

## Australia and U.S. LifeNets Help Raise Standard of Living in Zambia by Kambani Banda, LifeNets Zambia Director

*Kambani Banda has managed our most successful outcomes in quality of life through cattle restoration, medicine, water wells, a revolving farm credit program and scholarships. He writes this report:*

Without doubt cattle restoration is our flagship project. It has delivered animal draft power and supplied milk – a critical source of protein. In three cases, families sold surplus oxen and used the proceeds to buy three scotch carts. In rural Zambia a scotch is a valuable and expensive capital item owned and operated only by families in the middle class.

Medical support is the component in this package that “meets the needs of the

community in a practical way.” This aspect of our work has produced wonders. Consider: We recorded no deaths last year and



Scotch cart



The LifeNets Revolving Farm Credit Program lends money to farmers for seed and fertilizer that is paid back in kind at harvest time. At harvest farmers can get an advance for living expenses by giving their maize to be stored in LifeNets granaries (shown above with Kambani Banda and Jerrison Shachoongo). After the maize is sold at market highs, LifeNets passes on the profit to the farmers.

cases of malaria are almost non-existent. Please pass our big thank you to Christina Davis who organized the fundraiser for the mosquito nets.

On our visit in early December 2007, which is during the rainy season, not one person among our LifeNets community was ill. Remember this is Africa! This fact in itself speaks volumes about the value of this donation of medicine, bed nets and the educational effort that goes along with it. (see “Zambia” on page 2)

### Issue Highlights:

- Zambia
- Scholarships
- Wells
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- Livelihood Development
- Fundraisers
- Dental Office Shipped

## A Few Faces of the Developing Nations Scholarship Fund by Beverly Kubik, LifeNets Grant Coordinator

A higher education will give lifelong benefits to a young person. This makes the Developing Nations Scholarship Fund the gift that keeps on giving. In 2009 LifeNets will be supporting more than 30 scholarships in various countries.

Cephas tells us: *I will become a clinical officer in Malawi. Malawi has a great shortage of medical help at a time of great need with the HIV/AIDS pandemic. I will also be able to perform surgeries such as C-sections and hernias.*

From Lewis: *Through my studies my salary has already increased because of the promotion I received. I am expecting more changes in my salary and position after completing my education this month. My ambition is to become a Chartered Certified Accountant.*

Amy is studying computer science in Durban, South Africa. Without the LifeNets scholarship it would not have been possible for her to get this education.

Litatha has been taking a course in tourism and hospitality. She is now attached to the Nkopola Lodge on Lake Malawi for her practical studies.

Bervin, Zera and Sylvester are studying in Zambian schools. Bervin is studying insurance; Zera is learning economics; and



Sylvester is taking information technology courses.

Russell, Wordsworth and Isaac are taking courses in computer science. Providing this training is a lifelong investment in these young people.

The average cost of a scholarship is about \$1,500 per year. Thank you for making the dreams of these young people come true.

## Indiana High School Students and Rotary Finance Community Well in Lilongwe, Malawi

Park Tudor student Rebecca McClure and her classmates were interested in raising money to drill a well in Africa. They got their campaign off to a great start at a special party on Jan. 5, 2008. Rebecca and her friends dressed up for a dance party and enjoyed a “winter wonderland” evening of fun.

The party was in honor of Rebecca’s 14<sup>th</sup> birthday, but instead of gifts, she requested that her friends consider making a donation to the LifeNets well project. Rebecca told her parents, “I’m very blessed to have everything I need. I don’t want any gifts; instead I want to help

build a well in Africa. I can’t imagine having to walk miles every day to carry water home for drinking, cooking and bathing!”

Rebecca was surprised and delighted to raise about \$1,000 toward the well project at the event. Park Tudor’s service club, the Panther’s Care Club, raised money as well.

The Indianapolis Northeast Rotary Club added \$1,500 towards this well in a neighborhood where it now serves more than 150 people daily with fresh, clean water.



### “Zambia,” continued from page 1

The three water wells continue to faithfully deliver water to the community. The water pumps manufactured in India were made to last. They are working perfectly. The well at Apren Momba’s village in Nalubanda was especially useful in 2007. It supplied water to 350 people, nonstop! To my mind, LifeNets through these wells and other programs, is literally “feeding and watering the flock.”

This past year we expanded our program to include the community of Mapoko, located 40 kilometers west of Mumbwa Town. LifeNets from Australia provided 12 heifers, six oxen and a bull. United Church of God congregations in



Australia have raised these funds through donations of one and two dollar gold coins.

Five Mapoko families were added to the Revolving Farm Credit Program, in addition to the 12 that participate in the Nalubanda and Kasumpa regions.

Scholarships: Currently we have four young adults attending university in Zambia on LifeNets scholarships. That fact is significant in that there are only two universities serving a population of 13 million!



## Whittier High School Students Collect Blankets for LifeNets Orphan Care Centre

Last winter Whittier Alternative School in Sedalia, Missouri, launched a project called *One Thousand Blankets*. It began when a student explained that she wanted to do something for the poor orphans she saw on a TV program.

One of the school’s elective credits involves providing community service. All students are encouraged to participate. However, none was required – all hours are voluntary. They work alongside clubs and charitable institutions such as Rotary. Sometimes they do entire projects on their own. Blankets and stuffed animals were collected, and when they had four large boxes (one pallet cube), they began to look for a recipient.

LifeNets was selected based on a Web search – during which they saw the June 2007 distribution of blankets for the LifeNets Orphan Care Centre in Balaka, Malawi.

The photos melted their hearts, and they sent the blankets to LifeNets. The blankets were delivered to Malawi in September 2008.



## Wheelchairs Provide Mobility

by Alexandra Kubik, Wheelchair Project Coordinator

The *LifeNets Wheelchair Project* continues to help more than a hundred people a year. Our Web site at [www.lifenetswheelchairproject.org](http://www.lifenetswheelchairproject.org) is a free, self-service site, and the word is spreading! In the October issue of *Real Simple* magazine, LifeNets was featured as a great place to recycle unused wheelchairs. We encourage you to also let others know.

We frequently hear what a great service we are providing, which encourages us through some of the challenges we face, mainly getting these wheelchairs to where they need to go. Some wheelchairs need to be shipped, but DHL (our carrier until now) has stopped all ground shipping. We are exploring other options. Shipping is not particularly expensive, but those we help often cannot afford it. So monetary donations

as well as chairs are always welcome.

Monetary donations also help pay to restore some wheelchairs. Occasionally, when it makes sense to do so, we help get a wheelchair back in good working order. Tax-deductible donations can be sent to:

LifeNets Wheelchair Project  
3707 Turfway Ct.  
Indianapolis, IN 46228



Alix helps deliver another wheelchair

## A Sampling of Our Livelihood Development Projects



Loney and Gracious received a grant to start a poultry business. Three hundred laying hens now help to supplement the family income.



Gilton developed an enterprise to process honey. He purchases honey from three sources, processes, packages and resells it.



Fred standing by the sheller in a maize mill funded by LifeNets. This enterprise serves a steady stream of customers coming by to grind their corn.



LifeNets provided this taxi for Dennis, who has developed a regular clientele. He has now been able to finish his home and provide for his family.



Miriam's sewing machine helps her make clothing that she sells in a shop in the front of their home in a busy neighborhood of Blantyre, Malawi.



A grant for construction tools has helped Dickson land a contract to build a large home in Blantyre, Malawi. He has also become a registered building contractor, which promises to attract more work.



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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.

### How to Effortlessly Double 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!

## Special Events Help Raise Money for LifeNets Projects!

Dr. Barbara Walls of Piscataway, New Jersey, and her ardent LifeNets supporter friends organized a beautiful formal English Tea that was held on June 22, 2008. The afternoon featured music, dainty sandwiches, scones served with clotted cream and pastries...and tea! The china and glass made this a class event. The printed program was absolutely beautiful.

In the course of the afternoon tea Victor and Beverly Kubik spoke about the various LifeNets projects and answered questions. The project that captured the heart of Dr. Barbara was the LifeNets Orphan Care Centre in Balaka, Malawi. This center, attached to our Chizeni Clinic, has saved the lives of many orphans. One little orphan girl, Matilda, was severely underweight at age 2 and about to die. Through our program and Dr. Chilopora's help, she was brought back to normal weight and health.

Two violinists played classical music throughout the afternoon. Two soloists sang inspirational songs. LifeNets thanks Dr. Wall and the others for making this day so memorable and for raising just about what it takes to provide food, medicine and other needs to help 200 orphans for an entire year at our LifeNets Orphan Care Centre.



Dr. Barbara Walls and Beverly Kubik



On Sept. 7, 2008, the North Dakota Chapter of LifeNets sponsored the Fourth Annual LifeNets Triathlon in Mandan. Net proceeds from this event will be used for North Dakota

Chapter outreach, wheelchair distribution and a water well in Malawi. In the meantime, 81 athletes had a great time participating in swimming, biking and running. See a more complete story on our Web site at <http://lifenets.org/mandantriathlon08/>



Event organizer Pam Redline gives an interview to the media covering the event.



Also, special thanks goes to the Akron, Ohio, United Church of God, which did a special event fundraiser for Malawi.

And the Columbus, Ohio, United Church of God did a fundraiser for the Developing Nations Scholarship Program!

## Dental Office Shipped to El Salvador

Dr. Andrew Benedetto in Palmdale, California, donated two dentist's chairs in excellent condition with their related equipment to LifeNets. We decided to send them to El Salvador where we had already helped establish a practice in 2001 run by some of our early scholarship students. Larry Greider of Los Angeles helped coordinate; Ward Opichka in Glendale crated the chairs and Doug Maidwell in Toronto, Ontario, shipped them. They arrived safe and sound in El Salvador in September. You may see some of our earlier stories about helping with dental students in El Salvador at <http://www.lifenets.org/centralamerica2001/dental.htm>.

