

## Our Mission

Our mission is to ensure that Zambian children orphaned or made vulnerable as a result of HIV<sup>1</sup> can go to primary and secondary school, have opportunities beyond school, and receive health information to reduce their vulnerability.

## Our Vision

Our vision is of a Zambia in which all children orphaned or made vulnerable as a result of HIV can go to school. Education will empower them to reach their full potential and become self-respecting, independent adults. This will enable them to escape the cycle of poverty and vulnerability and contribute to Zambia's economic, political and social development.

## What we do

Working in partnership with three Zambian organisations, CHEP, Hodi and Bwafwano:

### **we enable orphans<sup>2</sup> to go to school by**

- encouraging government schools to make provision for them;
- providing them with school uniforms, shoes and other materials;
- paying examination and school fees at secondary level; and
- supporting a community school near Lusaka.

### **we support some school leavers to go on to tertiary education thereby providing role models for others and supporting Zambia's school system.**

### **we train and support some of our school leavers as peer health educators to return to local schools to teach the next student generation how to stay healthy and free from HIV.**

## Why we do it

Zambia is one of the world's poorest countries. It is ranked 163<sup>rd</sup> out of 179 countries on the 2008 Human Development Index<sup>3</sup>. HIV has added huge obstacles for people who are already struggling to survive, and the recession has exacerbated this. Children whose parents are sick or have died are even more vulnerable. Research<sup>4</sup> shows that going to school dramatically reduces a child's risk of becoming HIV positive and increases his or her chance of survival. School gives a child emotional support, skills to earn a living, information about how to stay healthy, and the confidence to act on that information, which is particularly important for girls.



A child at Kabanana School, Lusaka where we support 1,273 children. School gives a child emotional support, skills to earn a living, information about how to stay healthy, and the confidence to act on that information.

<sup>1</sup> HIV stands for Human Immunodeficiency Virus - which causes AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome)

<sup>2</sup> In this report, we use the term 'orphans' to mean 'orphans and other vulnerable children' (OVC). The Zambian definition of OVC includes children under 18 who have lost one or both natural parents, as well as children who are at risk, for example because one or both parents are dying, seriously ill or unable or unwilling to care for them.

<sup>3</sup> The Human Development Index (HDI) is produced by the United Nations. It measures and compares the level of human development in all countries, taking into consideration factors such as income, life expectancy, access to education, medical care and clean water, maternal mortality rates, gender equality etc. The UK is ranked 21st.

<sup>4</sup> Including UNAIDS (Global HIV Report '08) and ActionAid ('Girl power - The impact of girls' education on HIV and sexual behaviour' By James Hargreaves and Tania Boler 2006)

## In 2008/09<sup>5</sup> we have with our partners:

- taught and fed 756 children at Bwafwano's community school;
- supported 1,273 children in government schools in Lusaka;
- supported 7,595 children in primary and secondary school in Kitwe;
- provided pupils with 4,700 pairs of shoes and 2,700 uniforms;
- recruited and trained 50 young people as peer health educators;
- supported our peer health educators to run school workshops for over 7,000 children; and
- supported 35 young people in training to become teachers, eight of whom graduated in April.



Children at Bwafwano's community school queuing for lunch, which is paid for by Cecily's Fund.

## In the coming year we undertake to:

- continue to run Bwafwano's community school at full capacity;
- support 1,350 former Bwafwano children at government schools in Lusaka, 200 of whom are moving up from the community school;
- support 7,595 children to go to school in Kitwe;
- train another 50 young people as peer health educators and support them to run awareness-raising sessions for at least 7,000 children in 25 schools in Kitwe;
- work with our partners to strengthen their skills, ability and resources to deliver the programme;
- work with our partners to improve monitoring and evaluation of the programmes; and
- support partners in lobbying decision-makers to improve services and prospects for orphans and vulnerable children.

“ School children are a “Window of Hope”. Nearly all school age children are free of HIV infection, even in the worst affected countries, and if they remain free of infection as they grow up they could change the face of the epidemic within a generation. ”

**Education and HIV/AIDS -  
The World Bank 2008**

<sup>5</sup> Throughout this report the student numbers quoted are for the 2009 school and calendar year since these have been funded from our 2008/09 budget.

## How we work

Peer health education for school children. See page 16.

Primary and secondary education in Lusaka, plus lunch for the community school pupils. See page 12.



Primary, secondary and tertiary education in Kitwe. See pages 14 and 18.



Many individuals and organisations give us direct donations, some on a regular basis.



Individuals, schools, universities, churches, companies and groups organise fundraising events for us.

See 'Our Fundraising' - p20



**CHEP**

**Hodi**

**Bwafano**

**Donations**

**Trusts and Foundations**

**Fundraising events**



We receive grants from trusts and foundations; one of these supports our annual opera.

## From the Chairman

In January 2009, I was privileged to succeed Basil Eastwood as Chairman of the board of trustees. Basil and his wife, Alison, founded Cecily's Fund in 1998 in memory of their daughter Cecily who had been tragically killed in a road accident whilst in Zambia on her gap year. Their vision, dedication and contacts are the foundations for Cecily's Fund's sustainability. These are proving particularly important in the current challenging economic environment for charities, their partners and their supporters.

I am committed to building on the foundations laid by Basil and Alison and to leading the trustees in realising our vision. This vision is of an even stronger and more effective Cecily's Fund which, in its second decade, will bring hope to thousands more vulnerable Zambian children.

An important part of the charity's growth and development will be an ever closer collaboration with our partner organisations in Zambia; Hodi, Bwafwano and CHEP. Without them Cecily's Fund would not be able to help children and young people whose lives have been devastated by HIV. Regular communication, reinforced by visits both



to and from our partners in Zambia during the last year, has strengthened the good understanding between us. We shall continue this good practice in the coming years.

I pay tribute to my fellow trustees for their work and their encouragement. They join me in thanking our dedicated office staff and volunteers, and in

celebrating our partners' achievements in demanding circumstances. Lastly, and most importantly, we are all joined by Zambia's young people in thanking our loyal supporters for their commitment, energy and creativity.

*William Powlett Smith*

## Dates for your 2010 diary

### **Cecily's Fund Annual Opera Evening - Saturday 19 June**

Diva Opera will perform Verdi's Falstaff - with dinner and a champagne reception - in the beautiful grounds of Wotton House in Buckinghamshire.

All welcome. Contact Alison at [stableyardalison@aol.com](mailto:stableyardalison@aol.com) for details.

### **Cecily's Day Annual Picnic and AGM - Saturday 4 September**

Location to be confirmed. All our supporters, their friends and family are warmly invited to attend.

Put the dates in your diary now and look out for details in our correspondence or on our website nearer the time [www.cecilysfund.org/events\\_diary.html](http://www.cecilysfund.org/events_diary.html)



*Pupils at Bwafwano's community school modelling t-shirts celebrating our 10th anniversary last year.*

## From the Manager

In the last year we have embarked on an ambitious fundraising campaign with a new team in place in our Oxfordshire office. We have been actively developing our network of supporters so we can educate even more of Zambia's vulnerable children. This has been all the more necessary in the light of the pressures which the economic crisis is putting on both us and the Zambian communities we support.

I am heartened by the commitment of our supporters who continue to donate regularly in spite of the recession. Some have even increased their support. I am also delighted to welcome a number of new individuals, trusts, companies and community groups into our growing circle of friends.

Lasting relationships are of paramount importance to Cecily's Fund because the support we provide is open-ended and part of a long term strategy. As long as HIV remains at epidemic levels in Zambia, leaving growing numbers of children

without parents and putting further strain on the Ministry of Education's insufficient resources, we cannot put an expiry date on educational support for these children.

What we can and must do, however, is use our unique position to gain greater and wider support. We can use to our advantage our close cooperation with Hodi, Bwafwano and CHEP; our clear focus on education, our long term commitment to individual children, and the model of support which we have developed over the past eleven years with our Zambian partners. We shall continue to evaluate the impact of our support and to share best practice so that we can help reduce the vulnerability of an even greater percentage of the 600,000 Zambian children who have been orphaned because of HIV.

*Caroline Horne*

Caroline Horne



*Our patrons Lord and Lady Carey, receiving a cheque from Swanbourne House School. Our work is only possible because of the generosity and energy of our supporters, old and young, in the UK, the USA and Switzerland, and in many other countries as well.*

## How is the recession affecting the situation in Zambia?

We are all feeling the impact of the global recession, but for the most vulnerable people in poor countries, like Zambian orphans, the impact can be life-threatening.

Being orphaned plunges children into poverty. They may be shunned because of their presumed association with AIDS<sup>6</sup>, and are often forced to drop out of school because they cannot afford the requisite uniform, materials and school fees.

The HIV pandemic has hit Zambia harder than almost any other country and affected almost every family. Over half of Zambia's 1.2 million orphans (in the total population of nearly 12 million) have lost their parents to AIDS related illnesses<sup>7</sup>. Many extended families are now unable to cope with caring for orphans. Some children are struggling to survive and bring up their siblings without adult support. Those who live in cramped conditions with elderly and impoverished grandparents are the more fortunate ones.

The recession has multiplied and magnified the obstacles to their survival. It has brought a steep decline in demand for and prices of the commodities – particularly copper - on which Zambia's economy depends. This has reversed the



*Children helping to supplement the household income by making bricks from river mud and selling them in the shanty town where they live.*

modest gains the Zambian economy made over the past six years. Mines and other industries are cutting back or closing, putting hundreds of people out of work. Kitwe and Lusaka, where we operate, are highly urbanised areas. Few have the option of growing their own food. Kitwe in particular is heavily dependent on the mining industry. Unemployed adults are leaving the industrial Copperbelt region and flooding into the capital, Lusaka, seeking work. In this environment, the prospect of employment for young people who have been deprived of an education and parental guidance is even worse than before.

Reduced foreign exchange flows have led to a depreciation of Zambia's currency, the kwacha. Depleted resources reduce the government's capacity to invest

“Mopani Copper Mines and Konkola Copper Mines have scaled down the workforce because of the global economic downturn. This has resulted in hundreds of jobs being lost in the mining sector.”

**Times of Zambia –  
March 2009**

<sup>6</sup> AIDS stands for Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome; a condition caused by the Human Immunodeficiency Virus, or HIV, which destroys the body's immune system. Death is caused by opportunistic illnesses, such as tuberculosis, which the immune system can no longer protect against.

<sup>7</sup> Source: UNAIDS/WHO 2008 Update

adequately in schools and clinics. The Copperbelt Provincial Minister said in June that councils had struggled to pay salaries since mines started closing. A two month national teachers strike over pay and conditions earlier this year set back thousands of children's education.

Most worryingly, the government, international agencies and mining companies are cutting spending on HIV prevention and treatment programmes. This threatens to extinguish the glimmer of hope we saw last year when the number of new HIV infections was actually decreasing. Now it seems inevitable that more parents will die, leaving even more orphans.

The United Nations, the International Monetary Fund and other international donors are considering how to help Zambia through this crisis, but any help they provide may come too late for a child

forced to drop out of school today. Every year in formal education decreases a child's risk of contracting HIV by at least 7%<sup>8</sup>, so it is vital to get children who drop out back into school as soon as possible and keep them there for as long as possible.

School gives children access to support from teachers and friends, skills to earn a living, information about HIV and the confidence to act on it. It keeps them off the streets and from being drawn into behaviour that could increase their risk of HIV. Being able to earn a living also means escaping the increased risk of HIV that poverty leads to.

Educated, skilled and healthy young people can help Zambia get through the recession and, in time, could help reignite the hope that we saw emerging last year in the battle against poverty, HIV and AIDS.

## *You can help Zambian orphans escape from poverty and HIV through education.*

If you would like to support our work, or increase the support you are currently giving, please use the donation or gift card form enclosed with this report.

You can make donations in a variety of ways, set up a regular payment, remember us in your will, buy our gift cards or request them as gifts for yourself.

Alternatively, visit our website [www.cecilysfund.org](http://www.cecilysfund.org) and donate or buy gift cards on-line. There, you will find many more suggestions of other ways you can get involved such as

giving time or participating in events. Whatever you are able to contribute, your support will make an enormous difference to the lives of extremely vulnerable children who deserve a future they can look forward to.

We would also very much value your views on our work and the way we communicate with you. Please use the enclosed feedback form.

## *Thank you.*

<sup>8</sup> Source: UNAIDS Global HIV Report '08