

Success Stories From Zambia

by Kambani Banda, LifeNets Zambia Director

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Our cattle restoration project continues to be the most important work that we do in Zambia.

The animal herd now stands at 95 and is worth \$23,750. This is a marked increase from the \$4,000 that was invested in 2001. This number excludes the 13 animals that were sold or stolen.

The oxen are now fully grown. Farmers now yoke them in pairs, rather than in fours, as can be seen from the picture on the right.

More work is done because while one pair of oxen is working, the other pair can graze. In the afternoon, the pair that was grazing in the morning is yoked while the pair that was working in the morning can graze.

The heifers continue to provide milk for our farmers and their families. Milk is the most readily available source of protein.

The farmers sell excess milk to buy basic necessities like salt, candles, cooking oil, sugar, school exercise books, pencils, etc.

The Farm Credit Program is the second-most important service that we provide to this community.

Our farmers are able to hold on to their maize until it is a good time to sell because we financed their living expenses. They have now sold their maize, making a healthy return on their investment. Having the opportunity to stop the ex-

ploitation of simple, but hard-working people, gives meaning and purpose to our lives.

The last farming season was the best season in living memory. The rains were normal. Again our farmers (even those on the fringe), produced a very good crop.

With the bumper harvest that was

the norm this season, maize prices collapsed. During a maize marketing season like this, the monetary advances we give our farmers are critical to the survival of their businesses.

Most of the families now own at least a plow, and most own an ox-drawn harrow. We are also planning that one of our farmers would buy a planter so that we can demonstrate to the other farmers the power of technology.

We bought a maize sheller for farmers in the Nalubanda and Kasumpa areas. This machine will help farmers shell their maize quickly. LifeNets Australia provided the funds for this project.

The medicine required by our farmers has been reduced. The reduction in consumption is mainly due to the fact that the general health of the farmers and their families has improved considerably in the 10 years we have worked in their area. The fact that we are less dependent on LifeNets medical aid is testimony that



Maize sheller



Bevin on his new job after graduation

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our intervention measures are working.

This is why we regard the medical support aspect of our work as critically important. Because of the simple drugs and vitamins we supply, for the eighth straight year running no deaths were recorded within our community.

Regarding scholarships granted to students, Bevin has finished his Diploma

program in insurance. To our great relief he has found a job with Diamond Insurance.

Zere Phiri is now doing her second semester of the second year at

the University of Zambia. We have very high hopes for this young lady.



Zere Phiri at the University of Zambia



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HBOT for Naomi

Each year LifeNets does one fundraising project for a special need. This year it was for 4-year-old Naomi Martin with cerebral palsy. Altogether



Mother Julie with Naomi

\$12,000 was collected for a Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy (HBOT) unit, which helps by bringing extra oxygen to damaged brain cells. Through the use of social networking, websites, email, phone calls and word of mouth, the amount needed was

As part of our Developing Nations Scholarship Program in Malawi, we provide laptop computers to students who most need this tool to excel in their studies. Obviously, they are most needed for those studying computer science. Owning their own laptop helps students excel in these courses.



We have provided brand-new laptops that last students throughout their studies and beyond. We found that sending used computers caused great disappointment when the computers failed

and there was little that could be done to repair them.

Listen to what some of our students have to say:

"The school has very few computers and this creates a lot of pressure on doing schoolwork. The opportunity of having my own computer reduces such inconveniences because now I can type, print and submit my work easily."

Another student says: *"I always use the Internet to search for information, which is the main source for the assignment information at college."*

donated to the "HBOT for Naomi fund" in less than 21 days by 70 donors from as far away as Australia and Poland.

It all started earlier this year when friends of Leonard and Julie Martin were thinking of how they could help. Julie took Naomi and her five siblings

every three months for 20-day treatments costing \$4,000 each. It made sense to buy the HBOT as three treatment sessions would pay for the unit. What made this even more special is that an HBOT unit was quickly found in Texas and was delivered to her home in Ohio soon after the fundraiser ended.

Oasis of LifeNets Nursery School Under Construction

Husband and wife Howard and Ruth Elia, both schoolteachers, have long had a dream of building and operating a nursery school in a busy area of Lilongwe, the capital city of the African nation of Malawi.



When this building is fully complete, it will accommodate

100 nursery school children from 3 to 5 years old. We expect that each child will pay about \$13 per month and the school will be self-sustaining. LifeNets has already invested \$8,500 in this project.

The project was begun in May 2007 after the purchase of a plot of land, and the start of construction was in October 2008.

Four teachers will be hired for the school. The Elias have named

the school *Oasis of LifeNets*.

The Elias wrote:

"To invest in education has always been our dream. We



can see such a dream turning into reality because of LifeNets, who have seen us this far and proved that they won't let us walk alone."

