

RACECOURSE COMMUNITY SCHOOL FUNDRAISING INITIATIVE
An Outreach Activity of St. Paul's United Church
2017 Annual Report

The Racecourse Community School was founded in 1999 by local leaders in the Racecourse Community of Kitwe, Zambia, because so many children they knew were left orphaned by AIDS and could no longer afford to attend government schools. 2017 marked St. Paul's United Church's 14th year of partnership with this school that now serves over 2,000 students each year.

Here are some highlights from the year:

In Zambia

The Racecourse School faced some significant challenges in 2017. With a surge in enrolment, the school went from serving 1700 children each year to 2000! These unprecedented numbers proved very challenging for the school to manage. The Racecourse Community School students typically meet or exceed government school students on government issued exams. In 2017, due to the unexpected influx of students, the students did not perform well on their government exams and this has led to the Ministry of Education stepping in to offer much-needed support.

At long last, the Government of Zambia will be supplying a number of trained teachers to the Racecourse School and paying their wages. These teachers will work alongside the existing Racecourse School teachers who's considerably smaller wages we will continue to pay. The new staffing contingent will help address some of the logistical challenges associated with serving such a large number of students and also help monitor the school property which has been subject to vandalism/theft.

The Racecourse School Board has been requesting that the Government pay salaries of some trained staff at their school for many years. While the circumstances in which this decision were made were not ideal, the Racecourse School will be welcoming these new teachers with open arms in the coming months and anticipate once again providing high quality education. They would also like to build a fence around the school to help reduce vandalism/theft.

In Canada

Our combined contribution of over \$28,5000 CAD once again accounted for the vast majority of the schools operating funds. In addition to the concrete benefits of this financial contribution, predictability and reliability of funding can have a very positive impact on community development.

We were able to enhance our financial contributions to the school with funds put towards:

- the annual financial audit of the school
- monthly allowances for 20 teachers and 3 security guards
- staff development
- school supplies
- maintenance and water
- funeral expenses for two pupils

During 2017, we raised over \$36,000 which is truly unprecedented! Funds were raised through a private family giving foundation, St. Andrew's United Church, Simon and Dawn's garden produce, canned & baked goods sales, the annual fundraising dinner and live auction, Tom and Bette's art and craft sales, the Social Justice Team's 10 Thousand Village sales, as well as through generous giving by friends of Racecourse school from all over Canada (many of whom have visited Racecourse in the past).

The number of individual donors in 2017 was 74 and the majority of them were members/adherents of St. Paul's. The number of PAR donors continues to slowly increase and we now have 14 people donating monthly which allows for greater predictability and stability in our fundraising. Thank you very much for the care and consideration that so many of you give to the children and staff at the Racecourse Community School.

We are very fortunate to have St. Paul's staff and volunteers manage the finances, administrative tasks, and fundraising efforts of this outreach project. By giving to the Racecourse Community School project you are ensuring that many Zambian children receive their human right to an education. The Community School Movement is one of the most inspiring examples of people taking initiatives to improve their own lives and the lives of their children. I look forward to continuing our work together on this important outreach activity in 2018!

Respectfully submitted by Heather MacKenzie, Project Manager