

THE OTHER SIDE FOUNDATION SCHOOL

2023 LAST QUARTER

NEWSLETTER

In this issue

- Introduction
- Teachers Day
- World Values Day
- Navaratri Celebration
- Education Tour
- Guneshanandji's Farewell
- Directors visit
- Donation of bags to ovcs
- Christmas party
- PTA meeting
- Grade one enrollment
- TOSF Annual Staff Dinner
- Closing Day
- Donation by Lusaka Indian Ladies Association (LILA)
- Teachers Day

The Year 2023 has left an indelible mark on TOSF school for the OVCs creating lasting memories and milestones. Our heartfelt gratitude goes out to each and everyone of you who contributed to our cause transforming our journey into something truly extraordinary through your dedicated efforts. Reflecting on a year 2023 of impactful collaboration and heartfelt endeavors, together we have made a difference and spread hope across causes close to our hearts. The collaborative effort we have shared throughout 2023 had been truly inspiring, together we have **touched lives, spread hope, love and contributed to positive change across the spectrum** of course that resonates deeply with our values and most of all our vision and mission. To all our dear donors that came on board in 2023 we at TOSF school for the OVCs would like to extend our sincere gratitude towards your positive contribution.

Gratitude will always be the language of our hearts, always know that your incredible support has illuminated 500 plus orphans and vulnerable children through the help you rendered to TOSF school for OVCs, together we are sculpting a galaxy of empowered dreams paving the way for the underprivileged to become the next defenders of our nation. Your donation had fueled dreams, bridged gaps and of course will shape the future of that child who really needs it yet cannot access it simply because they are coming from a marginalized family or background. Once again thank you so much (zikomo kwambiri).



Teachers Day

World Teacher's Day has a rich history dating back to 1966 when the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and International Labour Organization (ILO) established the special Intergovernmental conference on the status of teachers in Paris. This conference adopted the UNESCO/ ILO recommendation concerning the status of teachers which outlines teachers' rights and responsibility. Therefore while teachers day was first celebrated on October 5, 1994 to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the 1996 conference, from then it has become an annual event recognized globally as an occasion to acknowledge and honour the remarkable contribution of teachers to society. We as values-based teachers want to say that we are honored to be recognized by our directors as exemplary values based teachers and being given the privilege annually to participate and celebrate teachers day in Zambia.

WORLD VALUES DAY

World Values Day is an annual campaign aimed at increasing the awareness and practice of values around the world. The theme for the World Values Day for 2023 was, "values bring us together" which prompted The Other Side Foundation School students to put the values into action by reaching across the growing barrier that divides us to build strong communities and a more united world. The grade 7 students contributed the little they had despite themselves being poor and needy just to help the poor woman whom they identified in the community they live, the woman in question is suffering from full stroke and is unable to walk on her own, her survival entirely depends on neighbors. Kudos to our value-based learners for taking the lead in living the five human values they have been learning. Indeed, we live for one another despite our situation because love leads and enables us to share the little we have.



NAVARATRI CELEBRATION



Navaratri is an annual Hindu festival observed in honor of goddess Durga for killing the demon Mahishasura. Durga is a goddess made up of three powerful Hindu gods which are Lord Brahma, Lord Vishnu and Lord Shiva. Durga fought the demon for 10 solid days and thus the reason the festival is celebrated in 10 days. The celebration is usually characterised with dances. We want to thank Swami Guneshanandaji of Ramakrishna Vendanta Centre the then spiritual director for inviting our school to be part of 2023 Navaratri celebration and especially for donating \$321.70 (7000zmw) towards the school bursary scheme for the year 2024.

EDUCATIONAL TOUR

An educational tour offers students of all classes an opportunity for a rich immersion experience while an educational tour is great fun, it differs from a vacation. Such trips provide invaluable global learning. Every year TOSF students are given that opportunity and this year they went to Munda Wanga Botanical Gardens, where they learnt a lot of things ranging from plants to animals.



GUNESHANANDA JI FAREWELL

It was with heavy hearts that TOSF school for the OVCs had to bid farewell to Swami Guneshanandaji who was the former spiritual Director for Ramakrishna Vendanta centre. The children and TOSF staff will greatly miss him for the impactful contribution towards the welfare of the OVCs at our school. Thank you once again for the help Ramakrishna Vendanta centre rendered through Swami Guneshanandaji during his stay in Zambia. And we welcome the new spiritual director Swami Divyabodhananda.



DONATION OF BAGS

Loḱaachaariya Vishnu Chitturm Singaram from Singapore brighten the faces of the "poorest of the poor" as mother Theresa used to describe them, by donating school bags to more than 40 students. These younger ones were made to leave books at school since they did not have proper bags to carry their books in, this is because when they carried the books in the plastic bags, their books were easily torn and lost on the way. The vulnerability was vivid that even a passerby would tell that indeed they are vulnerable. But today the story is different, all thanks to the donor mentioned who has addressed this problem. Their wider smile would elaborate how excited they are to receive the new bags and could not wait to go home to show their guardian the new development. Thank you once again for brightening the faces of these children. We also encourage well-wishers to also come through and make a donation of something that will change these children's lives.

DIRECTORS' VISIT

It is always a great honor to have the Directors Mr. and Mrs. Champ visit the school all the way from Singapore. The Directors usually visit the school twice a year and their visit is quite important both to staff and of course to the children who stand to have one on one interaction with the school Directors. During their stay in Zambia, flaws going on in the running of the school are corrected and surely future plans on how to develop the school are also tackled. We appreciate the good work they are doing to the most vulnerable members of our society.



GRADE 1 ENROLLMENT

The school usually enrolls grade 1 every year under the deep scrutiny and this year 50 grade 1 students were selected after home visitation. The home visitation is done to establish if they are truly vulnerable, single or double orphans, check the home condition, how many children are school going and how many live in that same household.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Steve Maraboli once said, want to keep Christ in Christmas? Feed the hungry, clothe the naked, forgive the guilty, welcome the unwanted, care for the poor, love your enemies and do unto others as you would have done unto you. TOSF school is very much grateful to Mr. Subramanian Umapathy for making 2023 Christmas party celebration a success and Mr. Ganesh Subramanian for the donation of much needed school shoes to the first and second students from grade 1 to 6. However, it is of value to mention that 2023 Christmas party was a special one because after the longest time, our directors were present and apart from celebrating with us they were also able to invite the aged who are the grandparents and guardians to our students. Staffs and children were extremely excited of their presence.



PTA meeting

Parents Teacher Association meetings are very cardinal when it comes to the growth of the school. This is because the wellbeing of the school deeply depend on parents and teachers, reason being that they both deal with a child that comes from home and come to learn at school. Therefore, the academic progress of a child is very much dependent of a parent and a teacher. The Directors ensure that every time they are in the country a PTA meeting is held to address issues concerning the welfare of students and to remind the parents their major role to play in the Education of their child as long as he or she remains to be in the hands of TOSF school.



CLOSING DAY

The school closed on the 1st of December 2023 with the staff meeting where achievements and unaccomplished project of 2023 year plan were discussed. The headteacher thanked all the staff for their tireless effort they contributed to ensure achievements accomplished.

ANNUAL STAFF DINNER

An annual dinner holds a special place in the hearts of TOSF staff as it goes beyond the typical work routine allowing them to come together in a relaxed and joyous atmosphere. It is a moment to bask in the collective accomplishments of the school, recognizing the dedication and efforts of every team member. During this much anticipated gathering, TOSF staff share laughter, stories and experiences, forging stronger connections that transcends the confines of the workplace. As TOSF Staff, this dinner is more than just a celebration but an embodiment of the school ethos, a time when values are embraced and the sense of belonging to a unified family is reinforced. Everyone shares in these joyous festivities fostering a sense of pride and camaraderie that fuels the school growth and success. Our sincere gratitude goes to our directors who have constantly sponsored our annual staff dinner. Together we dine, together we shine.



LILA DONOTES TO TOSF

LILA is an acronym for Lusaka Indian Ladies Association. The association was formed by Indian Ladies living in Lusaka with the aim of raising funds to help NGOs. This year TOSF school was privileged to receive a donation from this association. We really appreciate you for considering our school for such a big donation. Know that your donation will really go a long way in the lives of our orphans and vulnerable students.

We wish all friends of TOSF happy and prosperous 2024. Zikomo kwambiri