

Chishawasha

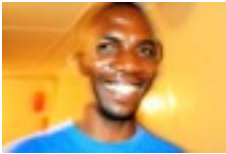
The Spirit of Togetherness...

Quarterly Newsletter

Issue N -- Winter 2009

Piillip Mvula

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House

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House Mamas

The amazing house mothers leave their families to stay with the children to take care of them, as they were their own.



Rose

"Like the flower, Rose she is beautiful and delicate but like the thorn of a rose, she is strong and powerful at the same time."



The School

The expansion of the school, has enabled access to education, to over 200 students



Coal Pit

"Chishawasha's vital source of energy comes from this portable coal pit and is their means for warmth, energy and sustenance."



Money Matters...

Due the unstable worldwide economic conditions faced in 2008, ZCFC was in a more reluctant position to provide financial needs to the children of Zambia. In the fall of this year, we sent \$7,000 to Zambia which has helped out with the construction of the school as well as provide the basic necessities to the 69 children of the Chishawasha Children's Home.

This year, we held few fundraising events but were able to achieve our financial goal for the year. ZCFC held its annual charity ball in February and was able to raise approximately \$4,700. We had a small movie event in the summer time which raised approximately \$440. Finally, our biggest fundraiser of the year was from the contributions from the

MOSI Golf Tournament. This event brought in \$10,000 in revenue. Thank you to all of you

for your continued support.

At the beginning of the year, an objective was set to maintain our costs by not exceeding our expenses to more than 10% of total revenue raised during the year. I'm pleased to announce that with the efforts of our team and sponsors, we were able to meet this objective. Congratulations to everyone for their hard work and we hope to maintain this objective in the coming year.

Overall, 2008 was a successful year and I would like to share this success by thanking everyone involved in making ZCFC become a organization that's not only focused on raising funds for the children of Zambia but also by getting the community involved to give back to the community.

Wishing everyone a happy and safe holiday! See you in the New Year



Inspired to learn



Mosi gives...

This past summer 2008, The Zambian Children's Fund Canada (ZCFC) had the opportunity to be involved in a most memorable affair: The 16th Annual Mosi Open, Toronto '08. Mosi is a golf tournament for Zambians (largely of South East Asian descent), living in North America. The tournament was established in 1993, in the United States and the name "Mosi" was chosen as a tribute to Zambian roots: Mosi is a popular Zambian beer and also means "water" in one of the native, Zambian languages. Toronto had the pleasure of hosting Mosi in 1998 and was thrilled to have the honour of hosting the event again, 10 years later. Over the years Mosi has chosen to give back to the community and so in keeping with tradition, Mosi Toronto donated funds – raised from sponsors, the Ball, and the tournament itself – to the Trillium Health Centre Foundation and our organization, The Zambian Children's Fund Canada. ZCFC was very grateful for the generosity demonstrated towards our cause. On August 29th, the Toronto Mosi Committee welcomed all the participating golfers at registration that evening. Everyone was in high spirits as they re-connected with old friends, made new friends, reminisced about Zambia and anticipated hitting the green. The golfers enjoyed friendly competition amongst comrades, Saturday (August 30th), and Sunday morning August 31st) at Lion's Head Golf Course in Oakville. Come Sunday evening the short-lived, but fun-filled, event came to a close with the big bang of a highly entertaining, lively Ball. Also, all the trophy winners for the various divisions were presented with their awards at the Ball. The overall champion was in fact the youngest player in the tournament; Mr. Dill Vashee (aged 23 yrs): an incredible feat! All in all the 16th Annual Mosi Open, Toronto '08 was a wonderful success! Mosi's success is our success, for Mosi donated \$10, 000 (Canadian)

to The Zambian Children's Fund, which is of great benefit to our cause: "building a promising future for the orphaned children of Zambia." A world of thanks to you, Mosi!

Wiri'08 – An Inspirational Journey Home...20 Years in the Making

Imagine for a moment growing up in a world of leisure where everything was given to you on a silver platter. A world where you had a driver, a gardener, a maid, a cook, a butler, even someone who would open the curtains for you in the morning, this is not a page from a fantasy novel nor a scene from a blockbuster movie, this was my life in Zambia – a life of utter privilege and at most times selfishness. Flash forward twenty years and now imagine a Zambia full of poverty, starvation, disease and of struggle, a gut wrenching test of survival where people have to decide who eats and who goes hungry for the night, where children have to fight to get a decent education – this is the true Zambia, a totally "bona fide" experience that I had the opportunity of experiencing the real Africa!

In September / October 2008, I had the opportunity of a lifetime when I went back to my birthplace, Zambia. On the outskirts is located the Chishawasha Orphanage and School – funded by the Zambian Children's Fund International (Zambia, Canada & United States). Six of us from Toronto pulled together our own individual resources in order to be able to travel and volunteer at the Orphanage / School.

I wanted to introduce some of the fascinating aspects (people, place and thing from amongst many) that made Chishawasha truly remarkable for me.

People:
Phillip Mvula – Chishawasha Manager

Wise beyond his age, a father figure to all the children. We had the pleasure of befriending Phillip, the manager of Chishawasha Orphanage and School. In sitting down with him we were able to frankly talk business in order to ensure that the funds we were raising in Canada were being used productively and appropriately. It was evident by both reviewing financial statements and seeing the work that was going on that the money we are raising in Canada is going to good use. We are still keeping in touch with Phillip and ensuring that the lines of communication are open between us and the orphanage / school in Zambia

Mamas Maureen & Angelina – House Mothers

The amazing and powerful house mothers would leave their families during the week, to stay with the children to take care of them as they were their own. These women had so much to offer but the one thing that I found that they offered that money could never buy was love, love for the children and most importantly love for what they do. Without these caring mothers, the children would for sure be lost. I had the pleasure of meeting these two strong women who with very little opened their hearts and home to me with open arms, for this I am eternally grateful.

Rose – Chishawasha resident

While we met, helped and got to know over 65 children during our stay, one of the children that had the greatest impact on me was Rose. Little Rose like the flower she is named after was beautiful and delicate but like the thorn of a rose, was strong and powerful at the same time. Sitting all the way in Canada we tend not to see the impact that our funds have on the children however for me this experience changed all of that. I saw how much Rose's face lit up when we presented her with books and materials to study and be creative, her warmth and kindness would melt even the coldest shoulder. Her special name for me, just as it was for many of the children at Chishawasha was "Uncle Jay," a name I accepted with great honour. In spending so much time with her I foresee Rose blooming into a wonderful

young woman who has a bright future with the continued support and help from our fund.

House # 2

One of the largest projects we took on was fixing and painting two of the oldest orphanage homes. I had the pleasure of being matched with Orphan House # 2. Stepping into the house I could feel the energy and excitement that the house and its residence exuded. From the moment I stepped in to the moment they taught me how to dance, Zambian style I knew I was truly home. To help them paint and make their homes "fresh and new" again was such a rewarding experience.

Thing:

Portable Coal Pit

While it may seem odd that I chose this as one of the most memorable things from my trip I have to provide the context. While Chishawasha's main source of energy, comes from coal this means that even simple things such as making tea meant that you would have to start a fire using the portable coal pit, their means for warmth, energy and sustenance. This portable coal pit became a symbol of how much one can gain from such a little thing such as a coal pit.

Overall my trip made me truly grateful for what I had and who I have in my life. I have built an unbreakable bond with Chishawasha allowing me to truthfully, from the bottom of my heart, convey the amazing stories of the children and staff at Chishawasha. The trip encouraged me not to take things for granted and to appreciate each and every day we have on this beautiful world of ours.

I challenge all of you to step out of your comfort zone and get an enthusiastic group of people together to join a team of Board Members and Executive Team Members of the Zambian Children's Fund Canada for their next trip to Chishawasha /Zambia which will likely be taking place in 2010 or 2011. Make it your international giving journey of a lifetime!

ZCFC gets Reel...

On Sunday July 6, 2008 the Zambian Children Fund of Canada (ZCFC) hosted a private screening for the movie Hancock at 10 AM at the Empire Theaters located at Yonge and Sheppard Avenue. The event attracted first time visitors to the Zambian Children Fund of Canada who were then given a brief introduction about ZCFC history and its future goals in continuing to support its

orphaned children. Furthermore, the movie Hancock was specifically chosen because the character reminded the ZCFC team that there is always hope for a brighter and better tomorrow and it is this passion that drives the ongoing supporters. The amount raised for this occasion was \$434.50, we thank all those who came out and made this fundraiser a success.

Back to the roots

During my adolescent years in high-school, I remember thinking that it would truly be a gem of an experience to return to my "roots" so to speak. Having grown up in Southern Africa, I'd thought it would be wonderful to return to my homeland to do some community work. In 2004, I was presented with the opportunity to volunteer for The Zambian Children's Fund, Canada (ZCFC). Though I was learning a lot through my involvement with the organization, I still kept feeling that I was missing out on something. When some of the present Advisory Board members ventured on a trip, a few years back, to Zambia, to visit the orphanage ZCFC supports and to do some work there, I realized what was missing from the volunteer work I was doing for ZCFC. I needed to visit Zambia myself! I so desperately wanted to meet the children, to visit the orphanage, to get to know the staff there! Thus when a couple of the present BOD members begun planning a visit to Zambia for Fall 2008, I decided that I was going to join them on that trip, "by any means necessary"!

"Boy am I glad" that I did indeed go on that trip this past September! Words and photographs alone cannot accurately summarize the precious and priceless experience I had in Zambia. Everything about life is just so much more beautiful there: the sunsets are stunningly vibrant, the food is exquisitely scrumptiously (owing to its organic state) and every person – rich and poor – enjoys life a lot more than we seem to, this side of the world. Every Zambian takes in each day as it comes, allowing his or herself to consciously breathe in every minute of every hour of every day. In our fast paced North American lives, we often simply "go through the motions each day of lives."

It was a sheer pleasure to meet the very humble, loving, trusting children, at Chishawasha, the orphanage that ZCFC supports. They are all very intelligent and superbly resilient! The children all have tremendous talents and are full of incredible potential. I was impressed to learn that a lot of the girls and boys were multilingual: they

could speak several of the native languages, as well as English of course. It really is touching to see how keen they are about learning as many things as opportunity will allow. Several children enjoy reading thoroughly and are avid writers themselves! This is why it is so important that we continue to raise awareness and recruit support for as long as these children have access to resources, they'll easily reach the stars!

Seizing opportunity to learn some dance moves from the children was my favourite thing about interacting with them! I found it fascinating that though quite a few children are shy to speak with you initially, they are not at all nervous about "busting a dance move". I love to dance and I love that so many of our Chishawasha children love to dance! They are very talented dancers too. There are some brilliant singers in the group as well. There is so much to learn from them. Children are splendid teachers: God's angels!

There is a beauty in the nature of Mamma Zambia, in her people and in their culture that is very soul fulfilling to experience. There is a humble and gracious character in the nature of the people of Zambia, and in the very earth of Zambia that causes one to fall madly in love with everything Zambian. This euphoria brought me utter serenity and ease of mind, the whole three weeks I was there. I felt very blessed. By no means is Zambia perfect: it has its struggles and prejudices and there are wide disparities, none-the-less life under the Africa sun is definitely a wholesome one! I am proud to have the blood of African soil running through my veins. *Thank you Chishawasha, for unforgettable memories and treasured relations forged: we are forever bound!*



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