

Our *Zambian Partners*

How can a team of six people in a small office in West Oxfordshire help over 8,500 Zambian children to go to school? We do it by working with Bwafwano, Hodi and CHEP - local organisations in Zambia. Like the supporters who make donations and raise money for us, our partners are an integral part of what we do. Together we make sure that our donors' money goes to where it is most needed. This is who they are and what they do.



Bwafwano

Beatrice Chola is a nurse from Chazanga, an impoverished area on the outskirts of Lusaka. In 1996, shocked at the lack of health care available there, she organised neighbours to make home visits and care for those dying from tuberculosis and other illnesses associated with AIDS. She called her project *Bwafwano*, which means "helping one another" in Nyanja, the main language spoken in Lusaka.

She soon realised her patients' children also needed help. Then, as now, many of the children were being cared for by lone, often ill, parents or elderly grandparents who could not afford to pay for them to go to school. So she started a school where uniforms were not required and no fees were charged.

Cecily's Fund began funding the school in 2002 and now pays for the salaries of the six teachers, for the school materials (including books and sports materials) and for a daily lunch for 756 children. For most, this is their only meal of the day.

Bwafwano's teachers are chosen not just for their qualifications and experience, but also for their understanding of the particular



Beatrice Chola



Bwafwano teachers; Stella Chishala, Gharanah Sibulinjase, Esnart Tayengwa, Margaret Kaira and Bambala Kataso

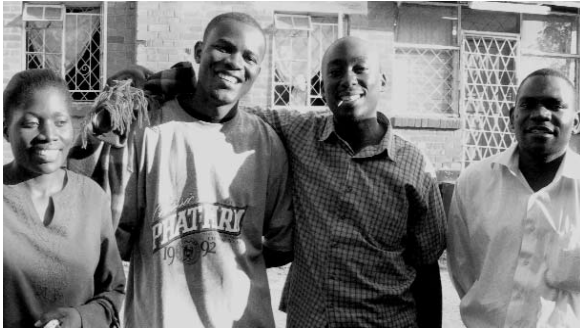
needs of orphans and vulnerable children. They make it a priority to know each child well.

Once children complete grade 4 and can read and write reasonably well, Cecily's Fund helps Bwafwano to support them as they go on into local government schools by paying for uniforms, materials and fees. Bwafwano is a true community organisation, with its roots and its aspirations firmly grounded among the people of Chazanga and the surrounding area.



Hodi

Hodi is a national non-governmental organisation (NGO) committed to improving the quality of life of poor communities. Hodi (a friendly greeting in many Zambian languages) works in many parts of Zambia on a range of activities including helping farmers recover from drought; promoting sustainable, organic farming; and supporting communities to respond to HIV and AIDS.



Hodi's Vizenge Mhango, CHEP's Paul Kasoka and Hodi's Kasamba Minduli and Steward Makanse

Cecily's Fund has supported an education programme in Kitwe, in Zambia's Copperbelt region, since 1998. Hodi has run it for us since early 2007. It is managed for us in Kitwe by Steward Makanse, assisted by Vizenge Mhango and Kasamba Minduli, and supports 7,595 children in primary and secondary schools.

Steward works with school-based committees, consisting of teachers, parents/carers and members of the local communities, to identify the children that most need help. Each school has a "contact teacher"⁹ who is responsible for overseeing the progress of the children we support. Together Hodi and the contact teachers ensure that shoes, uniforms, books and pens are distributed to the children who need them and that the children's school fees are paid. Contact teachers also help the children to find ways to resolve any problems affecting their schooling, such as housing, food shortages or health concerns.

Hodi also runs our teacher training programme for young people whom we have supported through school. Steward assists them with applications to local teacher training colleges, arranges for their fees and living costs to be paid for the duration of the course, liaises with the

colleges to monitor their progress, and supports them in their search for jobs on graduation. These graduates help to replenish Zambia's pool of qualified teachers which has been hit hard by the HIV epidemic.

Steward is hoping to initiate an Alumni Association to help bring together the young people whom we have supported through their school years. This will be a forum to share their experiences and challenges, to help each other and to lobby government and industry to improve prospects for themselves and other orphans and vulnerable children.



"I am the contact teacher for Hodi here at Mukuba High School. I'm also a full time teacher – this is extra. I was appointed to the role by the school board, but I have always done what I can for these children, here in school and also in church. I've always had a heart for these children. I see them as my own children and think what if my children were in the same position? Would there be someone to care for them?"

Judith Kainga

⁹ *Cecily's Fund asks schools in Kitwe and Lusaka to nominate contact teachers to provide a link between us and the children we support. In many cases, Guidance and Counselling teachers are nominated for this role, which is performed in addition to normal teaching duties.*



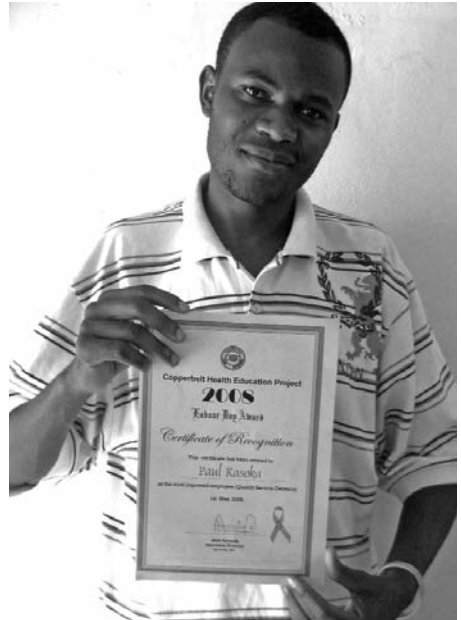
Copperbelt Health Education Project (CHEP)

CHEP was set up in 1988 to help reduce the spread of HIV in Zambia and mitigate its effects on people's lives. It was one of the first organisations of its kind, and has led the way in exploring new methods of tackling the HIV epidemic. Its current focus is on empowering communities to build their own responses to HIV and AIDS.

CHEP carried out ground breaking work on peer health education with women market traders and miners (sessions for miners were conducted in the lifts to and from mine shafts). It was also one of the first organisations to run peer health education sessions in schools.

CHEP instigated the idea of after-school anti-AIDS Clubs, which have now been taken up by many other countries. School children and other community members gather at these clubs to exchange information about HIV and offer each other emotional support and advice.

We support CHEP's peer health education programme in schools. This draws on the talents and enthusiasm of young people whom we have supported through school.

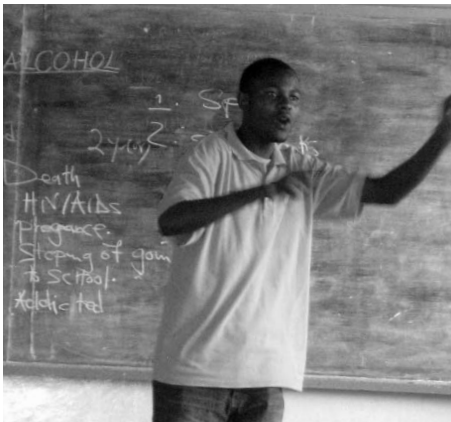


Paul Kasoka with his certificate for 'Most Improved Employee'.

They are trained in effective methods of sharing vital health information with over 7,000 school-children a year. The programme is run by Paul Kasoka, a young man who is himself an orphan and was supported by Cecily's Fund in school.

Through Paul's tenacity and skill as an organiser and communicator, the programme has gone from strength to strength. Hundreds of young people have been trained as peer health educators to run regular workshops in schools and coordinate anti-AIDS Clubs. They have helped tens of thousands of children to learn how to stay safe from HIV and reduce the stigma attached to it.

Last year CHEP gave Paul a Labour Day Award, recognising him as their 'Most Improved Employee'.



Paul introducing a peer health education session; he is an inspiring leader for the young people on the programme.