the Netherlands. The total project cost was K174,487,420 (€31,147.27). We were asked by the Friends of Makeni if we could display the logo of NCDO on our building and we gladly accepted.

We have put this logo on the boys' hostel. We would be glad to have the logo for African Aids Angels so that we could put it on the girls' hostel.

Makeni Ecumenical Centre is grateful for the commitment and efforts of all donors, supporters and friends towards the work of Makeni in making life better for the Children of Zambia. Makeni will always welcome suggestions from all who have a desire to see all children enjoy better life and receive good education.

Constraints/Problems

- There are not enough chairs or benches for sitting during meals. At least 45 chairs are needed.
- The dormitories are now spacious but more beds are needed. (At least 5 more beds and bed covers.)
- The cooker which was bought some years back is not functioning well. It is most times under repair.
- Due to power cuts, the toilets usually have no water and cannot be used during the day. The orphanage may require some pit latrines.
- The Project Concern International has stopped supplying high protein foodstuffs which used to supplement the diet of the children.

Summary of Income and Expenditure (Kwacha)

INCOME			
Balance b/f		11,697,246	
Tuck-Shop		4,376,700	
Salaula Sales		811,200	
Local Donations			
Individual Donors	350,000		
NGOCC	40,875,900		
		41,225,900	
Foreign Donations			
Vrienden van Makeni	111,398,504		
Travelex	2,909,255		
A.A.A, C. Schotte & C. Sherwood	51,582,683		
Saanich Community Church	9,275,183		
Kloosterkerk	18,620,000		
Piddington Church	1,829,500		
J.R. Robinson	1,097,700		
C.B. Walker	5,021,800		
B.N. Topley	720,000		
Eric stone	935,400		
		203,390,025	
Total Income			261,501,071
EXPENDITURE			
Salaries		25,860,000	
General Maintenance Expenses		8,333,500	
Food Expenses		36,284,100	
Toiletries		5,946,600	
Medical and Education		45,536,800	
General Expenses		10,690,000	
Orphanage Extensions		84,700,270	
Borehole Expenses		16,576,000	
Tuck-Shop Expenses		4,242,300	
Electricity Expenses		6,310,675	
Home Based Care - Food		7,753,000	
Home Based Care - Education		22,330,000	
Home Based Care - Medical		15,000	
Home Based Care - General Expenses		2,346,700	
Administration cost		27,692,495	
Total Expenditure			304,617,440
NET DEFICIT			-43,116,369