

HOMES OF JOY

FALL 2022 NEWSLETTER



OCTOBER 2022

Dear Friends of Homes of Joy,

As the leaves change colour, and the days get shorter and cooler, we thought we'd pause and reflect on the blessings and challenges of 2022. As always, we want to send out an enormous THANK YOU to our friends and supporters. The work done through Homes of Joy would not be successful without your support! As such, this newsletter is a report back to YOU, to keep you in the know about our projects.



LOOKING BACK: 2021/2022 FUNDRAISING EFFORTS

In the beginning of January 2022, we completed our largest fundraising effort EVER, in the history of Homes of Joy! This allowed us to assist with the 2022 educational needs for 58 girls and young women in Zambia, at the primary, secondary and post-secondary levels.

Homes of Joy also achieved some new milestones this year, which have presented us with some new challenges.

As a result of our 2021 fundraising, Homes of Joy was able to transfer **\$46,565** Canadian Dollars to Zambia in order to support the educational need of girls and young women within our projects.

The breakdown of these funds was as follows:

- Nyumba Yanga (Kindergarten through Grade 7) - \$16,483.00 US Dollars for 40 girls
- Nyumba Yanga - \$3872.00 US Dollars for laptops to be used for online learning during the pandemic
- Future in My Hands (Grade 8 - 12) - \$8,763.00 US Dollars for 15 girls
- Post-Secondary (Chisanga, Idah, Victoria, and Rebecca) - \$6790.00 US Dollars for education and living expenses

Our 2021 fundraising campaign surpassed that of 2020, by over \$15,000 Canadian Dollars. This allowed us to assist more girls in 2022, than ever before. This is even more remarkable, given that we entered the 2021 holiday fundraising season significantly behind in comparison to previous years. At the time, we were genuinely concerned about the possibility of NOT being able to meet the needs for all 3 levels of girls. But we did it! A great deal of the funds above came pouring-in during the final days of 2021. We are so incredibly grateful to each and every one of you that made this possible! Because of YOU, we were able to meet all the girls' educational needs, during a time of major setbacks.

As you can see, the Board has been distributing the funds among the three levels of education. This is based on the needs assessed by the Sisters in Zambia, who manage the day-to-day care of all of the girls.





UPDATES ON OUR 3 PROJECT AREAS

1) Nyumba Yanga (Primary):

Currently, Nyumba Yanga is operating at FULL capacity, with 40 girls. We were absolutely elated to learn that at the end of the first semester in 2022, six of those girls had placed in the top three of their class (in terms of overall grades). These results show us that the investment in education (along with the assistance of the Sisters and House Mothers through their patient tutoring) has been very beneficial. The Sisters of the Congregation of the Immaculate Conception (CIC) (who manage the orphanage on a daily basis) realize that there is a greater need for their service.

Unfortunately, there is no more room at the current location. In March 2022, the Sisters of CIC purchased a six acre parcel of land to construct a new orphanage which could become a home for about 60 additional girls. This is a huge undertaking, and we wish the Sisters much success in this endeavour, as they build the new home, literally brick by brick. The Sisters are aware that Homes of Joy is still committed to providing funds for the education of the girls, and we recognize that we may be asked to support more girls in the future.



2) Future In My Hands (Secondary):

After a challenging year, 2022 has finally offered the girls at Future in My Hands a more stable school year. 2021 was an exceptionally difficult year, between Covid outbreaks, school shutdowns, and a myriad of other challenges. Currently, we have 15 girls in Future in My Hands - 3 girls in Grade 8, 3 girls in Grade 9, 1 girl in Grade 10, 5 girls in Grade 11, and 3 girls in Grade 12.



Since Memory graduated from Nursing school, she has been an inspiration to many of the younger girls and continue to work in local vaccination and public health campaigns around Lusaka. She's an example that education can continue beyond high school, as long as you're willing to work hard at it. In the next couple of years, we could have 8 additional girls from within our current secondary population, aiming for post-secondary education. As such, we are already starting to plan-ahead.

We've begun researching what post-secondary program options are available, and how the job market in Zambia is shifting. We've also thought deeply about the best ways of supporting our girls as they transition from grade school to post-secondary, and eventually to a career.



3) Post-Secondary Education:

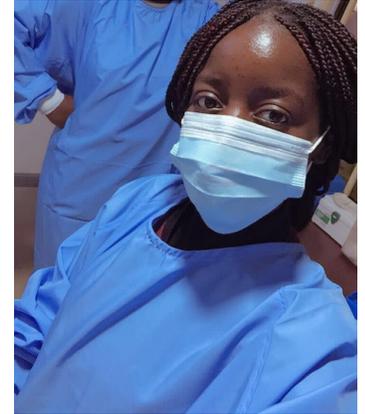


We officially have our **SECOND** college graduate!

She did it! **Idah** graduated from her Medical Clinical Officer program in March 2022, and officially crossed the stage at her convocation on September 30th!

She is currently working at a laboratory in a full-time paid position.

We are very proud of Idah! Although it was hard work, she has achieved something that, a few years ago, she did not think would be possible. Idah has been supported by Homes of Joy through primary, secondary, and post-secondary education. She is so grateful to all of our donors (and in particular her previous sponsor – J.L. Jordan School).



Congratulations Idah!



Unfortunately, **Chisanga** was hospitalized in January 2022, with a dual-diagnosis of both Covid-19 and Malaria (which she has given us her permission to share with all of you). After a grueling few months of healing, she has now recovered from these illnesses, and is once again continuing with her studies in Engineering. These illnesses did set Chisanga back in some of her courses, but she was determined to catch up and complete them. And over the summer she did just that! We are so proud of the resilience she has shown through this!



Our two newest post-secondary students, **Victoria and Rebecca**, are currently in their first year of an Office Administration program. Although they both wanted to be teachers, and were initially accepted into a teaching program – at the last minute admission averages for the 2022 intake were increased. This meant that they were unable to qualify. Luckily, we worked with the Sisters and both girls, and they are now enjoying this new program, and sharing a residence room together at the college.



One of the things that we do for the girls in post-secondary, is provide them with the funds for a laptop and phone in their first year. The goal of this is to support them in their studies, and to allow them to communicate with the Sisters at Future in My Hands, who assist them with their needs. This also means they're able to stay in touch with us more frequently too.





BEYOND POST-SECONDARY

Now that Homes of Joy has two graduates – Memory and Idah, the Board has realized that we need to develop a strategy to assist these graduates with life after school. We realize that these girls need guidance in transitioning from life in the orphanage, into independence. This includes support with: finding employment, finding safe and affordable housing, and learning to manage money. Although some of the girls may have aunts and uncles and grandparents, they do not have parents to guide them through these changes. The Sisters are very helpful, but even their knowledge is somewhat limited in these areas.

As such, the Board reached out to Lucy Masiye, who is currently the World YWCA Vice President representing the Africa Region. Lucy was a volunteer with Nyumba Yanga in 2010 and she is very familiar with the girls and their needs. Lucy has a true passion for supporting the empowerment of girl children in Zambia. The Board was able to meet with Lucy via Zoom in early August, to discuss our concerns and challenges, regarding how to guide the girls after they complete their education. We were delighted to learn that the YWCA in Zambia provides assistance to young women in these areas and more! This includes support with things like: resume writing, networking, understanding the job market, negotiating a finding a fair wage, and finding safe housing. This was exactly the gap we needed to fill!



The Board decided that we really needed someone on the ground in Zambia, to help support our girls in this area. As such, we are currently in the process of developing an action plan to partner with the YWCA in Zambia. They will provide transition and mentoring supports for our Post-Secondary graduates. We will keep you posted on this new partnership in the future, as it evolves.

BOARD UPDATES

In March 2022 we said good-bye to our Board member, Amanda Visneski. Amanda was such an important member of our Board, as she was the one who handled our website updates, and helped-out with our newsletter and social media campaigns. Amanda has a young family with two small children, and she found it was very difficult to devote the amount of time she wanted to help Homes of Joy. We are very grateful for all of Amanda's hard work, and we wish her well in the future!

An opportunity to get involved:

We currently have only four active Board members at Homes of Joy. And although we all have a variety of skills and talents, there are some areas in which we could use some assistance!

We are looking for anyone who might be interested in joining us in a voluntary capacity, as an ongoing Board Member, or even just as a short-term commitment volunteer.

If you are interested in getting involved, or learning more about this, please email susan@homesofjoy.org

We absolutely welcome anyone with an interest in service, and passion in helping us support girl children and girl's education in Zambia. We could particularly use support in the areas of communications (website and social media), grant writing, fundraising, project management, and international development.

And in addition, if you have a creative fundraising idea, please feel welcome to send us an email! We'd love to hear your thoughts on ways to meet our fundraising goals this holiday season.



AN APPEAL FOR SUPPORT

The work continues, as we make our way through 2022. There is still so much need.

At this time, we are launching our latest appeal for support, just after October 11th, which was both Canadian Thanksgiving and the International Day of The Girl Child. This has marked the start of our main fundraising season for 2022, and we hope we can count on your ongoing support.

We ask you to consider a donation to Homes of Joy as a way to give thanks and help give back all the way from Canada to our community of girls in Zambia. We are very grateful for the support over these past 14 years of existence; and are thrilled to have raised over half a million dollars for the girls in Zambia since our inception. As we move into our 15th year of operation, we are truly giving thanks for each of the girls that our work has supported, and to each of YOU who make this possible! Stay tuned to our social media as we highlight some of these incredible stories and milestones, in the weeks ahead!



BUILDING THE NEW ORPHANAGE.
BRICK BY BRICK. LITERALLY



NURSE MEMO ADMINISTERING ORAL VACCINES
TO LOCAL CHILDREN

We're helping more girls than ever before!

As you can see above, the needs of all 3 populations of girls continue to grow. As such, we need a successful Fall and Winter fundraising season to meet our 2023 educational needs. We're helping more girls than ever before! Because of this growth, we are now pausing fundraising for our "Special Projects," and instead focusing on educational needs specifically. This means supporting education costs at the Primary, Secondary, and Post-Secondary levels.

Please consider targeting your donation to either support:

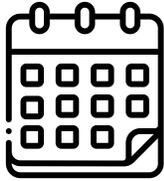
1. Our primary and secondary girls
- (or)
2. Help build-up our Post-Secondary Scholarship and Bursary Fund for the 2023 year.

The girls we support were orphaned through unfortunate situations, and have been uniquely impacted by both the Covid pandemic and HIV/AIDS epidemic. However, they have great spirits and resilience. Over the years, they have proven that, given the opportunity, they are willing to work to make a better life for themselves and their community. As always, 100% of the funds donated to our projects reach the ground in Zambia. Administrative costs are covered through targeted donations.



How to donate:

- Online through our website at www.homesofjoy.org/
- Cheques can be mailed to the address below in our letterhead
- Through our Holiday Facebook fundraiser, which will kick-off on November 29th as part of Giving Tuesday.



DATES TO REMEMBER

- **Tuesday, October 11th, 2022:** International Day of The Girl Child
- **Tuesday, November 29, 2022:** Giving Tuesday
- **Thursday, December 1, 2022:** World AIDS Day
(This year's theme is "*Global Solidarity, Shared Responsibility*")
- **December 23, 2022:** The 2022 School Year Ends in Zambia



IN CLOSING...

As a Board, we are constantly amazed by the determination and love-of-life that the girls at Nyumba Yanga, Future in My Hands, and within Post-secondary studies share with each other and their communities in Zambia. We are so grateful to all of you for making our 2022 such a remarkable success, and we hope that 2023 will follow a similar path!

Wishing you all a wonderful Fall, Thanksgiving, and season of gratitude.

With grateful hearts,

Micaela, Susan, Sonya, & Val (Your Homes of Joy board of directors)

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