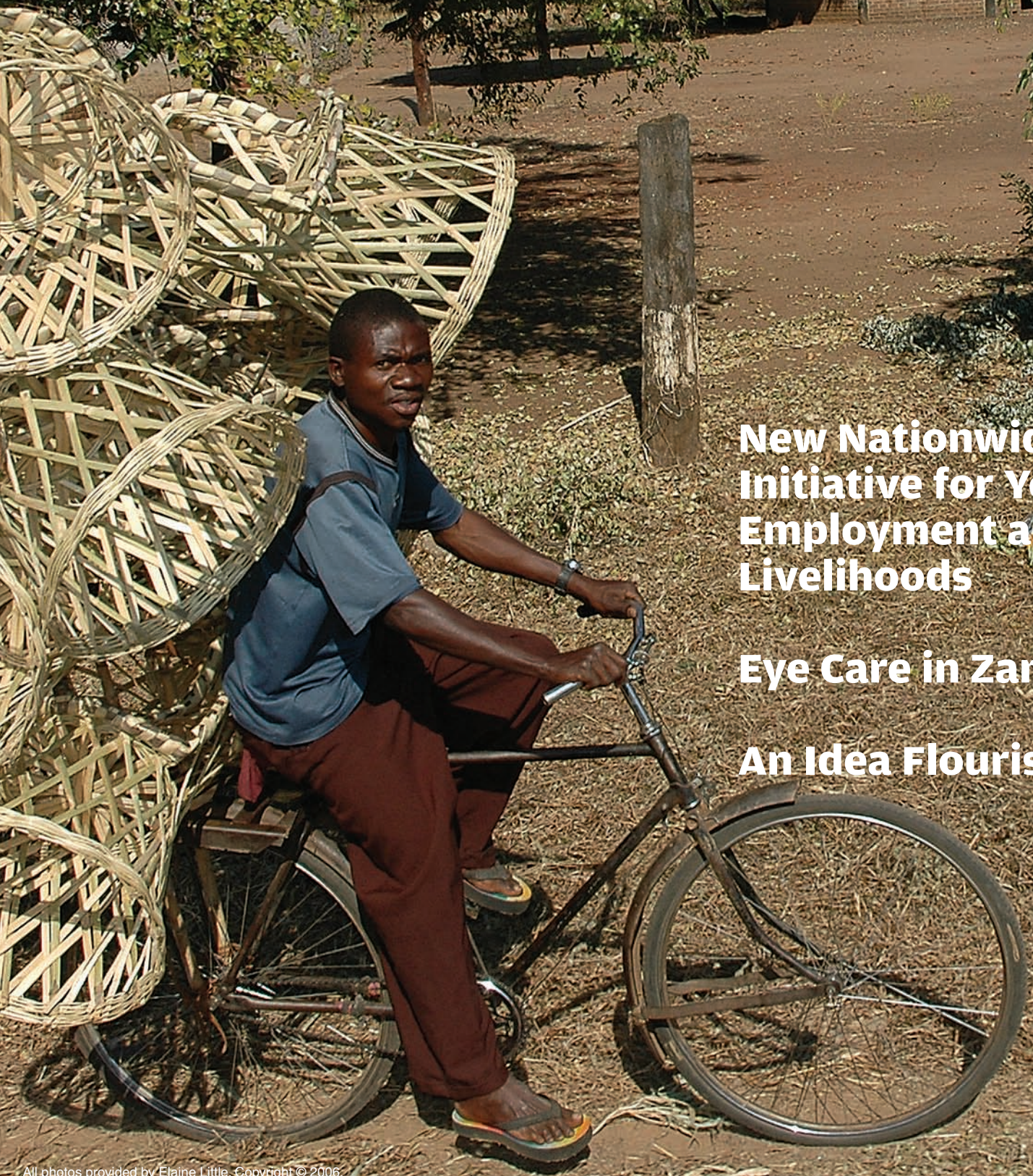


Friends

friends of
ZAMBIA
We are only one of her many resources.

Friends of Zambia Newsletter

Volume 2 • Winter 2006



**New Nationwide
Initiative for Youth
Employment and
Livelihoods**

Eye Care in Zambia

An Idea Flourishes



Richard Schubert, Virginia Austin Schubert, Eugene M. Faison, Jr., H. E. Levy P. Mwanawasa, President of Zambia, Natalie Boule, H.E. Dr Inonge Mbikusita-Lewanika.

Chairman's Report

Virginia Austin Schubert

As the Friends of Zambia organization grows, it is important to continuously remind ourselves of the country's remarkable resources and to be realistic about Zambia's ongoing challenges. We must be thoughtful about how we can help the Zambian people meet their challenges head-on with focus, courage and determination.

Keeping that in mind, the Board of Directors of the Friends held a strategic planning retreat on January 5, 2006. We reaffirmed the mission of the Friends – To promote knowledge and understanding of Zambia in order to encourage business investment and development and support of education and welfare among Zambia's people.

We adopted four programmatic goals to support our mission: to invest in the development of Zambia's young people; to continue to host trips to Zambia to promote tourism and strategic investment goals; to provide, as funds permit, support of Zambian social welfare programs; and, to encourage donations of goods.

We further refined the definition of a "FRIEND" as one who contributes directly to the mission's objectives and/or to the organization itself. We decided that we need to capture the many accomplishments of "FRIENDS" thus far and that we need more organizational infrastructure to enhance our effectiveness.

During 2006 we will be aggressive in fundraising to build our infrastructure both in the US and in Zambia and to achieve our programmatic goals. As we develop the infrastructure, we plan to hire part time staff in the US and in Zambia. We will host, at least, two trips in 2006, promote the adoption of the Youth Investment Trust and actively pursue collaborative relationships that will assist us in achieving our goals.

New Nationwide Initiative for Youth Employment and Livelihoods

by Rick Little

Co-Founder, Friends of Zambia; President & CEO, ImagineNations Group

Since our very first visit to the country, Friends of Zambia (FOZ) has seen the urgent need for greater investment in young people. Over the course of our four trips to date, we have talked with many young Zambians. They've told us their stories. We've learned of their courage, their ideas, and their passion for life. We've also heard about their struggles and their challenges. And for many, the lack of opportunity is at the top of their list. They want a job. They seek a livelihood, employment. Or they need financing to support their new business idea for self-employment and entrepreneurship. But few such opportunities exist, leaving hundreds of thousands of young Zambians feeling frustrated and disappointed. There is lost opportunity—not only for the young people themselves, but for Zambia as a nation.

In response to these challenges, an impressive group of leaders and organizations are now working toward the establishment of a youth employment and investment fund for Zambia. With the full support and engagement of President Mwanawasa, the Ministry of Finance and Ambassador Inonge Mbikusita-Lewanika, the Friends of Zambia has joined with the ImagineNations Group, the African Development Foundation, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the Nike Foundation, Standard Chartered Bank of Zambia, and others, in pursuing the creation of this new effort.

Across Zambia, we seek to create an easily accessible network of "access points" to internships, apprenticeships, jobs, loans, investment capital and coaching for young people to create their own micro and small enterprises, and equity investments for helping to grow small and medium-sized enterprises in a way that results in greater opportunities for young people.



To be launched sometime in early 2006, the new non-partisan effort will seek to support and build a menu of practical opportunities for young people, ages 15 to 29. Zambia is the first of a number of countries in Africa, the Middle East, Asia and Latin America where similar efforts are underway under the auspices of the ImagineNations Group, a global enterprise focused on promoting social entrepreneurship and investment in youth. www.imagenations.org

Available Eye Care in Zambia

by P. Jeffrey Colquhoun, M.D.

Since my first visit to Zambia, November 2004 with my wife Diane, I have been busy accumulating donated medical items for various eye clinics. During this first tour, we visited an eye clinic at Livingstone Hospital, University Teaching Hospital (UTH), Lusaka Eye Center (LEC), and a small clinic in Mongu. I found



out that there were only about a dozen eye surgeons working full time in Zambia, mostly in Lusaka. For a country the size of Texas, with a population of eleven million, there is a serious lack of eye care. Most of the surgery done currently in Zambia is cataract, pterygium, eye tumors (squamous cell carcinoma) associated with HIV/AIDS and treatment of eye infections such as corneal ulcers. Virtually no sub-specialty eye care is taking place such as glaucoma, pediatrics, oculoplastics, corneal transplants or vitreoretinal work. A retinal detachment in Zambia means a blind eye for the afflicted.

In addition to there being a need for basic ophthalmic supplies, I began to focus on donating vitreoretinal equipment when I found out that Dr. Penniecock at Lusaka Eye Center had retinal training. I published an article in a national eye journal, *Ophthalmology Today* May 2005, to inform my colleagues of the need for eye supplies and volunteer surgeons. A number of donations resulted from this article as well as a contact from a group of US ophthalmologists who have established an eye clinic in Zimba associated with the Zimba Wesleyan Hospital



An Idea Flourishes, Spreads and Takes Root

By Her Excellency Dr. Inonge Mbikusita-Lewanika
Zambia's Ambassador to the US

In November 2005, the FOZ made their fourth visit to Zambia. This trip was organized by the Friends of Zambia, the ImagineNations Group and the Center for Corporate Citizenship at Boston College. Among this group were friends from Scotland and Finland. Indeed, the idea of FOZ was not only flourishing and spreading but taking 'ROOT'.

The Friends of Zambia have visited six of the nine provinces of Zambia. They visit a different part of Zambia on each visit while the Southern Province is always on the list because the city of Livingstone is home to Musi-O-Tunya (Victoria Falls). A visit to the Falls also provides an opportunity to visit the Chobe National Park in neighboring Botswana as well as four countries; Zambia, Zimbabwe, Botswana and Namibia. The Friends of Zambia enjoy this Zambian connection.

Another attraction to Livingstone is His Royal Highness Chief Mukuni whose palace is seven kilometres from the Falls. The senior chief is a specimen of the new breed of Royals, traditional rulers in Zambia; young, visionaries, good managers and leaders, well educated, (with University degrees)

- 1 Alexis Austin, one of our young participants, holds an AIDS orphan from the Kasisi Orphanage, Lusaka.



- 2 Sari Baldouf, from Finland, gets a closer look at a Zambian home in Kawaza Village.



- 3 We were constantly reminded of the amazing resilience of the children that we met throughout our trip.

- 4 One of the highlights of our trip to Mfuwe was an amazing performance by the SEKA drama troupe. The entire village gathered around to witness this presentation focused on coexisting with the indigenous wildlife. No language barriers here!

- 5 A young girl carrying water home to her family in Mfuwe.





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- 6 Cheryl Kiser from the Center for Corporate Citizenship connects with a woman from Kawaza Village in Mfuwe.



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- 7 The youngest Friends of Zambia during the November trip.

- 8 We were greeted by the warmth of the Zambian people throughout our November trip.

- 9 Young dancers entertain Friends of Zambia at the Royal Village in Livingstone.



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trained and articulate. Senior Chief Mukuni, has offered his Royal Village for tourists to experience real and natural village life. His people are connecting, almost daily, with the people from around the world.

In March 2004, the Friends of Zambia met another Royal in this category, Chief Lukama (Mebelo). He has a Masters Degree in marketing and is computer literate with his own PC in his palace.

The most developed game park is South Luangwa in Mfuwe, in Eastern province. The FOZ visited this game park in November and experienced the treat all tourists look forward to; "a lion kill". They saw three lions circling a huge baby hippopotamus by the lagoon. The lions killed and feasted upon the hippopotamus for their evening meal, all in front of the very eyes of the Friends of Zambia who were only a few feet from the scene. The feast continued all night, and in the morning the Friends of Zambia saw the hippo skeleton along with the three lions who were exhausted from the feat but still watching the catch to clean off scraps from the bones.

Another excitement was the herd of elephants that passed through the reception area of Mfuwe Lodge early in the morning. This was their traditional route long before the Lodge imposed itself on their territory. And so they continue to travel through the Lodge reception area, insisting on their route every morning and evening.

Still in Eastern Province, the FOZ visited a primary community school supported by the local businesses. They had two hours for interaction and discussion with the people in the village – always entertained with singing, dancing and drama depicting the HIV/AIDS menace, poverty and other community and pressing issues!

The time goes so quickly. With Zambia in their hearts and minds, the Friends of Zambia fly back to their respective destinations, leaving a part of themselves in Zambia much as Dr. David Livingstone did over one hundred years ago. They leave hope, encouragement, support and assistance with the Zambian people. The Friends of Zambia are connected to the people of Zambia by a strong friendship, commitment, dedication and the promise of hard work to improve the lives of as many Zambians as possible. And so the friendship grows, flourishes, spreads and takes root in the Friends of Zambia and in Zambians.

near Livingstone. Dr. James "Bud" Tysinger, from Northern California and I corresponded over the last year on some strategies to work together and Bud began by joining the Friends of Zambia on their visit this November.

Along with donated ophthalmic medical supplies and equipment, a container was filled with donated clothing and school supplies, sewing machines and cereal from Kelloggs. These items were donated from the Battle Creek community of churches and schools.

My 11 year old son, Peter, who went along on the November trip, worked with his St. Joseph Elementary school students who donated 15 boxes of books and clothes. A total of 184 boxes were packed and shipped out early in September 2005. These items are currently being distributed By Perry Kakunka to the following clinics and orphanages that Friends of Zambia have visited: Mother of Mercy Hospice in Chilanga, MAPODE, Bwafwano, Lazarus Project, Tasintha drop in center, Kassisi school and orphanage, Northmeade Church, St. Ignatius Church, Deliverance Pentecostal Church and Bread of Life Ministry.

At the end of our visit, I spent two days working in the Lusaka Eye Center with Dr. Penniecock where I performed cataract surgery and handled some unusual cases such as suture repair of a perforated corneal ulcer. I also consulted on some medical eye problems. Medical supplies were donated including about 150 intraocular lens implants. A donated vitrectomy machine (\$60,000 value) will allow Dr. Penniecock to do the first vitreoretinal work in Zambia.

Dr. Penniecock and I talked about ways that we can encourage eye surgeons from the US to come and do surgery and help train a few residents at the LEC, UTH and elsewhere. Bud Tysinger will also be returning with various surgical teams every 3-6 months.

One final outcome of this latest visit was a meeting I attended with Dr. Miti of the Ministry of Health, Ambassador Lewanika and Dick and Virginia Schubert, FOZ Board Members. We were given a single contact for getting donated medical supplies approved and temporary credentialing for volunteer surgeons. We were also told that we would soon receive a copy of the master plan for health care services in Zambia. This should allow volunteer health personnel to focus on the health problems in the best geographic areas.



Dr. Jeff Colquhoun in Zambia with his 11-year-old son, Peter.

Seeing is Believing

by Sapna Shah

Research Project Manager, The Center for Corporate Citizenship at Boston College

What If? What could we all accomplish together in Zambia if we all asked What If? Imagine the possibilities.

That spirit, embodied by the Friends of Zambia, is what excites us most at The Center for Corporate Citizenship at Boston College. The eight-day journeys to Zambia are built on a “What If?” model, bringing individuals together to explore the challenges of development in this beautiful and amazing country—not simply to observe, but to become active agents of positive change. As a new strategic partner in the Friends of Zambia, we’ve asked ourselves “What If?”, and we see in these eight-day group journeys to Zambia the potential to bring the private sector into the fold of development in the region.

Eight days of engaged conversations and mind-opening adventures have left their mark on our organization. “We see the opportunity,” says Bradley Googins, Executive Director at The Center, “to use our resources, connections, and knowledge of corporate engagement in social challenges around the globe, to help Zambia build connections to businesses interested in making a difference. Our role as facilitators of corporate involvement is one with great potential for change.”

Indeed that role can be The Center’s. But what was so remarkable to the team that went on this past trip to Zambia was that every person who came had a unique role to play. Notes Cheryl Kiser, Director of Marketing and Membership at The Center, “It was amazing to see the different ways in which each trip participant was able to engage. Each person’s unique perspective and passion was evident in the “what ifs?” they imagined for themselves and in the ways they indicated they would continue to support Zambia long after leaving the country.”

Perhaps the experience stays with us so strongly because the model, emphasizing a holistic approach, presents such a wide range of possibilities that individuals inevitably find one that intersects with their personal interests. The eight-day program included a reception at the home of US Chargé d’Affaires Andrew Passen, where the group was greeted by embassy staff as well as representatives from Zambia’s private sector and NGO communities, and an intimate visit with Zambian President Levy Mwanawasa. Meanwhile, the project visits, delving deep into issues ranging from the intricacies of agricultural economics, to HIV/AIDS, to counseling and training for former commercial sex workers, opened our minds as much to the problems facing Zambia today as the solutions. Opportunities to visit community schools, explore local villages, and participate in Zambian church services brought the trip to life.

The power of the Friends of Zambia model is in the “what if?”. It is designed so the participants can’t help but learn, and more so, they can’t help but see their own roles in the next step of creating change. The power is also in the relationships built among the participants as well as the relationships made along the way with the Zambian people. Perhaps that’s what inspires us most at The Center—the opportunity to connect our 350 corporate members to the essence of what corporate citizenship can mean in a developing country. We look forward to being part of a solution.



by Sarah Little

In November of 2005, Noah, Peter, Alexis and I were on a mission to help the country of Zambia. We visited schools, villages, and orphanages, met other children, and learned about HIV/AIDS.

The highlight of our journey was going to Lumuno School on our last day. Noah’s and my school back in the United States had written letters to the third grade class at Lumuno. We passed out the letters to each of the students along with photographs of their U.S. pen pals. And surprisingly, they gave us presents along with the letters to carry back to our schools.

Before that day at the Zambian school, we had seen unusual types of chimpanzees who we even got to play with, watched lions eat a baby hippo in the dark, and rode on high elephants that were trained. Those events were my favorites of all because we had so much fun doing them.

Jamie Famula was my best friend and long-time babysitter who came on the trip with us. She helped plan the KidsTrack activities for all the four children. She was fantastic...and she even shared a room with me!

In closing, I’d like to share something I’ve written about the country of Zambia:

Zambia is a developing country in a populated continent.
Africa needs our support.
Many people are dying of malaria and HIV/AIDS
Beware of wild animals.
Intelligence grows beneath the country.
Africans are good people with big needs.

The Friends of Zambia is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization registered in the State of Virginia. Help us achieve the goals outlined in the Chairman's Report. Join the FOZ by sending your tax deductible contribution to Friends of Zambia, P.O. Box 6986, McLean, VA 22106 along with the following coupon.

Enclosed is my contribution of \$ _____
Name: _____
Address: _____ _____
City: _____
State: _____ Zip: _____
E-Mail address: _____
Please put me on your mailing list _____

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Friends of Zambia is to promote knowledge and understanding of Zambia in order to encourage business investment and development, and support for education and welfare among Zambia's people.



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