

THE KAFUE SPEECH

Three years ago, the arrival of this container was just an idea, a distant dream really, inspired by a video on South Africa watched in a classroom. After school that particular day, we decided that we must take action. There was an understanding amongst ourselves, that being young and inexperienced would present many obstacles for such a task, and that people would doubt our capabilities and question whether we could really make a difference. Fortunately our passion and beliefs were stronger than anyone could have imagined. We believed that we *were* the difference.

Gradually, our passion grew into the “African Education Program”, an official non-profit, charitable organization. After numerous weekend meetings, it was decided that our focus would be the education of African children. Although it was a noble start, we had no idea where in Africa to begin our efforts. Fortunately, fate would help us overcome this hurdle.

Upon hearing of our intentions, Amos Chalikulima’s brother, David, our good friend, offered his assistance. With his knowledge and guidance, we decided to start our work in his homeland and chose the schools located in Kafue. This past winter we hosted a major fundraising event to raise awareness and gain financial support for our cause. This event also helped shed light on the difficulties that are present in the life of young Zambians. The challenges are many and impact their life in regard to education, social development, HIV and its affects in the home and future aspirations. All the while, we were busy collecting books donated from various schools and families in our area of Radnor Pennsylvania. The generosity was overwhelming.

Last July, we came to Zambia to visit the students, teachers and schools of Kafue. Our intentions were to arrive at the same time as the container so that we could distribute the materials to the schools and complete our initial campaign. The fact that we were unable to be present for this occasion did not dampen our spirits. In fact, the welcome we received from the students, teachers and community was incredible, heartwarming and a source of increased inspiration. They emphatically confirmed our decision to take on this task and also made us realize that our hearts and minds are in the right place. We are not yet sure of the impact of our actions, but we do know that a new door has been opened, and it is now our desire to keep it open. We would like to thank everyone. Please know that we are determined to continue the African Education Program and to increase our level of support for the students of Kafue.