



# ZOA NEWS

*Zambia Orphans Aid supporter newsletter*



## IN THIS ISSUE

CATCHING UP WITH ZOA-SUPPORTED GRADUATES

SEXUAL HARASSMENT PROJECT

THANK YOU TO OUR FUNDRAISERS

GOODBYE & THANKS TO FOUNDED TRUSTEE JIM

R4 APPEAL RESULTS

NEW BOARDING HOUSE AT TWATASHA

DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT FOR CHILDREN

## The smiling faces of the graduates YOU helped

This autumn, we caught up with some of the graduates whose lives have been changed forever by the generosity of people like you.

Joseph Nthaulo (R) obtained a Grade 12 certificate in 2015 from Twavwane Community School. From 2018, ZOA and Twavwane helped him pursue a Diploma in Clinical Medicine at Kafue Institute. Since then, Joseph has been volunteering at Bwafwano Community Clinic, working with patients with HIV.

"I just wanted to extend my gratefulness for sponsorship. The generous support not only alleviated financial burdens but also reaffirmed my belief in the power of collective goodwill." Joseph said.

Mary Damaless Mbao (L) is a student at Makeni Nursing School pursuing a diploma in Registered Nursing. She says that university education "has given me a different mindset. I am now able to think positively and do things for myself more. It has helped me to look after my sick mother because I now understand her medical condition more."

**Your chance to tear down more barriers to education - see page 4**

# Sexual health and harassment: equipping at-risk students with crucial knowledge

Back in 2021 at the start of our one-year pilot project, 73% of students we surveyed had been unable to access an HIV test. Knowledge of sexual harassment - the signs, the effects and how to report it - was extremely low. The implications of this lack of knowledge were clear: children were at risk.

The progress made by our pilot was incredible. 68% knew their HIV status. Students were 42% more likely to identify sexual harassment.



*Sensitization taking place at Hope & Faith School in Lusaka*

These results were so promising that we chose to expand the work. And so, in September 2022, we brought workshops, sensitisation sessions and HIV testing to 1,000 new at-risk students.

After another year we have been able to expand services from 2 to 8 schools in Lusaka and are delighted to have seen so many young people engaged. We hope to be able to continue to embed activities and expand to more schools in the future - for now we're cautiously optimistic for the future. Thank you very much to The Mercury Phoenix Trust for their ongoing support of this project.



**1808**

adolescents were tested for HIV



**2058**

young people participated in reproductive health sessions



**850**

adolescents received psychosocial counselling

## New boarding house and physiotherapy centre

Twatasha Community School was founded in Kafue because there were insufficient state school places accessible to children with disabilities. Today, a third of its students have disabilities and the school offers inclusive education, with disabled children learning alongside their peers.

The latest development at the school is the construction of a new boarding house and physiotherapy centre. This will provide Twatasha's 250 students with disabilities with the extra care and support they need to make the educational experience as inclusive as possible.

It's hoped students can start to use the new spaces by **January 2024**.



## Thank you to our fundraisers

Three peaks in one day: Ben Nevis, Snowdon, and Scafell Pike. For anyone, it would be a challenge. For the friends and family of Daniel Brand-Sinyinza, it was so much more.

Daniel and his family loved hiking. They'd spent time in the Lake District and were planning to go back when Dan became ill. Just 58 days after his diagnosis, Dan sadly passed away. He was just 26.

In his memory, seven of his friends and family took on the Three Peaks Challenge, and in doing so, raised more than £9,000 for charities, including ZOA.

We could not be more grateful to the Brand-Sinyinza family for choosing ZOA as one of their charities, and we are proud to have counted Daniel among our supporters.



## And thank you for supporting ZOA's R4 Appeal ❤️

In another testament to the power and dedication of our supporters, ZOA was able to raise £47,313 through our BBC Radio 4 Appeal earlier this year. This amount will help ZOA to address the barriers that prevent vulnerable children going to school. We are so proud to call such a generous group of people our supporters.

## Goodbye & thanks to Jim

We want to extend a heartfelt thank you, and our best wishes, to Jim Potter, who has stepped down as a ZOA-UK trustee.



Jim was one of our founding trustees and has played a huge role, taking on the role of Treasurer for 15 years. Jim is pictured left on his last visit to Zambia



# Tear down the barriers keeping vulnerable children out of school



**theBigGive**  
CHRISTMAS CHALLENGE

Every child deserves the opportunity to learn. But the sad reality is, many obstacles stand in the way of education.

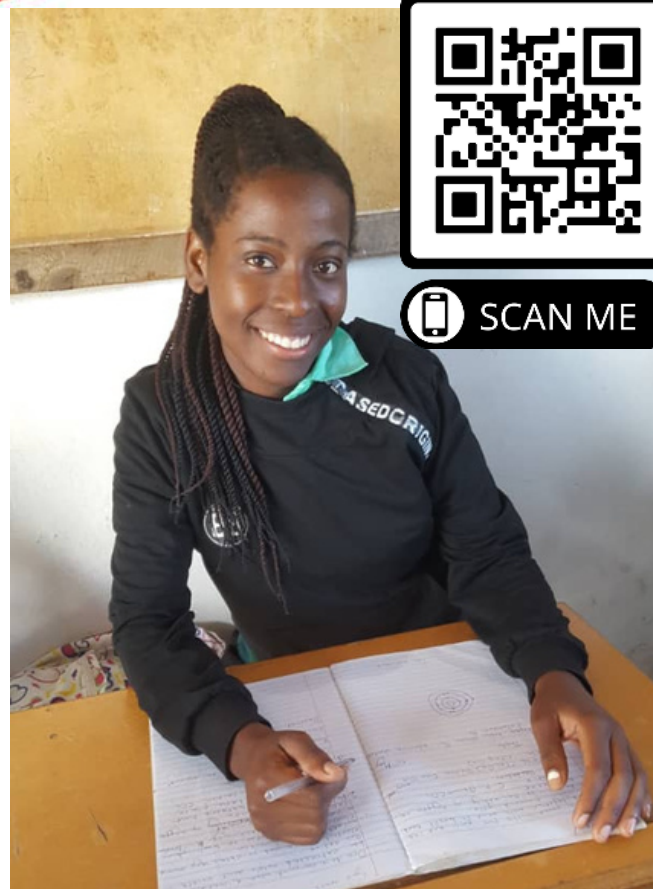
Mental health difficulties. Hunger. Disability. They all have the potential to keep children from learning - by making it harder to find a school place, or making concentration difficult.

**ZOA exists to tackle those obstacles, clearing the way for children of all backgrounds to stay in school.**

We provide nutritious school meals to children whose families can't afford enough food. Psychosocial counselling for children who've experienced hardship. Tailored desks and facilities for children with disabilities.

We can only provide this support because of generous people like you - who care about children like Jennipher (right).

**We're taking part in this year's Big Give Christmas Challenge. This match funding appeal takes place for one week only, from 12 noon on 28 November until 12 noon on 5 December. The great news is that donations made to ZOA via [www.thebiggive.org.uk](http://www.thebiggive.org.uk) during this time, will be matched, up to £10,000. So, any donation you make will go twice as far.**



SCAN ME

**Save the date  
28 November**

**Scan the QR Code to  
visit our Big Give  
appeal page and donate**

## How to donate

Don't worry if you miss our Big Give appeal, you can still make donations to ZOA after 5 December.

### To donate:

- please visit [www.zoa.org.uk](http://www.zoa.org.uk) to donate online
- send a cheque payable to 'Zambia Orphans Aid' to ZOA-UK, 2A Nine Chimneys Lane, Balsham, CB21 4ES.
- Alternatively, call Katy on 01223 901006 or email [katy@zoa.org.uk](mailto:katy@zoa.org.uk)

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