



WORKING TOGETHER

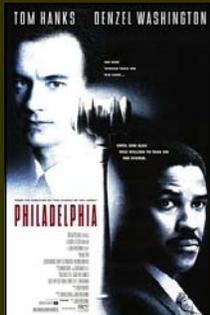
Tiyende Pamodzi

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<http://zambia.usembassy>

September 2007

NOW SHOWING



SEPTEMBER 6:
Philadelphia



SEPTEMBER 20:
Erin Brockovich

FREE
American Center

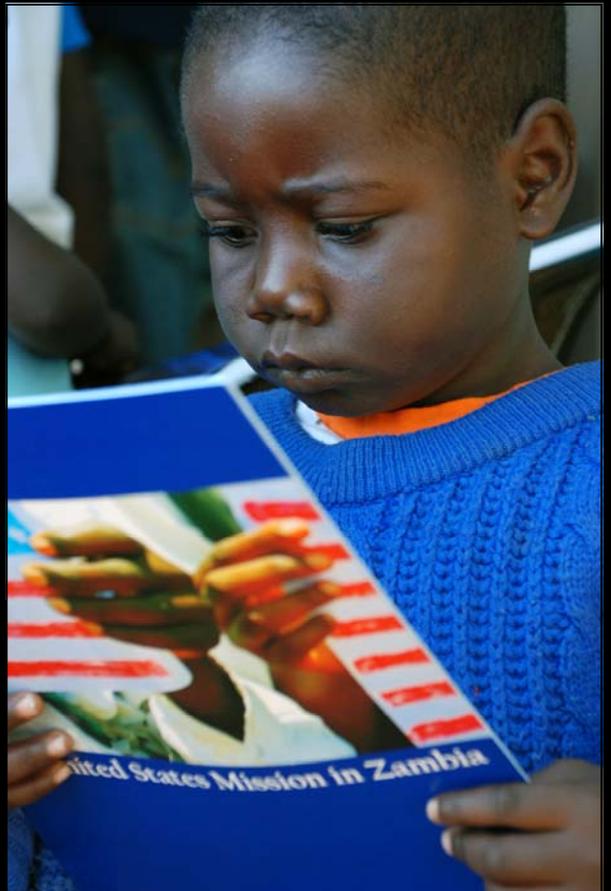
American Embassy Lusaka
Public Affairs Section
American Center
COMESA Building
Ben Bella Road
P.O. Box 32053, 10101
Lusaka, Zambia
Phone 260-1-227-993/4

HIV 24hrs helpline
Free on
"talk to a friend"
Call 990
1-800-458-5231

OPENING A WINDOW TO THE WORLD...



The U.S. Mission is proud to donate books and educational materials to children we meet on our travels throughout Zambia. Whether it is a set of resource books or this newsletter you are holding, education and access to information will always be an important goal for the Mission.



A Message from Ambassador Carmen Martinez



On August 17, I had the honor to participate in the swearing-in ceremony for 45 new Peace Corps Volunteers in Zambia [see next page], bringing the total number of Volunteers in Zambia to over 170!

The U.S. Embassy has provided strong support to the Peace Corps program in Zambia since the first group of Volunteers arrived in 1994. We are proud of the work Volunteers do, and proud of the way they represent the United States. We fully anticipate the continued collaboration between our Peace Corps and host Zambian ministries—Agriculture; Health; and Tourism, Environment and Natural Resources—in the years to come.

I have no doubt that our new Volunteers will match their colleagues' enthusiasm and respect for Zambia and its people. They'll help change lives...and Zambia will change their lives!

GETTING TO KNOW...

Gerald Kachingwe Mwale

Mr. Gerald Kachingwe Mwale is the Development Outreach and Communications (DOC) Specialist at USAID/Zambia. Gerald produces and disseminates information about USAID activities to the Zambian Government, the media, and the public, helping them to become more aware of U.S. assistance.



USAID provides huge amounts of assistance to the people of Zambia, promoting economic growth, democratic governance and supporting the health system with interventions that help contain the HIV/AIDS pandemic, malaria and tuberculosis among other things.

"Working at USAID is proving to be my biggest challenge," he says, "because there is always something new to learn every single day. USAID runs so many programs in Zambia and spends millions of dollars; it takes the wind out of me just trying to keep up with the pace," Mr. Mwale said.

Mr. Mwale is a former Fulbright Fellow who holds a Master of Arts degree in Communications from Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan, USA; a Bachelor of Arts degree in Mass Communications from the University of Zambia, and a Diploma in Journalism from Evelyn Hone College. Previously, he has worked in both print and electronic media and taught in the Department of Mass Communications at the University of Zambia.

Peace Corps Welcomes 45 New Volunteers

On August 17, U.S. Ambassador Carmen Martinez and Zambian Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Albert Mulonga, helped swear-in 45 U.S. Peace Corps Volunteers, who are headed to rural communities throughout Zambia.

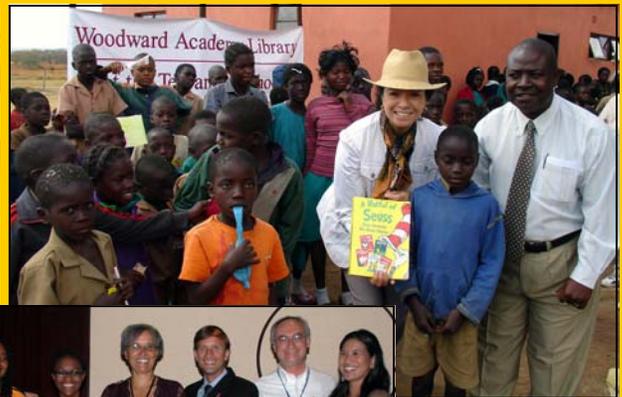
The volunteers will transfer knowledge and skills to communities where they will live for two years, particularly in the areas of agriculture, health, fisheries, and the environment.

Deputy Minister Mulonga welcomed the new volunteers, saying, "I am pleased that the American government, through the Peace Corps, has provided us with highly skilled volunteers to help us meet our human resource need. We fully anticipate the continued close collaboration between Peace Corps and Zambian ministries in years to come."

The Peace Corps program was established by former President John F. Kennedy in 1961 with the aim of providing technical assistance to host countries in order to meet their developmental needs. The program also seeks to promote understanding between citizens of the United States and those of host nations.



GETTING TOGETHER



Above: The Public Affairs Section visits students at Ibenga School, in Luanshya. Above right: Ambassador Carmen Martinez donates U.S. Mission books to children at the opening of the Woodward Library, on the estate of the Terranova Coffee plantation in Mazabuka.

Left: The U.S. Mission PEPFAR team receives the 2007 Public Affairs and Public Diplomacy Award at the worldwide PEPFAR meeting in Kigali, Rwanda, last June.

U.S. AND ZAMBIA TEAM TO HELP INFANTS INFECTED WITH H.I.V.

U.S. Ambassador to Zambia, Carmen Martinez, and Deputy Minister of Health, Dr. Lwipa Puma, opened a renovated AIDS treatment clinic and an HIV-diagnosis laboratory at Arthur Davison Children’s Hospital in Ndola on August 2, 2007. The new tools and treatment facilities, born out of the strong U.S.-Zambia partnership, will benefit infants exposed to HIV throughout the Central, Copperbelt, Luapula, Northern, and North-Western Provinces.

About 9,600 children are on antiretroviral therapy nationwide, but the Government of Zambia estimates there are 42,000 children in need of treatment.



To scale up health care services for children, the Zambia Prevention, Care, and Treatment Partnership (ZPCT), working with the governments of Zambia and the U.S., set up a laboratory at Arthur Davison Children’s Hospital to enable children less than 18 months to be tested for HIV using transportable dried blood spots. The use of Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) technology at the laboratory is expected to increase the number of infant HIV diagnoses, and enable more HIV-positive children to be placed on treatment.



The PCR laboratory in Ndola is the third to be set up in the country, following two other fully operational units in Lusaka. All three laboratories are funded through the U.S. President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), and receive technical support from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the

Clinton Foundation HIV/AIDS Initiative.

Since 2004, the U.S. Government has provided Zambia with more than \$330 million to fight HIV/AIDS, and, in 2007, will offer an additional \$216 million to tackle the disease.

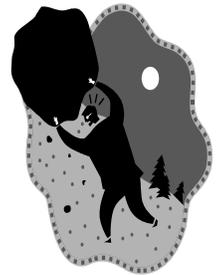
In her remarks, Ambassador Martinez said, “By opening the doors to a new antiretroviral therapy clinic and laboratory at Arthur Davison Children’s Hospital, we are telling the world that children no longer are the missing faces of this epidemic.”

Deputy Minister of Health Dr. Puma added, “Early infant diagnosis has now become a priority of the Ministry of Health because it enables us to provide care for the infected infants at a time when they need it most.”

WHAT’S AHEAD

SEPTEMBER 3: LABOR DAY

Beginning in 1882 as a symbolic day of rest for workers, Labor Day has also come to be seen as the unofficial end of summer vacation in the U.S., as many schools begin the day after Labor Day. Family picnics, fireworks, and public art mark this holiday, held on the first Monday of the month.



SPOTLIGHT:

MAGIC HANDS OF AFRICA



Not one to sit and wait for opportunity to come to her, Sandra Ndonga Kasonso created an opportunity for herself, and subsequently many others in the process. In 2004, Sandra started a bead business with four employees. Her entrepreneurial spirit caught the eye the U.S. Mission Public Affairs staff and she was nominated to attend the Vital Voices Leadership Summit

for Women and Girls in South Africa last January.

Sandra returned inspired to not only give back to her community but create new hope for vulnerable women. She says, “It’s not just about encouraging people to work hard and stay positive but about offering practical solutions that will help meet their immediate needs.”

Her employees helped her find women from their community to join in her new non-profit venture, “Magic Hands of Africa”. She now has 13 women in her program and trains them in the art of beadwork. Magic Hands of Africa provides a small house to work in, food for lunch and the beads to make all kinds of jewelry, including the popular “neckbands” or necklaces for ID badges. Sandra sells the finished products for the women at various locations with the hope to expand to the internet in the future. Recently the Dutch Reform Church donated a permanent stall at their monthly craft fair.

75% of all proceeds go directly back to the women. In the first few months of the program a total of ZMK 11 million (approximately \$2860 USD) went to help women move into legitimate housing, finish or repair roofs and floors, and even paid for a taxi and hospital bills for the birth of a healthy baby girl!

ZAMBIAN TEEN ENTREPRENEUR TAKES ON AMERICA AND THE WORLD

Kapasa Musonda is on quite a roll. The 17 year-old Lusaka native, has just returned from a U.S.-sponsored trip to America, received a scholarship to a fashion school in California, and has been offered U.S. State Department funding to represent Zambia at a conference this month in China. Kapasa's star quality is undeniable.

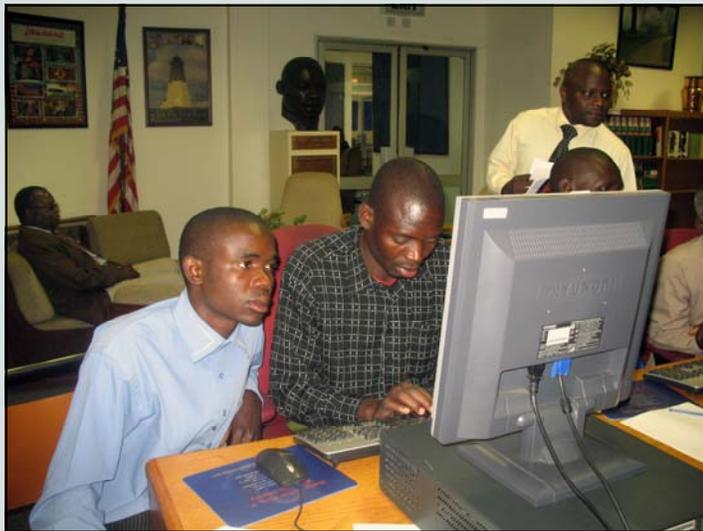
A graduate of Munali Girls School, Kapasa was a winning participant in a year-long Youth IT Entrepreneurship and AIDS Projects, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Lusaka and the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs. Kapasa's business proposal for the program—a concept for promoting HIV/AIDS messages through an assembly of educational text, symbols, and drawings added on to designs—won her a slot representing Zambia in a Youth IT trip to America in July.

In Washington, DC, and Hollywood, California, Kapasa met many fashion devotees who were instantly attracted to her designs (many enthusiastically worn by her Youth IT colleagues). While in the U.S., Kapasa was offered a scholarship to attend a bachelor's program at the prestigious Los Angeles Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising.

To cap a remarkable run, Kapasa has been chosen as Zambia's nominee for the Vital Voices leadership training and business exchange symposium for African and Chinese women. The U.S. Department of State will sponsor Kapasa's travel to China this month. There, she will have a chance to discuss her experiences and meet upcoming and inspiring women from around the world.



AIRC Corner: What's Happening at the Martin Luther King Jr. Library



On August 7, we held our first-ever webchat, an on-line discussion connecting professionals in various fields world-wide to exchange ideas. The AIRC's initial discussion was on "Principles of Effective NGO Governance." The program was well-attended, with participants from various NGOs interacting with Ms. Outi Flynn, a U.S. expert on NGO governance issues. She discussed various subjects including American values, the importance of community service in development, accountability, and the need for transparency in NGOs.

Invited guests appreciated the valuable knowledge acquired from the webchat and paid tribute to the U.S. Embassy for this initiative. They

acknowledged the power of webchats in bringing professionals together and providing an exciting new platform for sharing ideas.

The American Center continues to encourage the Zambian public to participate in programs that exploit and harness new technology. One webchat participant pointed out that the provision of such programs would reduce the digital divide that many Zambians face. The AIRC currently has 11 workstation, all with high-speed internet, available to members free of charge.