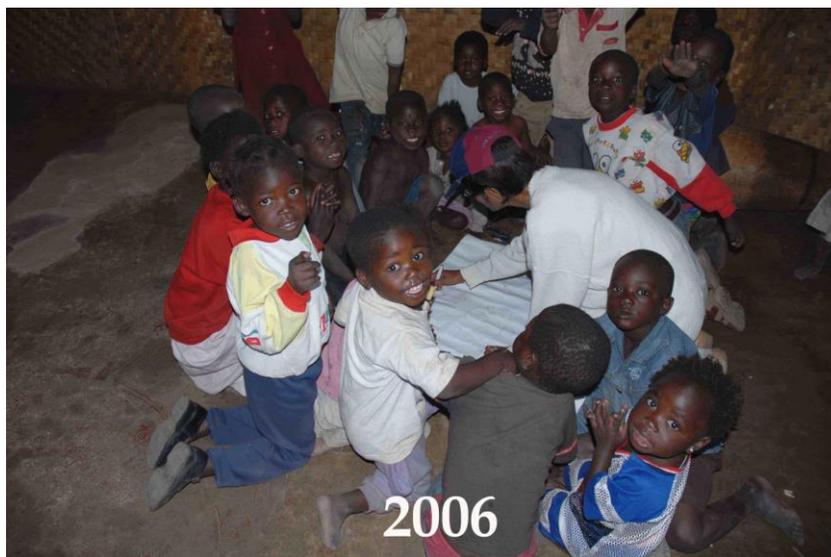


# THE OTHER SIDE FOUNDATION



*FROM THEN TO NOW*



## **Year 2013**

Reminiscing the concept of bringing education to a handful of 20 children living under plastic sheets in the outskirts of Lusaka, which was initiated 7 years ago; teaching seated on the cold floor during winter in a wooden hut and now in 2013 looking at our school building hosting 2 sessions of 7 grades for over 500 orphans and vulnerable children (OVC), definitely echoes CHALLENGES and REWARDS.

### **Evolution of our activities in Zambia and the Impact on the Local Community:**

- In June 2006 when the idea of educating children was conceived in the slums of Buseko in the outskirts of Lusaka, capital of Zambia, little did we know that this need would mature into a full-fledged free school serving OVC from the surrounding slums within a radius of 15km.
- In 2009 when we built a school with 7 classrooms, supporting amenities and a playground on 1000 sq meters of land, we did not foresee the challenges we would be facing as a foreign NGO in a difficult local context.
- During the inauguration of the new school in 2010, our Zambian staff had to accommodate the unrealistic expectations and demands of the local community. Though they were not financing the project, they wanted to dictate certain terms according to their local standards.
- 2011 was an interesting learning curve for both our local staff and ourselves as we put in place a quality education system that was alien to both our staff and the local culture and standards. Most of our Grade 7s qualified for the entrance exams to Grade 8 in public schools, adding more of TOSF students to the existing Bursary Program. Gradually we noticed a tremendous change in the attitude of the local community with the introduction of the PSC (Parent School Committee). PSC meetings saw very high attendance and the feedback we got from the parents/guardians was very encouraging for us : Gratitude and admiration for our teaching standards, style of management (though from long distance) and the support services we provide for the OVC and sometimes for the aged guardians. Collaterally we were empowering our local staff with teacher training. The PSC started interacting well with the staff, also taking responsibility for the school and surrounding environment .  
Introducing bread in addition to the high protein porridge of Tobwa, feeding many hungry mouths, whose only meal for the day is provided by TOSF school, is also very popular with the children.
- For the past two years, the school has excelled in inter-community school sports tournaments and in 2013, in the interschool quiz competition. The introduction of the health program with a part time state registered nurse coming in 3 times a week has positively impacted both the children and teaching staff : better control of viral outbreaks, less skin and respiratory infections, less staff and children absenteeism due to short waiting time and instant treatment

unlike government clinics, appropriate medication dispensed by our nurse versus paracetamol the panacea of polyclinics and early detection of serious ailments followed by referrals to specialist clinics .

- 2013 enrolment has reached a maximum high of 520 OVC with a very long waiting list for new registration. A new pro-active PSC chairman has also helped us further strengthen and bond closer relations with the local community. The local community now sees the extent of help, reaching not only to the young but also to the old and feeble who head a family of 7 or more grandchildren per household, which lives of church rations and aid from TOSF school, namely beddings and winter clothing.
- Our bursars on the other hand are trudging along in public schools because of poor supervision from their teachers, absenteeism, lack of motivation and high failure and dropout rates which we are trying to fine tune from our end by studying the problems they are facing in public schools, to see if their ex teachers from TOSF school can still tutor and counsel them.
- In Kanyama district, The Faith Foundation school that we sponsor since 2008 with staff salaries, teaching aid, stationary and the feeding program, has also bore fruits. It has grown from 90 children then to 300 children enrolled now from nursery to grade 7. They achieved a passing rate of 90% at the state exams for Grade 7.

## **2-Our Accomplishments :**

- **Quality Education** : Though it is a community school serving poverty stricken areas, we do not compromise on the quality of teaching. Educating children whose parents/guardians do not see the value of education due to the local context, culture and mindset, has been very challenging. However our main priority is to ensure that every child has the right to education and be literate.
- **Contented Children** : With a sizable decrease in absenteeism and children waiting at the school gate, wanting to come back to school during term breaks, may it be due to the feeding program and/or just having the opportunity to interact and learn with others in a pleasant and conducive environment versus their home environment, tells us that the foundation has enabled these children to see "the other side" which under their present circumstances, would not have been possible. Moreover the Bursary sponsorship gives them hope of continued education, if they are willing to work for it.
- **Appreciative Guardians & Parents** : When bare footed grandmas, who cannot even afford shoes, walk miles to attend PSC meetings to exchange ideas as to how they can help their orphaned grandchildren or when they are on their knees saying ZIKOMO KWAMBILI (Zambian Nyanja dialect for "Thank-you from the bottom of my heart") for everything TOSF has done for them; **we are determined to strive even more for the children of the poorest of the poor.**
- **Caring Staff** : We now have a dedicated team of teachers, some who have been with us since 2006. They are fully aware of the day to day suffering of most of the students as some of the teachers were themselves orphaned at a very young age, hence know the struggle of getting

educated. After school they double up as counselors, sometimes even as foster parents because some orphans are mistreated by their guardians, while others who are hungry because there is not enough food to go around, appear at the teachers' homes for food (the teachers live in the slums close to the school). To compensate for their dedication and dual roles, we remunerate them in compliance with the Zambian Employment law with decent salaries; where unemployment is at about 15%. : **After 3 years of struggle, strong bonding and trust has been established between the staff, management and community.**

- **Controlled School Operational Expenses** : Zambia is a very challenging country with high cost of goods, high inflation and severe but often changing government laws : Although practically no aid is rendered by the Ministry of Education, it perpetually changes the curriculum and imposes strict guidelines on Community schools. Nonetheless we have adapted well and have been **able to fully control our costs and expenditure resulting in our total 2013 Zambian expenses being only 5% higher than 2012 despite staff contract renewals with a wage increase of 18 %.**

### 3- Partnership :

- **C-Africa** : The Singapore based student volunteer organization C-Africa, founded in 2007 by Kwan Ping Kan (BA Law, Cambridge University), Ren Ying (BA English Literature, National University Singapore) and Ben Po (BA Social Science, Sciences Po, France) all formerly from Hwa Chong Junior College; have since been coming back to help us. It started with an inaugural trip in 2007 (when they were only 16 years old) with about 20 students, followed by a delegation of 15 in 2010. During both trips they painted the school, did fun workshops with the children and set up a library. C-Africa sponsors 5 children in the bursary program. In 2013, Alston Ng & Han Yang from Hwa Chong J C, C-Africa members, came to understudy our bursary program, troubleshoot, made home visits of bursars and compiled a 250 page report of their findings and how we can further improve the current bursary sponsorship.

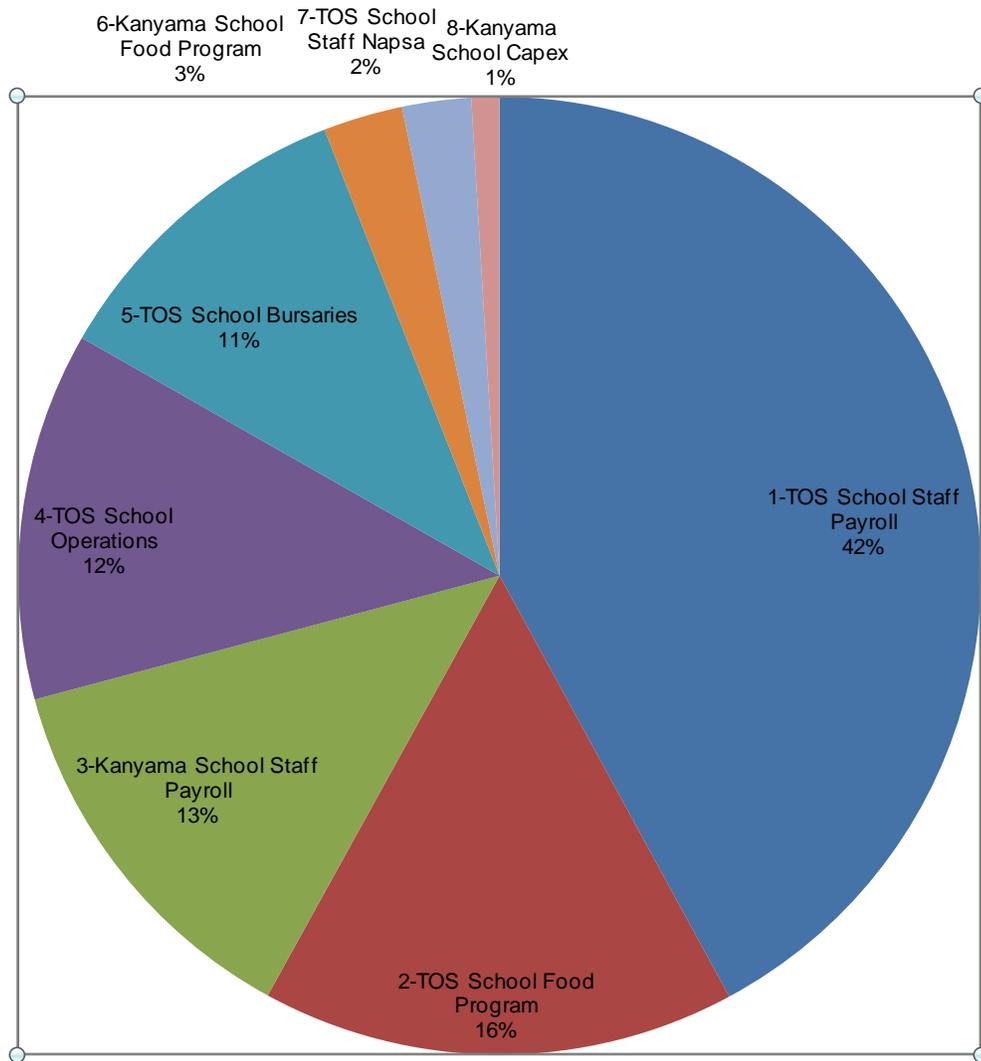
**NAJ** : A special thank you to Joe Peters, producer and director of production house, No Average Jo (NAJ) who very kindly created the video link for us. NAJ is known for its notable works which include: Red Bull's "City State Breakers", Discovery Channel's "Revealed", National Geographic Channel's "Monster Fish". Has 2 wins at The Asian Television Awards and a further 7 nominations. Joe Peters joyously works with community outreach programs and NGOs namely Frank Water, Girl Guides, The Special Olympics and now with TOSF.

### 4- Gratitude to :

**Our Donor DANIEL SIGAUD: Without Daniel's selflessness, his generosity and his trust in us, none of the above would have been possible : The total commitment and the trust among Daniel Sigaud, Leela Singaram Champ (founder) and Denis Champ, are the key contributing factors to the success of THE OTHER SIDE FOUNDATION.**

2013 TOS ZAMBIA SCHOOL EXPENSES		
EXPENSES DESCRIPTION	US\$	%
1-TOS School Staff Payroll	\$32,170	42.08%
2-TOS School Food Program	\$12,169	15.92%
3-Kanyama School Staff Payroll	\$9,815	12.84%
4-TOS School Operations	\$9,506	12.43%
5-TOS School Bursaries	\$8,258	10.80%
6-Kanyama School Food Program	\$2,042	2.67%
7-TOS School Staff Napsa	\$1,769	2.31%
8-Kanyama School Capex	\$720	0.94%
<b>2013 TOTAL EXPENSES ZAMBIA</b>	<b>\$76,449</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

2013 SCHOOL EXPENSES TOS ZAMBIA



2012 vs 2013 EVOLUTION OF SCHOOL EXPENSES			
EVOLUTION OF SCHOOL EXPENSES	2012	2013	% Differ
1-TOS School Staff Payroll	\$27,084	\$32,170	19%
2-TOS School Food Program	\$14,499	\$12,169	-16%
3-Kanyama School Staff Payroll	\$5,989	\$9,815	64%
4-TOS School Operations	\$7,686	\$9,506	24%
5-TOS School Bursaries	\$7,228	\$8,258	14%
6-Kanyama School Food Program	\$1,589	\$2,042	29%
7-TOS School Staff Napsa	\$2,267	\$1,769	-22%
8-Kanyama School Ops/Capex	\$1,148	\$720	-37%
9-TOS School Capex	\$3,215	\$0	-100%
10-TOS School Books	\$1,931	\$0	-100%
<b>TOTAL SCHOOL EXPENSES ZAMBIA</b>	<b>\$72,636</b>	<b>\$76,449</b>	<b>5%</b>

