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A WORD FROM CAROL IN ZAMBIA

My Dear Friends and Family,

I write this evening from a very busy household. Just today, we gained four new children for Kulanga Bana, three of which are little girls. We haven't had little girls for a long time and I look forward to being part of their lives. I am so grateful I had the opportunity to hire our new house mothers in January. Without them, we could not have taken these precious girls who, along with their brother, are destitute and in need of immediate shelter and care.



School was supposed to open January 8th. However, a terrible cholera epidemic occurred throughout Zambia and schools remained closed until February 12th. It was a very sad time for the country as hundreds of people died.

Because we have been blessed with clean water and a good sewer system, our children were not affected and all is well with us.

The children are thriving at Kulanga Bana

Having all the children home all day, each and every day, presented its challenges, but our teachers and volunteers stepped up and we had classes right at our homes. The kids returned to school with a good head start.

2024 saw six more students off to college or trade school. As of now, 6 of our children are in college and 4 in trade school. I love watching them grow and become wonderful adults that can manage on their own. But also, like every parent, I miss them every day and can't wait for the end of the semester to have them all home again.

We are still busy finishing up the new Redemption House in Chongwe. We're down to buying furniture, light fixtures and paint. We should be finished soon and then it's time to party with a grand opening for all! There are no words to describe how much the children, staff and I (as well as social welfare) appreciate the funds given to build and renovate.

Because of that, we have empty beds for the first time in over 10 years. We are able to take more children off the streets and get as many as possible reunited with their relatives or a permanent place at Kulanga Bana. And that my friends, is what we are all about.

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Administration:
Action For Children Zambia
PO Box 353
Maple Lake, MN 55358

Drop a note to Carol & Kids:

To write to the children or the organization:

Action for Children Zambia
#226 Private Bag WF
Waterfalls Shopping Mall
Waterfalls, Zambia
AFRICA

To write to Carol McBrady

#226 Private Bag WF
Waterfalls Shopping Mall
Waterfalls, Zambia
AFRICA





News from Zambia

Zambia fields

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We are so thankful for the chance to return to the streets and say "yes" when a child cries to come home with us.

As we continue into our Lenten season, the children are busy with their service projects and Gospel reflections. Due to the late school start, the only day off for Easter is Good Friday. Our reconciliation retreat will be very short, but we'll do the best we can to squeeze in the important things. We have twelve infants signed up to be baptized on Easter Sunday. It's going to be an exciting day for all!

As I end this letter, I wish you Happy Easter and ask for your continued prayers for the children and all of us here in Zambia. We are so appreciative of you and all you do to support us. It is with grateful hearts that we say Thank You.

May God Bless You Today and Always,
Mama Carol McBrady and the children of AFCZ

Drought in Zambia

Zambia is once again experiencing a terrible drought. We had rain in December so we planted our maize and it was off to a good start, but the rains ended at the end of the year and haven't returned since.

Two months later, our crop has withered away to nothing but dried grass. The yield is normally what we use to feed our animals and produce mealie meal for the children's nshima. The good news is that we have water and continue to grow the garden vegetables.

It seems we won't be able to rely on the rains anymore and won't plant our crops again until we can purchase some sort of field irrigation system.



Your Gift Makes a Huge Difference

Everytime you donate to AFCZ, you enhance the lives of the children. We use your contributions for everyday items like clothes and food. Sometimes your donations go toward our projects that are allowing us to help more kids. Sometime donations are used for education. You can donate on our website or via mail. Carol, the board, and the children in Zambia thank you!

Staff Training & Team Building in February

We were blessed with enough resources to hold a four-day staff training for AFCZ personnel at the beginning of February. We hosted it at The New Redemption House classroom.

The Grade 11's went each day to care for the Kulanga Bana children and those remaining at Redemption House cooked, cleaned and served us each day. Both groups did a fabulous job and we were able to relax and focus on learning and improving as employees.

The first day, Carol facilitated discussions and teaching around the topic of child protection. The second day we brought in our counselors from the Abundance of Hope clinic and they taught us about childhood trauma and the effects that has on our children. The third day was all about behavior management and the last day, Francis came in and talked about the personnel and human resource issues. We learned many great things and enjoyed our time together without the children!



Dr. Chisha from Abundance of Hope Clinic teaching us about the effects of childhood trauma



2024 Staff

“ We are so thankful for the chance to return to the streets and say “yes” when a child cries to come home with us. ~ Mama Carol ”

Volunteer in Zambia

Mama Carol is always looking for boots-on-the-ground support in Zambia. If you, or your church group, or any other well-intentioned citizens are interested in spending any amount of time in Zambia helping the children, please reach out to Carol McBrady at: carolmcbradyafc@gmail.com

Meet Our Team

Back row from left to right:

- Frances Manda, bookkeeper and HR assistant
- David Mwansa, site manager/Redemption House
- Jonathan Chikoka, crops and house uncle
- Briston Hamoonga, teacher at Kulanga Bana
- Timo Tambatamba, site manager for Kulanga Bana
- Benjamin Mutale, house uncle at Kulanga Bana

Front row - left to right:

- Zangiwe Banda, house parent at Kulanga Bana
- Threasha Chilesa, case manager for all
- Joyce Kaponga, house parent for Kulanga Bana
- Nathan Lubinda, house parent for Kulanga Bana
- Mark Zulu, house uncle for Kulanga Bana

Not pictured:

- Carol McBrady, Director
- Mr. Chansa, teacher at Redemption House
- Chama Mbao and Loyd Phiri -
- house uncles at Kulanga Bana
- Emmanuel Mwansa, 1st year pre noviate -
- volunteer at Redemption House,



Greetings From Our New Board Chair

Greetings friends and family from the West Coast!

My name is Alena Calderon and I have been graciously elected by the AFCZ board to act as the 2024 Chair. I am a Registered Nurse based in the small mountain town of Lake Arrowhead in Southern California. I have volunteered in the non-profit community since my first trip to Zambia in 2008.

It was there that I met and befriended Carol McBrady, and it was then that I fell in love with Action for Children's mission of bringing street children back into family life within their own communities. The values of our organization have proved that by providing children individualized treatment, rehabilitation and transition opportunities, it is more than possible to improve their lives and teach them how to become productive adults. At the time of my first trip, Carol and the children she served at Salvation Home had little support outside of her loyal family and friends in her small home town of Maple Lake, Minnesota. In the almost two decades since then, our AFCZ family has grown to be supported worldwide by many that have visited Zambia, read these newsletters, or have been lucky enough to hear Carol speak on her experiences and on behalf of the children she holds so close to her heart.



Alena Calderon

It is through Carol's acts of faith and service that we, as an organization, have been able to provide hundreds (if not thousands) of children, the opportunity to live a life they only dreamed of. My goals as Chair this year are to broaden our base of support and introduce our organization to a new generation.

I thank you all for your continued love and support in helping Carol's life's ambition of providing a mother and a family to the children that need it most. I look forward to serving Action as Chair, and in any other capacity, for as long as they'll have me.

Sincerely,
Alena

A Call for new board members

AFCZ is looking for new partners to join our volunteer Board of Directors. As a Board member, we ask that you be passionate about helping Carol and the kids in Zambia.

The ideal board member will have:

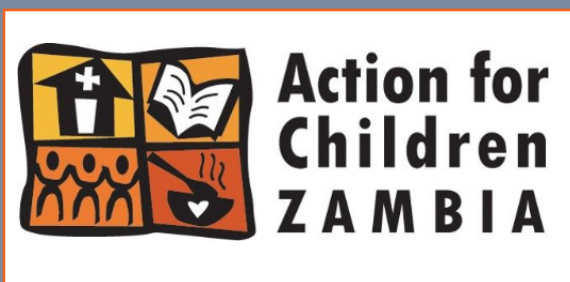
- A willingness to advocate for the children
- A passion for helping others
- Leadership abilities
- The ability to dedicate 2-3 hours per month to help with AFCZ projects

Primary duties may include:

- Attend quarterly board meetings (via zoom)
- Review and vote on financial operations
- Provide technical support i.e. social media, online payment systems
- Fundraising support

If you have questions or are interested in joining our board, please contact our Chair at: alenacalderon@yahoo.com

www.afczambia.org



Donations can be made by credit card or debit card at our website by clicking the **DONATE NOW** button.

Or by mailing a check:
Action for Children Zambia
PO Box 353
Maple Lake, MN 55358