

HIGH FIVE CLUB

changing lives, £5 at a time

Kamanga-Tithandizane Open Community School, Lusaka, Zambia

Following on from our support of Kamanga School back in November 2009 with learning resources and teacher training (see Nov's project briefing below), we are thrilled to announce that we have secured the funding to allow this impoverished school in Zambia's slum area of Lusaka to fulfill its dream of building two new classrooms and a cooking shelter. This means that the school will soon have four classrooms instead of the current two, creating a greatly enhanced learning environment for over four hundred pupils. The cooking shelter will enable the school to provide one properly cooked nutritious meal a day for the orphans and vulnerable children whom it serves.

We are extremely grateful for the very generous support of Roffey Homes who have donated £2,500 specifically to fund this building project, boosted by £350 from our own collective High Five Club memberships this month. Roffey Homes is a family run company specialising in the development of luxury apartments along the West Sussex coast. (www.roffeyhomes.com).

We were also thrilled to have received a donation of £775 from one of our own High Five Club members towards the supply of chairs and tables for one of the new classrooms.

The Headmaster of Kamanga is overwhelmed and writes: 'We don't know how we can express our happiness. We cannot thank you enough. Your action is fulfilling the vision of the school to provide quality and affordable education through the provision of a conducive learning environment.'

An MOU has been signed between the school and High Five. Manny's brother, Winter, has agreed to supervise the build as he lives nearby in Lusaka and the building work has just got underway. We look forward to publishing photos of the project's development on our website in due course.

See the background information on Kamanga Community School below that we communicated to members back in November 2009.

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November's Update

Kamanga is the biggest slum area in Zambia's capital city Lusaka. Many children here are orphans and vulnerable children (OVCs) who live in low income families earning less than 50p a day. Kindly



neighbours of AIDS victims often take these orphans in as there are not enough orphanages in Zambia and this at least stops them from becoming street children.

Although government schools in Zambia offer free education, children are required to have uniforms and shoes to attend. Parents and guardians of orphans

and vulnerable children cannot afford even these basics and hence the children stay in the compound rather than going to school.

To overcome this, and with an inspiring demonstration of community self help, the people living in this slum area partnered with the local church five years ago to set up Kamanga-Tithandizane Open Community School in the grounds



of the church. Uniforms and shoes are not required and hence this community-owned school provides a life line to these children to get an education and thereby lift themselves out of the poverty trap.

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423 children attend the school, which offers both primary and junior secondary education – all taught by 6 volunteer teachers who are secondary school graduates with no formal teaching qualifications - but very big hearts. Places at the school are allocated solely to orphans and vulnerables from the community, with a particular focus on the girl child.

The school has only 2 classrooms to cater for this number of learners. This means that 2 classes are run at the same time in the same classroom, along with the teachers working shifts so they can teach classes in the evenings.

The school has very limited teaching resources (text books etc.) and the majority of the



children do not have desks or chairs as the school has only 25 between the 423 children. Pews from the church are borrowed to seat some of them.

The school pays each volunteer

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teacher a small allowance (ranging from £10- £30 a month depending on how long they have been at the school). Whilst this by means not a living wage it is a token of appreciation by the community for the sacrifices these people make to serve their community.



Cheryl and Manny Mvula, High Five Club co-founders, visited the school in August 2009 and were impressed by the commitment and dedication of the volunteer teachers. Winter, Manny's brother lives close to the school and hence introduced us to the school's co-ordinator Mr Phiri who is his immediate neighbour. Whilst there we

ran a workshop with the older pupils and staff to understand the school's development needs. The key priorities were teaching resources/text books, extra classrooms, desks, a cooking shelter so that volunteers from the community could provide pupils with one nutritious meal a day, and help to upgrade the teachers' monthly allowances.

Despite the poor quality learning environment it was inspiring to hear how the children viewed their future with many saying they wished to become teachers, nurses and business people and that the school gives them the chance to realise these ambitions.



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High Five Club Support:

High Five Club members have together pledged £500 to the school this month to purchase much needed text books and teaching resources and to fund 2 of the volunteer teachers to undertake part-time studies to obtain a formal teaching qualification. In this way we are investing in the quality of the teaching at the school to help give these vulnerable children a hand up in life.

Cheryl and Manny, on behalf of the High Five Club, are also approaching companies in order to hopefully raise additional funds for this school in order to achieve, over time, the following developments at the school:

1. Construction of 2 new classrooms - £2,000
2. Cooking shelter - £850
3. 50 x 2-pupil combined desks and chairs (catering for 100 learners) - £2,700
4. Upliftment of teachers' monthly allowances - £100 a month in total shared between 6 teachers i.e. £1,200 a year.

We are already well on the way to achieving the monies for the construction of the 2 new classrooms with a very generous donation of £775 from one of our own High Five Club members!!

If anyone knows of any companies or individuals who might be remotely interested in getting involved in developing this school further, please could you get in touch with Cheryl and we will arrange to meet up with them and get them on board! Many thanks for your help in this way.

For further information on Kamanga School contact: cheryl@highfiveclub.co.uk