

## October Tour of LifeNets Malawi and Zambia Projects

by Beverly Kubik

*Not just a handout, but a "hand up" with the opportunity to earn a living that will provide for and feed their families.* That is our goal.

In mid-October my husband, Victor, and I returned from our fourth trip to Malawi and Zambia. We were very pleased with what we saw as we visited one LifeNets project after another.

### Maize Mill

Our maize mill in Malawi is fully functioning and provides an ample income for three families. Maize is a staple of both Malawi and Zambia. Every family must grow enough maize (corn), then shell it and grind it to feed the family members throughout the year. The maize mill and sheller does the job of shelling and grinding.



Another way we are helping is to provide funds for a little extra seed and fertilizer.

This way the crop not only feeds the family, but can generate additional income as they sell the extra produce.

### Borehole

We visited the new borehole, or well. Water is life. A young lady, daughter in the family where the well was drilled, told us how she walked about one mile each way to collect water for the family. She did this four times each day, uphill and downhill, carrying a five gallon bucket on her head. It's a necessary chore done by the women every day. Can you

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imagine how much it means to have water available out your back door? This well also makes water available to about 1,500 people in the immediate neighborhood. It is customary to charge a small monthly sum to draw water at the well and this family now has a small, steady income, something it has not had for about five years.

We thank our Central Indiana

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## Visit to Our Vinogradov Street Children and Orphans

by Katherine Rowland

**LifeNets has provided funding for the past six years for a soup kitchen to feed about 40 street children and orphans in Vinogradov, Ukraine. The children are either orphans or have negligent and dysfunctional parents. Some children are from families so poor that there is simply not enough money for basic nutrition. They are cared for by Vasyl and Irina Polichko, who have completely given themselves to caring for the children.**

On June 7, 2006, a group of four left Indianapolis, Indiana, for Ukraine.

We made two visits to the *Light of Love Mission* that LifeNets supports. It was at the same time enough time, and too little time: enough to see the great need (as well as the great work being done by the Polichkos); but too little time to spend with the children.



Katherine with some of the now happy children.

It was easy to forget how hard times are for these kids while we were in the midst of them. They were smiling, friendly, interested and curious. They eagerly examined the photos I had brought of my own children and home, and asked a hundred questions, none of which I could understand without interpretation.

When one stood apart from the children, though, and looked out into the street, or talked to the Polichkos, every word was heartbreaking. These kids are here because they don't have any place to go, except back to a home that might be abusive, neglectful or just too full of children for them to be cared for. If they don't eat here, they may get very little else—or nothing—to eat.

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## “Ukraine,” continued from page 1

As dim as their present is, their future is even less certain. In a country of poverty and little hope, too many Ukrainian children will turn to drugs, crime or alcohol for escape.

The Polichkos, with our help and yours, are fighting this trend. The children who come to the *Light of Love* Mission are fed, clothed and, most importantly, loved. The Polichkos encourage them to get an education and to stick with it, instead of dropping out for the promise of immediate (or illegal) money. They teach them about God, and instead of only teaching His love, they show it.

When they talk about their work, the words are always the



same in the end: “This is not work,” says Irina Polichko. “This is joy.”

One of our most immediate needs is to provide a new van to help transport these children. For more complete information about this project, please go to [www.lifenets.org/vinogradov](http://www.lifenets.org/vinogradov).



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## Eyeglasses to Refugee Camps in Thailand



Tens of thousands of Karen refugees live in camps in Thailand as a result of a civil war that has raged in Myanmar (Burma) for about 50 years. A few fortunate people have been able to emigrate to the United States and other places in the world. Working with immigrants who know the camp well and with the Lion’s Club in Indiana, we have been able to ship more than 1,200 pairs of high-quality reading and prescription eyeglasses to Mai La refugee camp that

have all been distributed. For many refugees this was their first pair of eyeglasses. Our Mai La contact Lydia Wah writes us about the last shipment of 800 pairs of glasses: “*We distributed the eyeglasses from the 21st through the 24th October, and a lot of people were fortunate to receive the eyeglasses. We thank all of you for your love and kindness toward our Karen people. May the good Lord shower His endless blessing to all of you and give you success in whatever you do.*”

[www.lifenets.org/eyeglasses](http://www.lifenets.org/eyeglasses)

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## Donation of Bus to “Revival” Centre in Chernihev, Ukraine

On June 14 we celebrated the 10th anniversary of the Revival Centre for the Rehabilitation of Disabled Children in Chernihev, Ukraine. The first time we visited was in April 1996 before the Centre actually opened. We are happy to play a key role in the success of the Centre’s capacity to treat hundreds of children, many of them victims of the effects of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster 20 years ago. The nuclear power plant is only 40 miles west of the rehabilitation center. The Centre has become a model treatment facility for children mostly suffering from nerve-based diseases such as cerebral palsy and epilepsy.

We presented the Centre a much-needed vehicle that transports children and their parents daily to and from the Centre.



## “Africa” continued from page 1

District Rotary Clubs for providing the financing for this well.

### Scholarships

We believe that providing an education through a scholarship may be the very best way that LifeNets helps raise people’s standard of living. It’s worth a great deal in a country where the poor live from hand to mouth, where there is no opportunity to improve yourself because you cannot afford an education that will allow you to get a decent job. This benefit makes a difference for the rest of a student’s life.

Without that education, individuals face 50 percent or higher unemployment rates. With an education, opportunities for employment improve considerably.

This gives a tremendous amount of hope to young people. But it’s not just the young. One gentleman in his 60s just received his diploma in journalism. He was so delighted, expressing to us that he thought that this could never happen to him.



Our new well outside Blantyre, Malawi, was surrounded by dozens of people who came to draw water and carry it home as pictured below.



### Orphan Care

We also visited the LifeNets Orphan Care Centre in Balaka run by Dr. Sam Chilopora. This is making a huge difference in the little children’s lives. Mortality in orphaned children under age 5 is high. In our program, which is in its fifth year, there have been only two deaths in a constant group of 200 orphans. The chief of the village where the orphans live came to thank us. She expressed her gratitude to us for sponsoring this program of feeding the orphans and educating their guardians on how to care for them.

### Mosquito Nets

We also had the opportunity to hand out many mosquito nets to the children there and throughout the families where we work. A big thanks goes to Christina Davis of Portland, Oregon, who raised



Beverly Kubik handing out mosquito nets at the LifeNets Orphan Care Centre.

\$5,000 for the nets. The rainy season is just starting, and the nets were very timely. Malaria from mosquitoes is a killer of children, and the nets will provide protection when the children are sleeping.

### Zambia

We also traveled to Zambia and were thrilled to see the progress with our cattle and farm program. We wrote so much about this our last letter, which you can see on our Web site.

We were very pleased with everything that has been done in the past two years since our last visit. The cattle head count is now 75. Two calves were born while we were there.

Some of the oxen among the cattle are now old enough to work the fields. With the training provided the farmers, these farmers are able to produce many times more than they could before. This requires hard physical work on the part of the farmer, but with that hard work comes good results.



This is life-changing knowledge and help. We thank our Zambia LifeNets representative Kambani Banda who provides the bulk of the training.

We had a wonderful three and a half week stay providing both physically and spiritually for the people we have come to know and love. Thanks to all of you for your part in making a difference in their lives.



Hand-dug well with pump in Kasumpa, Zambia. This is one of three wells sponsored by LifeNets supporters from Australia.



LifeNets is a 501(c)(3) corporation that helps people in need and promotes self-sufficiency. Contributions to LifeNets are tax-deductible as allowed by law.

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### How to Effortlessly Double or Triple Your LifeNets Donation

Many companies will match their employees' and retirees' charitable contributions. Check with your personnel office, and they will provide the necessary forms and instructions. Then send LifeNets the completed form. Thank you very much!

Donations to LifeNets are tax-deductible in the United States. If you would like for us to put a friend on the mailing list, please let us know via e-mail at [newsletter@lifenets.org](mailto:newsletter@lifenets.org) or write us at the address above.

## What Is Still Needed?

Every day LifeNets helps the vulnerable and disadvantaged, as you see in this newsletter. We count on the continual support of our friends to keep all of our programs going. We CAN make a difference in helping people out of subsistence poverty, unsanitary living conditions and lack of medicines that many of us take for granted. With your help we will continue our ongoing projects, some of which include:

- **Developing Nations Scholarship Fund**, providing life-changing opportunities for employment and self-worth.
- **Livelihood development projects**, helping people start small businesses or improve farming practices so that they can provide adequately for their families.
- **Medicine for Malawi and Zambia**. On the [www.lifenets.org](http://www.lifenets.org) Web site please check the *Still Needed* menu choice for the most pressing needs.

If there are any projects that you would like to give special support to, call us at (888) 821-0095 or e-mail us.

*Thanks again to those who have made LifeNets their charity of choice.*

## The Wheelchairs Keep Coming

by Alexandra Kubik, manager of The Wheelchair Project

Every month on average we get about 40 requests for wheelchairs and maybe 20 donations. We are working with local nursing homes and hospitals in procuring more wheelchairs to close this gap. Frequently chairs are deemed no longer usable in these establishments when, in fact, all they need is a little tender loving care and they are back in good working condition. Typically a used manual foldable wheelchair's value is \$150. Sometimes all that's needed is a new armrest that costs \$10.

In working with *The Wheelchair Project* these past six months, I am regularly reminded by both those requesting wheelchairs and those donating them of the valuable service we are providing. Those receiving a wheelchair gain freedom and mobility. Many could not otherwise have a chair because of low income, medical insurance issues and/or the high cost of wheelchairs, new or used.

For those donating a wheelchair, we make an effort to find a home for that chair. Other times, there just aren't places in their local area that take them. We can provide a tax receipt for their donation.

Among the people we have helped recently was a young man who wanted to get his grandmother out of the house for walks each day, but was unable to do so without a

wheelchair. Another woman wrote, "Your kindness is completely overwhelming and the service done just incredibly generous."

LifeNets has been featured in a United Press International news release by their health correspondent as well as recommended by the Valparaiso, Indiana, *Post Tribune* for people seeking help obtaining a wheelchair.

Comments like the ones below make The Wheelchair Project worthwhile:



*"I picked up my chair. It has made it easier for me to get around. I cannot thank you enough. I could not thank the ones who donated it enough. Your organization is a Godsend to people who are in need and without the resources to get these items. I looked for a while for an organization like yours, then I happened on it by accident the other day. Maybe it wasn't an accident maybe I was guided by the good Lord. I would*

*like to thank you again."*

And:

*"The walker you just delivered is just exactly what I wanted. The color is even what I wanted. Thank you so very much for sending this to me. You have no idea what a difference it will make in my life. Isn't it amazing how God takes care of us and supplies our needs. He makes a way where there seems to be no way through kind people like yourself. May God bless you all!"*