

HIGH FIVE CLUB

changing lives, £5 at a time

Text Book & Pupil Sponsorship, Zambia



Background

For many years the Zambia Government has had little money to put towards its Education Program and, whilst the District Education Boards do their best, they struggle with a budget that is inadequate to meet the needs of the growing population.

Schools in rural areas suffer the most, with a shortage of classrooms and existing ones usually in need of significant refurbishment. Often teaching is done in shifts with some classes coming in the morning and others in the afternoon - but in spite of this many classes are still overcrowded. Educational resources such as text books and teaching aids are in short supply and often out of date and it is not unusual for there to be just one text book for the whole class.

When there is no school close to a community some villages have been able to establish their own Community Schools. These usually start with just one class being taught in a thatched shelter by an unqualified volunteer.

As school fees are payable for attending secondary school in Zambia many children do not continue with their schooling after primary. Many children also drop out of primary school as their families often cannot even afford the basics such as uniforms, exercise books and pencils. The situation is worse for orphans and vulnerable children as the relatives who care for them may already be struggling to provide an education for their own children.

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High Five Club Support

The High Five Club was approached by the traditional leaders in Zambia's Luangwa Valley to support with the provision of text books at one of the area's poorest Community Schools, along with pupil sponsorship for some of the most vulnerable children.

A grant of **£250** from the High Five Club has enabled Malimba Community School to purchase **text books** for all of its Grade 7 pupils – previously the school had just one text book in each subject between these **40 pupils** (see photo of the head teacher receiving the text books at the top of this update).

In addition, we have together sponsored the education of 4 vulnerable children from this community throughout 2013, a year in which their guardians or parents were unemployed and their crops had failed.

The primary schoolchildren **Joseph** and **Tabitha** have been supported with 2 sets of school uniforms, shoes, socks, school bag, exercise books and pencils. In total this sponsorship equated to just **£50 for the year per child**. In addition to receiving the above, the secondary school pupil **Catherine** has also been supported with secondary school fees. In total her sponsorship cost just **£150 for the year**.



Joseph (7 yrs) Grade 2
Malimba Community School



Tabitha (12 yrs) Grade 7
Malimba Community School



Catherine (13 yrs) Grade 8
Chiutika Basic School

Finally, we have together sponsored the community's rising star, **Felistus**, to attend one of the best state boarding schools in Zambia. Felistus passed her Grade 7 exams with flying colours and finished in the top 5% of pupils nationally to earn a place at this exceptional school. Without our support Felistus would not have been able to take up her place.



Felistus (13 yrs) Grade 8
Katete High School for Girls

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Our High Five Club annual sponsorship **of £500** has been spent on Felistus's school fees for the year, transport money each term to and from school, school uniform (2 shirts, skirt, sweater, school shoes and 2 pairs of socks), school bag, exercise books, pencil case, pens, pencils, rubber, sharpener, blanket, mosquito net, trunk, bucket, grocery money (for toothpaste, soap, washing powder etc.).

In total we have together donated **£1,000** to the above initiatives from monthly memberships plus a donation from our long-term education sponsor **Roffey Homes** (www.roffeyhomes.com). What an impact this is having, changing 44 children's lives for the better through education.

All of the pupil's sponsorships are being ably administered by our long-term partner the **Chipembele Wildlife Trust** in Zambia – www.chipembele.org

For further information about this initiative, or to support its expansion to include the sponsorship of more vulnerable schoolchildren in Zambia, contact Dr Cheryl Mvula at cheryl@highfiveclub.co.uk