



R.E.L.A.Y. - Zambia (Rotarians Enhancing Learning of African Youth)

Where? A small, one-classroom rural school has been identified in the Chinsanshi region of Zambia. There are 143 students at the school currently, attending nursery school, grade 1 and grade 2. The community wants to expand the school to 4 classrooms because there are many other children who cannot attend school because of the lack of classroom space. The school is in an area about 20kms from the capital city of Lusaka. It has a large catchment area of several villages but very limited classroom capacity. The nearest government school is 6kms away which tends to discourage parents from sending their children to school.

Who? The Rotary Club of Bracebridge-Muskoka Lakes is excited to be the lead club on this new District International Project. Partner and supporting Rotary Clubs include: Barrie-Huron, Barrie-Kempfenfelt, Bracebridge, Gravenhurst, Huntsville, Huntsville-Lake of Bays, and Windsor-St. Clair. This is the seventh R.E.L.A.Y. initiative led by Bracebridge-Muskoka Lakes Rotarians Michael and Shelly Duben. They will be joined by 13 District 7010 Rotarians from the Rotary Clubs of Bracebridge, Bracebridge-Muskoka Lakes, Huntsville, North Bay, and Parry Sound, as well as 3 non-Rotarians.

When? The R.E.L.A.Y. team will travel to the Chinsanshi School in Zambia in March 2018. Team members will be involved in painting, renovating, constructing desks, working with the children and teachers, installing water filters, conducting needs assessments, and more.

What? The project will involve several components and will likely expand as it develops. Initial components of the project will include:

- Building a 3 classroom block
- Purchasing and assembling desks for the new and existing classrooms
- Purchasing water filters and training local community members how to use and maintain them.
- Starting a library at the school
- Providing curriculum books and teaching aids to the school
- Providing sports equipment to the school
- Providing backpacks with school supplies and new clothing for all students
- Providing "Shoes that Grow" to all students at the school
- Facilitating "programming sessions" with the teachers and students at the school
- Building VIP (Ventilation Improved Pit) latrines at the school
- Completing a needs assessment to determine next steps at the school and in the local community



How? We are working closely with the Rotary Club of Nkwasi in Zambia. Rotarians are able to meet with school officials, contractors, etc. to ensure that communication is clear and to provide us with the necessary quotes, diagrams, etc. Significant funds are required to successfully implement this project. Current funding is coming from Rotary District 7010, The Rotary Club of Bracebridge-Muskoka Lakes, the partner/supporting Rotary clubs listed above, and some generous individuals. Other organizations have been generous in donating items for the project such as soccer uniforms, soccer balls, and t-shirts. Local Rotarians are sewing dresses for the female students and shorts for the boys. Further funding is needed in order to complete all aspects of the project.