

2019 | [africanvisionofhope.org](http://africanvisionofhope.org)

# African Vision of Hope

NEWS

A photograph of a woman and two children standing in front of a mud-brick wall. The woman, wearing a yellow headwrap and a purple top with a pink lace collar, is smiling. She has her arm around a young boy in a light blue shirt and a blue and white plaid skirt, who is also smiling and holding a small object. A young girl in a pink patterned shirt is standing next to him, looking directly at the camera with a serious expression. A blue patterned cloth is draped over the wall behind them.

From Poverty  
to Possibility  
*There's a Bridge*





I'm a future musician

We are future teachers

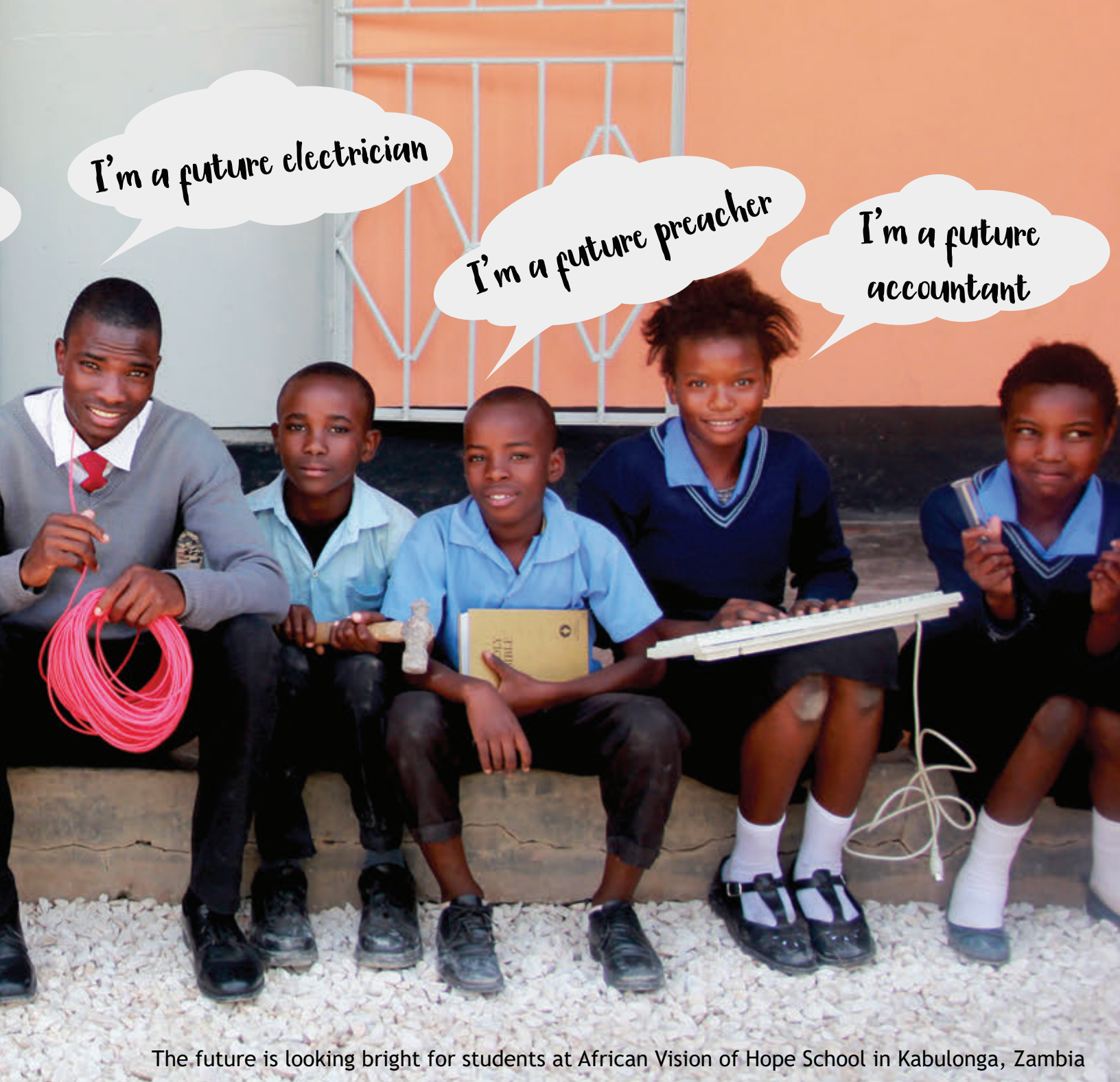
We are future nurses

# African Vision of Hope

## OUR MISSION

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 and family in Zambia to be released from extreme poverty and have the ability to fulfill the purpose that God has for their lives.



\*Names of children and families in this publication have been changed to protect their privacy





# FROM POVERTY

# to Possibility

*From poverty to possibility, there's a bridge. For Sarah, that bridge is **you**.*



Pray for the millions of Zambian children left out of school and trapped in a cycle of extreme poverty. They are living in the streets, working as slaves, being sold into early marriages, and losing hope that they will ever escape and have a bright future.





Sarah lived in Kalikiliki, a slum on the outskirts of Lusaka. African Vision of Hope provides education to the children living in this community.



# Sarah's Story

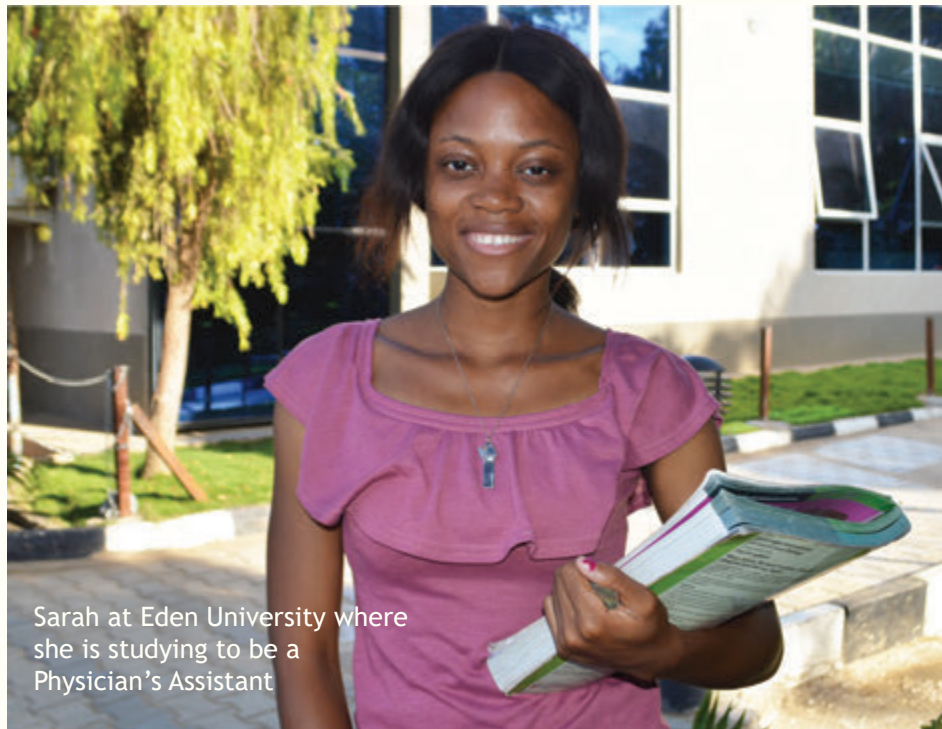
Sarah ran away to escape becoming a child bride. Now, she is running toward a better future.



Orphans in Zambia become caregivers after their parents die. Instead of sitting in a classroom, they are forced into child labor to survive.



4 out of 10 Zambian girls will be sold into marriage between the ages of 14 and 18. Every year of education changes this reality.



Sarah at Eden University where she is studying to be a Physician's Assistant

**Sarah, like 1.4 million other Zambian children, became an orphan at a young age. She was only 13 years old. Her older sister, Joy, was quickly sold into marriage at the age of 14 and had two children before her 16th birthday. Sarah was left to care for her baby brother Moses alone.**

"We ran into the mountains to escape being taken away, sold or separated. We would sleep in the grasses where there were lots of snakes and hyenas; we would eat wild fruits and bugs. I was so scared and hopeless. I wished I could just be a child. There was no place for us to stay and no money for me to go to school, so my whole life's purpose was finding food and shelter for Moses and me."

In 2011, Sarah was told about a school that rescues orphaned and vulnerable children and charges no school fees. In Zambia, school is not free so it was hard for Sarah to believe a place like this even existed. "After I was accepted into school, my next challenge was finding care for my brother. I was able to find a job after school which helped me provide for him."

Sarah graduated African Vision of Hope High School in 2015, an achievement she never dreamed possible. Isaiah 41:10 is her favorite verse: "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

***"I had lost all hope that I would become something in life. Now, my brother Moses is also in school at African Vision of Hope and living in the boarding home. Because he is being cared for, I have been able to go to college with an African Vision of Hope scholarship."***

**Across sub-Saharan Africa, 9 million girls between the ages of 6 and 11 will never go to school.** Instead of becoming a statistic and being sold into marriage like her sister, Sarah is now a student at Eden University where she is studying to become a Physician's Assistant. Her life has been transformed from poverty to possibility, and your investment has made all the difference. You have bridged the gap.

By taking advantage of these scholarships that you make possible, young people like Sarah will enrich the lives of their communities and country. They develop a deep gratitude and commitment to give back - a ripple effect that changes generations.



When you educate a girl, you educate a generation.



Oxen are precious gifts to rural farmers in Zambia.



## Reaping the Benefits of Nutrition and Community Partnerships



Left: Naomi is all smiles with her new corn planter and sprayer. In Zambia, 50% of the population relies on agriculture to survive and make a living.

Stepping into rural Zambia is like taking a trip back in time. Farmers plow with oxen and plant and prepare fields by hand, without modern tools. This year, declining soil fertility and erratic rains have led to a poor harvest. Having a year-round income is the difference between survival and providing a life for your family.

The African Vision of Hope Conservation Farm is working together with partners to help adopt agricultural conservation practices and provide basic tools like oxen, sprayers, and planters. The farmers learn to plant early with minimal soil disturbance which provides greater water filtration. The results are increased production and a profit that farmers, like Naomi, can reinvest in their land.

When people learn how to improve agriculture and farming techniques, they gain the ability to grow and maintain healthy crops, which provides higher yields and allows families to move out of extreme poverty.

The Conservation Farm is raising corn, okra, spinach, onions, beans, and chickens. This year, a low-cost irrigation reservoir was created to water crops during the drought and dry season. The Farm uses profits to provide school fees and uniforms to children in the community and agricultural training to local farmers. The Farm also subsidizes the African Vision of Hope school lunch programs. Every child in school relies on the lunch program as this is the only meal many of these children will receive each day.



Left: Joseph loves lunch time at school. He enjoys nshima (porridge) and beans at African Vision of Hope School in Kafue.



**WHAT IS**

## **EXTREME POVERTY?**

**What does extreme poverty look like  
for families living in Zambia?**

**Chronic hunger**

**Live on less than \$1.90  
per day**

**Lack of access to basic  
nutrition and medical care**

**Lack of safe drinking water  
or sanitation**

**Lack of shelter**

**Lack of access to education**

**Lack of basic articles of  
clothing or shoes**



Globally, extreme poverty has rapidly declined. However, the number of people living in extreme poverty in sub-Saharan Africa is on the rise and makes up more than half of the impoverished population of the world. Extreme poverty is powerlessness!





# SEW SUSTAINABLE



## Through Economic Empowerment

Above: John, Beatrice, Joy and Martha show off the uniforms they are sewing. They participated in the African Vision of Hope Empowerment Training Program and graduated with their certificates. The program taught them valuable job skills that they are using to start their own businesses and support their families.

These are men and women with dreams for their futures who simply needed the opportunity to thrive. With the help of training and a micro loan, they have started a sewing business and are making uniforms for Zambian school children. They will be able to build the business, train others, help their own families, create jobs, and impact their community. They have rented a building that will give them space to grow for the future.



Joy, above, is working hard on a uniform that will soon be worn by a grateful African Vision of Hope student

*"I am crying tears because I now have a skill. I no longer have to beg on the streets in order to feed myself and my grandchildren. This ministry has given me a family. We encourage and pray for each other. We all want each other to succeed." - Joy*

## To the Beat of Their Own Drum

Music and arts play a huge role at all African Vision of Hope campuses. The arts increase teamwork, school attendance, and boost creative thinking. Participation in the arts can bring comfort in the face of adversity and gives students a channel to share knowledge and talents. Whether you are walking on a school campus, into the ministry office, past the sewing building, or near a youth group; you are sure to hear voices singing and feel drums beating. In Zambia, talent abounds but opportunity does not. This year, through a global partnership, the arts department expanded and students now have the opportunity to learn to play instruments, participate in art projects, and share their talents in local contests. They are growing in confidence and eager to showcase their new skills.



Above: 10th and 11th grade students in Chongwe rehearse their national anthem before chapel.





# Education is the best way to lift children out of extreme poverty. PERIOD.

“Education is one of God’s greatest gifts to a child because you cannot take education away from them.” - Esther

Esther has always had a passion for education. She is the first in her family to finish high school, a dream that is only achieved by 8% of Zambian children. Her parents were unable to help her pay for college, so she worked hard and paid her own way. Esther understands the barriers to education in Zambia because she was once a student and struggled against challenges like paying school fees, walking long distances to school, overcrowded classrooms, untrained teachers, and lack of learning materials.

*“I enjoy helping the children and knowing that they will have education in their lives. Education is one of God’s greatest gifts to a child because you cannot take education away from them.”*  
- Esther, fourth grade teacher at African Vision of Hope

Esther knows that education is one of the most important investments a country can make in its children and in its future sustainability.

African Vision of Hope teachers care for their students as if they were their own children: providing guidance, love, and emotional support. These children are vulnerable or orphaned and view their teachers as family.



Esther and James, one of her fourth grade students, at African Vision of Hope School in Kabulonga.

## You are tackling the root causes of extreme poverty through:



### Access to Quality Education

In sub-Saharan Africa, millions of vulnerable children do not have access to school. African Vision of Hope provides a free Christian education, removing the educational barrier for many of these children and reducing the hardship on families. This reduces early marriage and child labor. According to the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), to compete in an increasingly globalized world, completion of high school is required. Zambia’s economy needs to be able to draw on a schooled and skilled population for innovation, technology, and jobs. We prepare students to be Godly men and women who will impact future generations.



### Child Health Programs

Vulnerable children are faced with chronic hunger, malnutrition and illness. African Vision of Hope schools provide a healthy lunch, giving children the energy to walk to school and pay attention in class. The child health program utilizes education, medical care, and surgery to save lives. Clean water and sanitation is critical in preventing illnesses and keeping children in school.



### Trained and Equipped Teachers and Leaders

African Vision of Hope invests in training by providing support and quality professional development so teachers can continually improve. These critical ingredients ensure effective literacy and numeracy outcomes in students. Science, math, and technology training is vital in preparing youth to become producers of knowledge rather than consumers. Empowerment training in farming, sewing, and carpentry provides communities with skills and fosters sustainability. African Vision of Hope invests in the cultivation of local leaders who display character and integrity.



# Moving Forward, Giving Back

The home where Luke  
and his family live



*At first glance, Chongwe may appear to be a sleepy village dotting the rural landscape of Zambia. When you look a little closer, you see the crippling hardships these people face. Their strife is interfering with their ability to be educated, forcing the village's children into child labor. Hundreds of families are living in extreme poverty, struggling to provide food for their families by farming or making mud bricks. The pursuit of a better life has been hampered by the lack of access to education.*

Luke's future was grim. He was left to care for his mother and eight siblings when he was just a child. There was not a school within walking distance of his home and raising money for the required fees was impossible. Luke knew he needed to learn to read and write but needed a miracle to make it happen.

A ray of hope emerged in Luke's village in 2008 when an African Vision of Hope school was started under a tree. Unaccustomed to change, parents and guardians were reluctant to send their children to school. However, soon the entire community became excited for the future and got involved in making bricks to construct classrooms. In 2009, the first classrooms were completed along with toilets, a community well, and school kitchen. Today, 725 children in grades 1-12 attend the school where Luke proudly graduated in 2017.

There was no looking back from there. Luke's good grades and determination secured him a scholarship through African Vision of Hope's higher education program. He is now studying mathematics and biology at Chalimbana University in Zambia. His goal is to be a school principal.



Above: Luke (back row) with his high school graduating class at African Vision of Hope School in Chongwe.





African Vision of Hope scholarship recipients give back to their communities by tutoring in African Vision of Hope schools, helping with maintenance, assisting at the Conservation Farm, and providing support by mentoring to children and families.

*“The happiest time in my life is when I was accepted into an African Vision of Hope school. My burden was lifted, and I could concentrate on learning instead of working long hours in the field or making bricks. Without this gift of education, I would be unable to help my community like I am now. Thank you for your merciful hearts.”*  
- Luke

Right: Luke volunteers his time by helping paint African Vision of Hope schools during his college break.





When Edward was a child, he lost most of his hearing to Malaria. Despite this disability, he managed to make great grades in school by sitting in the front of his classes and reading the lips of his teachers. When the school nurse, Clementina, heard about Edward's challenges, she remembered that a pair of hearing aids had been shipped to Zambia a few months prior. The moment she placed the devices in his ears, he smiled brightly and exclaimed, "I can hear!"

**"I lived my life in misery because I could not hear. My new ears have brought me much joy. I am able to understand my teachers and can even sing in the school choir" - Edward, grade 11**



# NOW HEAR THIS

## Growing Up Healthy

Edward in his 11th grade classroom.



Healthy children are able to learn, pay attention in school, and fight disease. For children in Zambia, access to basic medical care and health education is the difference between life and death.

Our medical staff and partners provide education on topics like clean water, sanitation, HIV/AIDS, healthy behaviors, and hygiene. They also treat simple illnesses that can become life-threatening such as diarrhea, pneumonia, malnutrition, worms, and even diseases like TB and Malaria.



## All Who Are Thirsty

***"And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones who is my disciple, truly I tell you, that person will certainly not lose their reward." - Matthew 10:42***

Every day, women and children in Zambia spend 200 million hours walking to water sources, waiting in line, and carrying heavy loads on their heads and backs. They walk an average of 3.7 miles on these daily errands.

Children are unable to go to school or have play time, and women do not have the time they need to care for and support their families because of these long trips. Access to clean water, sanitation, and hygiene is life-saving. African Vision of Hope campuses are equipped with clean water sources and other sanitation measures to ensure that students stay healthy and in school. Families living in the communities surrounding African Vision of Hope schools also have access to clean water, saving them time and protecting them from the spread of disease.



Carol, an African Vision of Hope student, shows the difference between water from an unreliable source versus the well at her school.



# Because Children Can't Wait.

Child Sponsorship takes a child from poverty to possibility.

100%

of your child sponsorship donation goes directly to supporting orphans and vulnerable children.

Sponsor a child at:

[africanvisionofhope.org/child-sponsorship](http://africanvisionofhope.org/child-sponsorship)



Child Sponsorship changes two lives - yours and theirs.

*"Sponsorship has filled a hole in my life that I didn't know I had."*

- Francine, Child Sponsor



# Let the Son Shine

"Through the Sonshine Kidz Klub, we are able to share the love of God and provide love to orphans who have no parents to show them affection. We point them to Jesus, the best parent they could ever have."

- Leah, current sponsored seminary student

Every Saturday, 500 children start their journeys to 5 different Sonshine Kidz Klubs around Zambia. Sonshine Kidz Klub is a partnership with local churches to help reach the vulnerable children in their communities. Trained team members from each church spend the day working with and showing love to children by teaching basic life skills, fostering character development, providing a hot meal, and sharing Biblical principles.

Zambian churches are deeply rooted in their communities and are a catalyst for change. Sonshine Kidz Klubs walk alongside these local churches as they share the love of Jesus in their neighborhoods and experience God's love in tangible ways.

Leah, one of the seminary students you are sponsoring, is the coordinator for the Sonshine Kidz Klub at Kabuata Church on the outskirts of Lusaka. She enrolled in seminary after she felt called to help the next generation of Zambians become disciples. Her husband, Stephen, already completed seminary with a scholarship provided by you. Today, they are an influential team for their community.

"Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.'"

Matthew 19:14



"God helped me forget the things I have endured. My teachers told me every day 'God loves you.' I know He saved me for a bigger purpose."

- Susan



Susan in her desk at the African Vision of Hope office in Zambia

## Balancing the books

When Susan was a little girl, she never dreamed that she would one day go to college. Children like Susan don't have dreams. They can't even grasp the idea that they are valued and loved and have a future worthy of dreaming about. Education is for people who have money and parents.

Susan's father was a drug addict and alcoholic, causing him to be abusive and driving her mother to leave their family. When her father died, Susan and her siblings were left in the care of an aunt. She would mock the kids for not being able to afford school on their own and would make them ask neighbors for food or dig up nuts to eat. Susan's aunt pressured her to get married so that she would no longer "burden" the family. She was told, "I would rather send your brothers to school. Girls get married and then their life is over. There is no use in educating girls."

Susan's saving grace was a neighbor who saw her struggling and told her about African Vision of Hope School. Susan started attending school in grade 10, quickly making friends and cultivating her love for math and numbers. After graduating in 2013, she went to college for banking and accounting and has completed her degree. Now she is on the finance team at African Vision of Hope's main office in Zambia.

It is because of you that Susan has completed school and is following her dreams of working in finance. There are so many more "Susans" who are waiting for their opportunity to have a future full of hope.



# Welcome Home Girls

# You are Not Forgotten

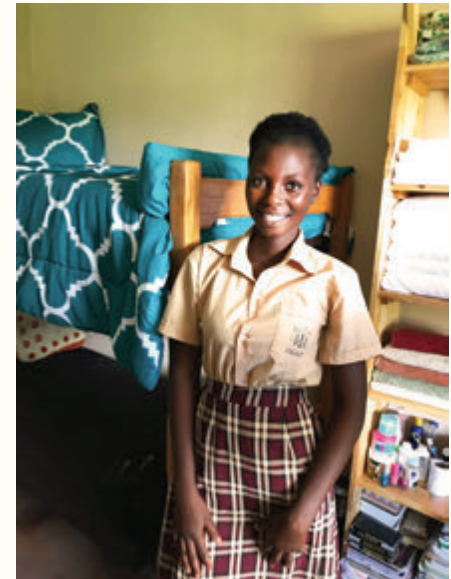
On March 1, 2019 the Girls House of Hope celebrated its grand opening. Mary and her friends cried tears of joy as they walked into the only home they have ever known. She wept when she saw she had her very own bed. Her room is named the “Peace” room, after the fruits of the spirit found in Galatians 5.

Zambia has one of the highest HIV/AIDS infection rates in the world. The disease has left 1.2 million orphans behind in its stormy path. Extended families are overwhelmed and powerless as they are raising nieces, nephews, community children, and grandchildren. Forgotten little ones are forced into the street to beg, resort to prostitution, or trafficked as child laborers.

Mary was twelve when she began living in the streets. *“I would sleep in the dirt on the streets and collect water bottles to sell. I never bathed, and people called me a pig. Many of my friends who lived there with me have now died.”*

Mary started attending church in Lusaka, Zambia’s capital city. The church youth leader brought her to the African Vision of Hope office and she was enrolled and became one of the first girls to be accepted into the Girls House of Hope. She is now fifteen years old and has a safe home, goes to school every day, and has a family of sisters and a house mother. Each girl living in the House of Hope has responsibilities as a family member that include cooking, cleaning, gardening, washing clothes, and preparing for the next day.

The House of Hope will be able to provide hope, love, rescue, education, and shelter for 90 more girls just like Mary. To be part of their transformation go to [africanvisionofhope.org/the-girls-house-of-hope/](http://africanvisionofhope.org/the-girls-house-of-hope/).



Above: Mary in her new room at the Girls House of Hope. This is her first time having a bed to sleep on and a pillow under her head. Top left: Mary and her fellow boarders in their school uniforms standing in foyer at the Girls House of Hope. Bottom left: the newly completed Girls House of Hope.



# Two Continents, One Team

You are part of a global team that works together to tackle the root causes of extreme poverty. Every day we pray together, work together, cry together, and share ideas that will bring about sustainable solutions for the children and families in Zambia.

Who are your teammates:

- ☀️ Local Zambian teachers, counselors, leaders and pastors who offer physical, mental and spiritual support
- ☀️ Nurses, doctors, cooks and tutors who provide care and help build healthy and strong bodies
- ☀️ All African Vision of Hope donors and child sponsors
- ☀️ Volunteers who provide endless love and support in the U.S. and across the globe
- ☀️ U.S. staff who oversee the strategic objectives and make sure your investment is making a sustainable impact and eternal difference

"Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil."

Ecclesiastes 4:9



The African Vision of Hope American support staff and volunteers.

## African Vision of Hope Zambian Leadership Team

The African Vision of Hope team in Zambia is over 111 staff members strong. Meet our Zambian leadership team who has boots on the ground every day, working tirelessly to rescue children and find solutions to their country's greatest setbacks.



Kennedy  
Program Director



Misheck  
Child Rescue Team



Rachel  
Child Enrollment  
Team



Haward  
Child Enrollment  
Team



Charles  
Child Rescue Team



Susan  
Finance Team



Lawrence  
Superintendent of  
Schools



Chance  
House of Hope  
Matron



Japhet  
Student Life  
Guidance Counselor



Foliad  
Campus Ministry  
Pastor



Clementina  
School Nurse



Mwala  
Farm Manager

## Our Commitment to Transparency

Financial Integrity is paramount to African Vision of Hope. We serve in the confidence of your prayers and are enabled by your unfailing support. We are deeply committed to limiting overhead costs while maximizing the opportunities and effectiveness of our child and community focused programs. More than 87% of every dollar is used for life-changing programs.





# Note from Judi

I have a sign on the back of my car that reads “I’d rather be in Zambia”. I’m sure that sounds strange, if not outright crazy. Who would rather be in a country where life is so hard, electricity is a luxury, roads are difficult to travel, and children are starving and hurting all around you? Life is comfortable in our country. Imagine if we just stayed comfortable. Imagine if we didn’t get out of the pews and get our hands dirty. Imagine Sarah’s life if you had not stepped in and imagine how many people are praying right now for someone to rescue them, depending on our saying “yes”. We have the incredible blessing of being able to look into these children’s lives, to see their joy in the classroom, to see their sick bodies become healthy, to see them come to know and understand love, and to see them become Godly men and women. My friends, that is what love looks like. It is an outstretched hand, an open heart, and a willing spirit.

**“He will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.’ Matthew 25:45**

Children around the world are praying for someone rescue them. Every gift, every volunteer hour, and every prayer immediately changes lives. Let’s not watch the battle, let’s be on the front lines and at the end of our lives show up with our uniforms dirty.

PS. Join us on a trip to Zambia and learn why you’d rather be there too.



Serving with you,  
*Judi Bertels* Judi Bertels  
President/CEO

## Together We Can

Last year, over 200 volunteers and mission team members gave almost 12,000 hours of their time to seeing generations changed across the globe. Through their gifts of time and talent, they transformed the lives of more than 3,000 children and their families. Volunteers become the heartbeat and the fuel of the ministry by stretching out their hands, time, and finances. Volunteering has no age limit. Whether you’re 4 or 104, you can be part of a passionate group of advocates who are committed to making a difference. Your partnership gives a voice to the voiceless. You can get involved by emailing [info@africanvisionofhope.org](mailto:info@africanvisionofhope.org) and by:







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EDUCATE



EQUIP



EMPOWER



## Investing in Future Generations

What will your legacy be? With the Hope Legacy Partnership, your monthly donation can make a lasting difference in the fight against extreme poverty.

Become a Hope Legacy Member today  
[africanvisionofhope.org/hopelegacy](https://africanvisionofhope.org/hopelegacy)

*"Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world."*

*James 1:27*