

2016 | africanvisionofhope.org

African Vision of Hope

NEWS

Ending Extreme Poverty,
One Child at a Time

AFRICAN
VISION of HOPE



A Note from Judi

It is so easy for me to get bogged down every day with the small stuff of life; I get distracted easily, but I know when it's time to check my pulse. Is it still beating after the heart of God?

Zambia has one of the highest per capita orphan rates in the world. The children long to be loved, fed and have the opportunity to go to school. How can I walk out of my life of comfort and surplus and 24 hours later stand before a hungry child?

Before each of us is the reality that unless we step up, each one of these children will remain voiceless and anonymous in their short lives.

Inside each of these precious children is a poverty that destroys their hearts and slowly fades their hopes. African Vision of Hope focuses on meeting the immediate needs that can be seen: food, medical care, and clean water. Education, however, touches EVERY part of a child's life: physical, mental, and spiritual. Education has the power to change a child from the inside out and bring lasting results.

Today, because of YOU, 2,250 rescued children fill desks at the African Vision of Hope schools. They learn how to read, write, and discover how God can weave them together for a special purpose and slowly restore their hope. Zikomo (thank you) for all you do!

But I have raised you up for this very purpose; that I might show you my power and my name might be proclaimed in all the Earth. -Exodus 9:16

Judi Bertels
CEO/President

EDUCATE



EQUIP



EMPOWER

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3 Ways to Connect



MAIL the enclosed envelope with a check to:
8 Professional Park Drive
Maryville, IL 62062



CONNECT ONLINE
www.africanvisionofhope.org
info@africanvisionofhope.org



CALL
(618) 288-7695

Who We Are

MISSION STATEMENT

African Vision of Hope is a Christian organization committed to bringing immediate and lasting solutions to children and families living in extreme poverty.

We confront the root causes of poverty by providing opportunities to be educated, grow up healthy, develop leadership and economic skills and learn about God's love.

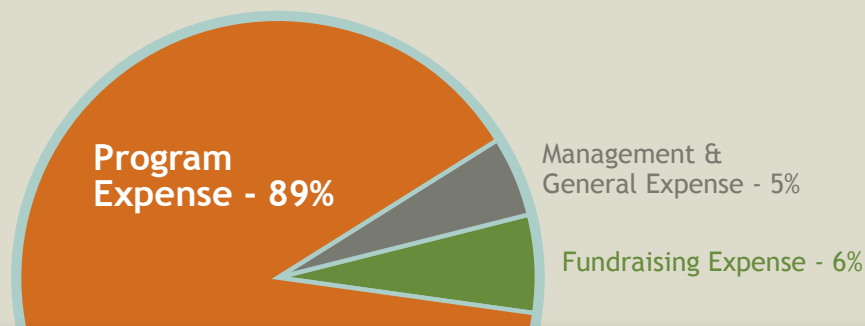
OUR VISION

Our Vision is for every child in Zambia to be released from extreme poverty and be equipped to fulfill the purpose that God has for their lives.

OUR CORE VALUES

EXCELLENCE	We are committed to excellence, hard work and integrity. (Colossians 3:23)
COMPASSIONATE ACTION	We seek to listen, understand and respond to the vulnerable and weak, speaking up for those who have no voice. We align our purpose and actions with the heart of Christ. (James 1:27)
INVESTING ETERNALLY	We choose to live and serve according to the truth found in scripture and are committed to storing up treasures in Heaven. (Matthew 6:19)
PARTNERING	We are servant leaders and partners with the poor, our donors, staff and volunteers. We seek to work alongside of the poor so they have an active participation in life transformation. (Ecclesiastes 4:9)
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES	We believe children are a heritage and blessing from God. We believe every child should have a family, and be encouraged and loved. (Psalm 127:3)

Our Commitment to Transparency





Abigail's Story

I heard about African Vision of Hope and have been living here in the boarding house for 2 years. I love it here and I am safe; this is my home and there are people who comfort me. I started living in the street when I was 9 with my younger sister, we only ate food that we found in the trash dump. My story has changed. I never thought that I would have a real bed and go to a school. I never thought that I could learn to read and write. I never thought of holding a bible in my hands and I never thought I could learn to read it. I am doing all of this because of God.

A Life No Child Wants to Live

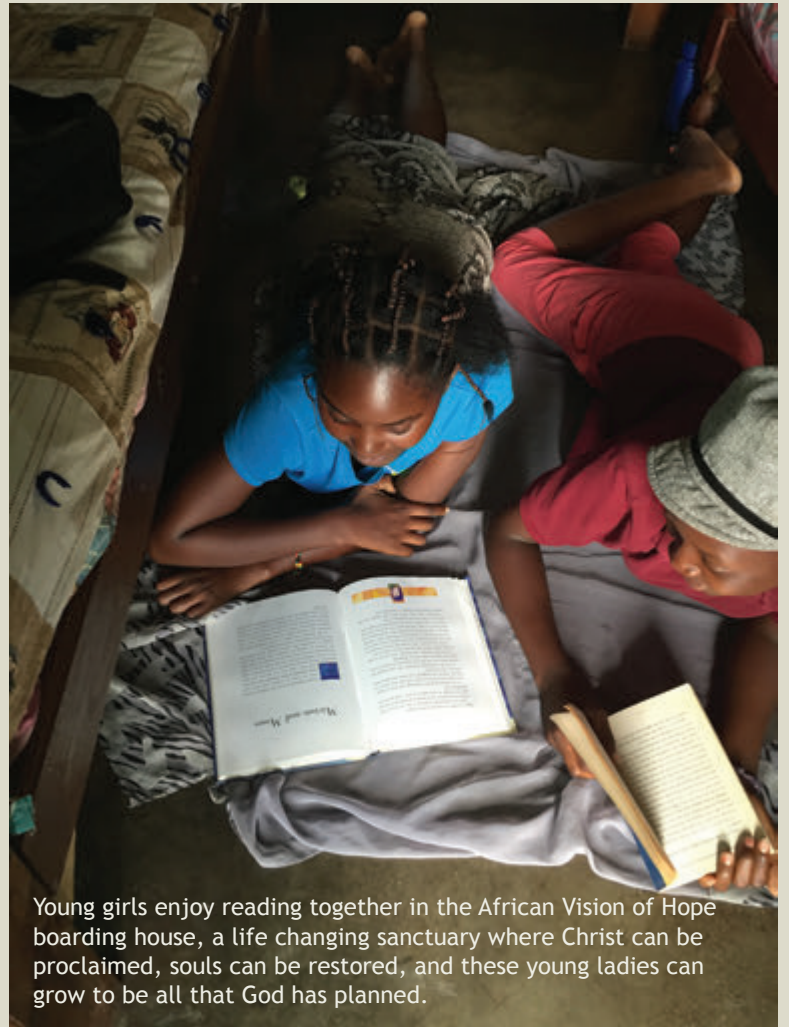
A young girl entered the doorway to the African Vision of Hope school office. Her face is a picture of grief, loss and pain. With each word she speaks it releases the sadness and sorrow that has been held inside for so long.

The worst drought to hit Zambia in decades has left people in a state of severe food insecurity. For young girls, the desperate need to feed themselves has left many forced to sell the only commodity they have left to trade - their body.

Survival sex. Sadly more young girls are turning to prostitution as a means of feeding themselves. Though her body remains that of a child's, her choices are forcing her to have adult repercussions.

When speaking with Pauline, an orphan, she told us how every night she hopes she does not get a customer and in the next thought she hopes she does so she can afford to eat. "I was kicked out of the government school because I could no longer pay the school fees. Without an education I could not find good work and my brothers and sisters needed food. I did not know what else to do. When a friend told me about prostitution I did not want to do it, but I did not feel I had a choice. Any man that came with money I would accept just to feed myself and siblings."

Pauline's story is heartbreaking and it is one that our staff on the grounds must face on a daily basis. Young girls trapped in a lifestyle they want nothing to do with are seeking out a safe refuge in our schools and boarding house.



Young girls enjoy reading together in the African Vision of Hope boarding house, a life changing sanctuary where Christ can be proclaimed, souls can be restored, and these young ladies can grow to be all that God has planned.



These girls want to trade their survival sex lifestyles for survival schooling; they know education is the turning point. Sadly the amount of girls praying and pleading to be rescued from their living hell exceeds the room we currently have in our boarding house. Your support is needed to give Pauline and others like her a place to learn, heal and invest in themselves so they can turn from their survival mentality and learn to thrive.

LEFT: Healing the hurt- All of the students in the boarding house quickly become family to one another, they know each others' pains because they too have lived a similar life. They also heal together- learning the love of God in Christ transforms them beyond their past.

Saved for a Purpose

As a young boy, Nebat was very sick, so sick in fact, that his parents were preparing to bury him. His body was frail and his breath was weak. His mother held him in her arms as she felt his life diminish. They built a small child-sized coffin. Nebat's mother dug the ground for his grave as friends from the village came to mourn. As they placed his tiny frame in the gravesite, a woman screamed that Nebat's chest was moving. He was weak but still alive. His mother almost buried her son alive.

This same boy is now a first year sponsored student by African Vision of Hope in the Seminary. He truly knows how precious life is and values every day he has been given. From death to life. When speaking of his life Nebat said:

"Sponsorship means more than life to me as it provides me with the opportunity to be what I was called to do. I know that my life was spared for a reason and God had that plan before I was even born. I was rescued from death for Gods purpose."

Nebat is one of 13 students who are currently enrolled in Seminary through African Vision of Hope. Nebat helps disciple students who attend the African Vision of Hope schools. He also spends weekends sharing the Jesus film in rural areas with a generator and laptop. Forty six students have graduated seminary and are serving all over Africa, making disciples and seeing lives transformed. They take the gospel into the bush land of Zambia so that people can hear about the love of God.

African Vision of Hope is committed to educate, equip and empower indigenous pastors, who have a heart and vision to reach their own people, become spiritual leaders in their community and nation.



Nebat pictured with his wife Tamara and their 18-month-old son, Alexander.



And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ. -Ephesians 4:11-12

Seminary students help disciple students on the African Vision of Hope campus. The purpose for all of our African Vision of Hope Seminary Students is to train indigenous pastors to be fully equipped with a mature knowledge of God's word.

A CHILD LIKE
MERCY
NEEDS YOU TODAY!



Mercy is waiting for a sponsor
-- someone just like you!

She needs a sponsor who
believes in her and reminds
her that God has a special
plan for her.

There's a child, just like
Mercy, who needs your love!

SPONSOR A CHILD AT
africanvisionofhope.org

Sponsor a Child, Change a Life Forever

"What I love about sponsorship is that my own kids are
growing up side by side with our sponsored kids. My kids see
the world differently because of sponsorship."

-G.S., Sponsor for 3 years



Heartbreak to Hope

JOURNEY TO SCHOOL

All children walk far distances to go to school. We asked one student about it. "I want to become something. School is the only way," he said. So, every day, he weighs his hopes for the future against his trek in the present. And, every day, he chooses to walk to school.



A HOT MEAL & CLEAN WATER

Each African Vision of Hope School provides a warm meal every day to children who might not otherwise have eaten. A clean water well, pit latrines, and hand washing stations are at each school. We also teach about hygiene and ways to prevent spreadable diseases to promote lasting behavior change.



EDUCATION MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Through African Vision of Hope, vulnerable children get the opportunity to grow as a child should; to learn and play and develop critical thinking skills. The education they receive will provide them with opportunities that will help them break the chains of extreme poverty.





SPIRITUAL MENTORING

We follow Christ's example by serving alongside the poor, and our faith in Him is core to who we are. This commitment drives our programs, staff, and leadership. We believe each child is uniquely designed by God and by partnering with local churches, they are trained and equipped to meet the physical and spiritual needs of their communities.



CHORE TIME

Before and after school children have many chores. Common chores are fetching water, cooking, working in the field, selling at the market, sweeping out the house and washing dishes and putting them to dry on a dish drainer (pictured).



OPPORTUNITIES AHEAD

Our first school opened in 2003, since then the small children that sat at our desks have grown into young men and women determined to continue their education and to break the chain of extreme poverty. We have since graduated teachers, doctors, surgeons, engineers, and pharmacists. Each of their stories has changed from heartbreak to hope.

Sew Powerful

The African Vision of Hope Sewing Empowerment Center was started to help women living in the rural villages generate income, giving women the resources necessary to begin the journey out of poverty.



Lots of women in poverty know how to sew. They've learned the trade skill from their mothers or grandmothers. Usually without a sewing machine.

They may not even know it - but they're half way out of poverty. They have the sewing skills - but they also need the tools and resources to create a small business. Some of it is the machines, some of it is the fabric, but mostly it is the business training they are lacking.

African Vision of Hope worked with local leaders to develop a program to help young girls and women escape poverty. The women are trained in the sewing techniques to make school uniforms and how to make jewelry, baskets, and other items to sell at the local market.

They are able to provide an income for themselves. As time progresses, they will be increasingly capable of contributing to their family's education, health care, and overall welfare. They didn't need a handout. They were already half way there. They just needed a bit of technical guidance.





Florence's Story

Florence is a widow and mother of three in our sewing empowerment program. "My challenges before I came here were great, I could not provide for my family, but now my life has changed. I am earning a living and able to buy food, learning a skill and I love working with the African Vision of Hope family of women. I am a hard worker and so excited about this opportunity. I have always remembered Psalm 23 and it comforted me during the many challenges of my life. God has and continues to give me strength and courage."

Nurse Clementina gives de-worm medicine to a young girl. African Vision of Hope's medical staff helps meet the needs of children and families that would not have access and cannot afford medical care, saving thousands of lives every year.



Mending Broken Hearts

There are overwhelming statistics of extreme poverty but even more heart wrenching are the unnecessary deaths of so many precious children. There are hospitals full of beautiful children whose lives hang in the balance, all waiting for a miracle. Bed after bed, each one's eyes steal your heart. At the end of each bed sits a mother, hoping and praying that today there would be a word of hope for her little one. Most mommy's will leave this hospital empty handed and brokenhearted.

For Children in Zambia, being born with a congenital heart disease is a death sentence. Last year African Vision of Hope partnered with organizations around the world to send three children to India for surgery. Simon was the first little boy that went to India. Through tears his parents Japhet and Susan told us:



Japhet, Susan & Simon

"Children are a special gift God gives us. We saw our child dying before us, it broke our hearts. This experience has left a mark on our lives that cannot be erased. We know that God allowed Simon to have this condition so that more children's lives will be saved."

This year, 21 more children will be given the gift of a mended heart. Still there are over 2,000 more waiting. This year we embarked on a strategic plan with these organizations to develop a sustainable long term plan for cardiac care in Zambia.



Unlocking Zambia's Agricultural Potential

In Africa, 85% of the population are subsistence farmers. The African Vision of Hope farm in Chikumbi, Zambia grows food for the schools and is a teaching and training ground for local farmers to expand their subsistence farms to a surplus farms. The Farming God's Way training program creates a living classroom based on conservation farming techniques, but it is much more than that. It is also an evangelistic tool for preaching the gospel, strengthening and planting churches and extending the kingdom of God with an emphasis on sustainable agriculture as a model for life transformation. We teach rural farmers agriculture technologies to improve crop yield and avoid crop failure. We teach conservation farming that works with the environment instead of struggling against it, all while bringing glory to God and hope to the hungry.

Bringing Technology to Rural Zambia

The African Vision of Hope Information Technology and Education Center is bringing in a whole world of possibilities that are beyond the students (and teachers) wildest imaginations. The hands on environment is equipping the students to learn basic computer and electronic skills and is a working education center.



The current training center has 15 operational workstations plus a server that controls all the operations.



Teachers and staff members have been taught how to use the computers, how to maintain the lab, and how to teach students to use the computers.



What's our next step? We are working to build a solar-powered mobile computer lab that can be transported into the bush and to rural African Vision of Hope schools.

Zambia By the Numbers



20%, roughly 1.2 million, of children in Zambia are orphans.



39% of Zambia's population is illiterate.



46% of Zambians are under the age of 14.



95% of the girls in our boarding house have endured survival sex in order to eat.



The average Zambian child attends school for less than 7 years.



Most Zambians live on less than \$1.25 a day.



There is approximately 1 doctor for every 20,000 people in Zambia.

Save the Dates!

Saturday, June 25

8th Annual Golf Tournament

Register now at
africanvisionofhope.org

Sunday, August 21

Volunteer Picnic

Edwardsville Township Park
Zambian Pastor Richard Daka
will be joining us!

Thursday, November 3

10th Annual Gala

Windows on Washington
St. Louis

What's Next?

Over the last 13 years you have helped rescue thousands of children. Today they are sitting in desks, eating healthy meals, receiving medical care and learning about how God loves them. You are educating, equipping and empowering the children of Zambia to be leaders of their homes and communities.







BECAUSE OF YOU:

-  2,250 children attend school every day at one of the 5 African Vision of Hope campuses in Zambia.
-  65 children live in a safe and loving home at the African Vision of Hope Boarding Home.
-  46 indigenous men and women have been trained in sharing the gospel and disciplining students.
-  152 students have grown up through our school and have graduated high school.
-  8,000 children and adults have received medical care and surgery, 24 have been sent out of the country for life saving surgery
-  Clean water stations are provided on African Vision of Hope Campuses reaching 5,000 people per month.
-  550,000 hot lunches are served every year helping to keep children healthy, energized and alert in class.
-  25 students have received scholarships for higher education.

Looking ahead we know that there are many children still waiting to be rescued and many girls longing for a safe place to live.

OUR NEXT STEPS:

-  Purchase of land & construction for a girl's dormitory that will rescue 50 more vulnerable girls from the streets.
-  Construction of the skills training center that will continue to teach sustainable skills and will disciple 200 youth and adults.
-  Construction of a tech center that will include a library and tech training center for high school and college students.
-  Developing 5 new SonShine Kidz Klubs that will reach 500 more street children per week with life skills, basic reading and writing and sharing about God's love.
-  Establish a college scholarship program that will provide 50 higher education scholarships.



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