



# LETTERS

YOUR LINK TO THE **AFRICAN EDUCATION PROGRAM**

## Scholastic Sponsorship Drive Your help is needed NOW!



Some younger students at the Centre

**The School year starts January 16th 2012 and 230 students are in need of sponsorship. We must raise at least \$75,000 to ensure that these students continue their education!**

You'll find the sponsorship breakdown below and you can see how your contribution at any level is truly making a difference!

**High School Grade 8-12:** Your donation of \$175 allows a high school student to attend school this year. A donation of \$225 or more additionally covers the school fees, plus a school uniform and Amos Youth Centre programs including academic support, HIV/AIDS programs and the Breakfast Club (our feeding program).

**University:** For \$1,000 you can sponsor a university student for the 2012 school year. By doubling your donation, you would also provide room and board.

**Post High School Opportunity Program:** AEP is committed to providing each 12th grade graduate with an opportunity for further education of vocational training. Your donation of \$700 allows a recent graduate to learn a trade such as power electrical training, computer science or catering.

**Rural Outreach Program:** Your donation of \$800 will give a student living in the rural village of Chanyanya the opportunity to attend high school and live in AEP's boarding house. Very few students in Chanyanya even dream of attending high school. AEP's ROP program is changing this trend!



Community School in the village of Chanyanya

Donations in any amount are of course welcome as every dollar counts. Some college students have several sponsors who share the cost.

The list of students in need of Sponsorship is available on our website at [www.aeprogram.org](http://www.aeprogram.org) under Programs: Sponsorships. You will be able to meet the applicants, to read their letter of application and learn about them.

It is simple to sponsor a student: you choose one on the website, you enter your information and then you send a check to AEP or make a donation on-line.

If you cannot decide who to sponsor, we will gladly choose for you!

## Holiday Gift Ideas

With Holiday shopping underway, may we also suggest a few "outside of the box Gift of Giving" ideas?

- Sending a student to school in the gift recipient's name makes an excellent gift. AEP will send you a Certificate of Sponsorship with a picture of the student being sponsored in time for the holidays. Then the gift recipient will receive a personal Thank You letter from the student in late January.
- For \$100 you can sponsor the Breakfast Club (feeding 60-75 students per day) for one week in the gift recipient's name. You will receive a Certificate of Sponsorship in time for the holidays. Sponsorship for the Breakfast Club is also available by the day (\$20) month (\$400) or the year.

May we also ask you to kindly forward this newsletter to your friends and family who may be interested in our sponsorship program? All donations to AEP are tax-deductible.



Breakfast Club at the Centre – The students share a plate



Namakau, one of AEP's sponsored students, with her mother at her market stand

## The Gift of Education

Families are one of the most important parts of the holiday season. With the 2012 African Education Program school sponsorship drive underway, it's a perfect time to think about our AEP family here and in Zambia.

Since its founding in 2002, AEP has helped countless children achieve an education and fulfill their dreams of a better life. As most of you know, AEP is different from most other charitable organizations. There's a personal connection with the kids as well as AEP's founders, executives, and fellow sponsors.

"It's a family-type of organization," said AEP co-founder Julie-Anne Savarit-Cosenza. "Any sponsor can get the most or the least they want out of it and get involved with the children's lives. It's the emotional return on investment that's so powerful with AEP."

Who could forget the emotional scene at the annual fundraiser in May, when many sponsors connected with their students for the first time? Of course, those few minutes don't compare with the time spent by many AEP members in Zambia.

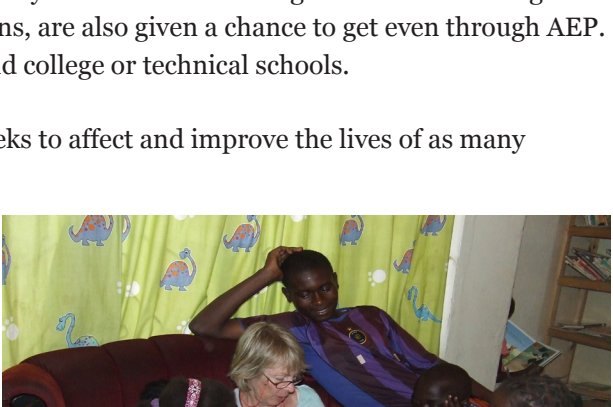
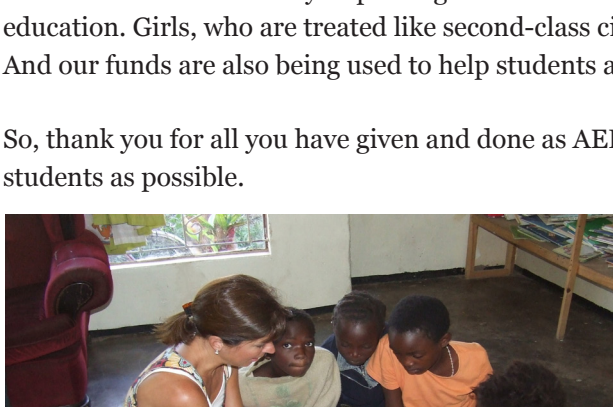
Savarit-Cosenza has visited nearly 10 times, spending a total of about two years in Zambia since 2005.

"Everyone who has gone has returned," she said. "Everyone gets hooked. After you see these kids, there is no not returning."

Every kid comes from circumstances most of us can't even conceive. They have so little, yet they appreciate so much. Each home is crowded with kids, never few than six, seven, or eight. Electricity and even food are scarce. Each scholarship guarantees at least one solid meal a day at the Amos Youth Centre.

Those who have visited know about the hardship firsthand, and they know just how far our funds really go, and how the kids are really improving their lives – and maybe the lives of future generations – through education. Girls, who are treated like second-class citizens, are also given a chance to get even through AEP. And our funds are also being used to help students attend college or technical schools.

So, thank you for all you have given and done as AEP seeks to affect and improve the lives of as many students as possible.



AEP volunteers, Celeste and Sally, read books to the young members

## AEP Chairperson's Message

The Amos Youth Centre (AYC) is moving at full steam, with more students in participation than ever. They are studying non-stop as they finish their end-of-the-school-year examinations. Unlike most of our children here, the students of Kafue will not be relaxing this vacation. As the rainy season started, they must prepare the cement hard fields (no rain since March) to plant corn. The majority of our students' families will rely on this harvest in a few months as their only source of food for the year.

After six hard weeks in the field, the students will return to school a grade-level higher. This is the part where you come in! None of the 200 students who were on AEP sponsorship last year would have been able to attend school if it was not for you and your contributions! We hope to not only maintain our scholarship numbers, but increase them this year as well. So please read how you can help them. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Everyone at AEP and the Amos Youth Centre would like to wish you a happy and safe Holiday season.

Together, we are making a difference.

Marie-Odile

## Featured AEP Volunteers



Karen DelRaso

Karen has been operating behind the scenes at AEP for the past three years with an incredible commitment to the youth in Zambia. She first traveled to Kafue in 2008 and spearheaded the official interview process for the sponsorship fund. She has led the way each year since. Each time she travels to Zambia, a piece of Karen's heart and soul stays behind with the children, leaving them knowing that somebody so far away always loves them.

## Featured Student



Chileshe

Chileshe's shy smile appears on most of Amos Youth Centre's opening day pictures in 2006. As one of the founding members, Chileshe has grown up inside AYC. In addition, for the past three years, Chileshe has also been the guard at the Centre at night. We are so proud to have seen Chileshe grow from a boy into a man and are excited to send him off to university this year with an AEP sponsorship.

## Call To Action

The demand in Kafue for AYC's resources is growing exponentially and AEP's current budget cannot meet the increasing need. We are always looking for volunteers to help us with the AEP day-to-day activities – especially with regards to fundraising, grant applications, etc.

Please contact us if you are interested in assisting with these efforts or if you have interest in traveling to Zambia to work with the students.

## Contact Us

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