

OUR MOON EDUCATION ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT

FOR THE PERIOD
01 JANUARY 2017 - 31 DECEMBER 2017



Our Moon Education (UK)

Registered by the Charity
Commission of England and Wales

Registered Charity Number:
1165083

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Registered by the Ministry
of Community Development
as a branch of Our Moon Education

RNGO: 101/0688/17

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REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR 2017

The trustees are pleased to present their annual report together with the financial statements of the charity and student year book for the year ending 31 December 2017. They are prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 and have been independently reviewed by John Southworth of Southworth and Co Ltd Chartered Accountants.



Our Moon Education is a small education charity working in Zambia. We provide bright but financially-disadvantaged young people with skills and knowledge to access quality further and higher education. Despite 70% of Zambians living in extreme poverty and only 0.2% of the population attending university, increasing numbers of young people graduate from secondary school with outstanding grades. Our Young Leaders Programme gives young people in Zambia access to A-levels and other internationally-recognised qualifications and provides them with personal development to encourage social-consciousness. We help students develop their leadership and employability skills and guide them on their university applications. Our Ambassadors of Social Change programme empowers more young people in Zambia to realise their potential and contribute to their country.

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2017 has seen significant progress in the development of the charity. We have increased the number of young people we empower. Two students started university on scholarships in September 2017 - one at Ashesi University in Ghana and one at Swarthmore College in Pennsylvania, USA. Two of this year's graduating students already have places to study at Edinburgh University, both on fully funded scholarships by the MasterCard Foundation. We have taken on more students into our Young Leaders Programme and launched our Ambassadors of Social Change programme, aimed at empowering young people in Zambia. Significantly, we have appointed Justin Mushitu, our Programmes Manager in Zambia and our first paid employee. Justin is passionate about enabling students in Zambia to be thought-leaders within their communities.

In Zambia, we have been given some land on loan in Chibombo District, Zambia. This has enabled us to host our first scholars' and ambassadors' camps. Being involved in the community there opens up opportunities for our students to help educate children within Chibombo, developing a positive symbiotic relationship. We hope to expand the use of this land and develop our programmes around this facility.

We are still active members of HALI Access Network, an association of organisations like Our Moon Education who help young Africans have

better access to university. I am the Chair of Communications. Being part of the organisation enables us to develop closer ties to universities that support African students as well as provide our scholars who go to university abroad with a larger support community of students facing similar challenges.

Looking ahead to 2018, we are planning to expand our Board of Trustees. We have already identified a couple of potential trustees who have started to get involved by volunteering for us. We have three longer term volunteers working on marketing, communications including social media, and fundraising. We hope to develop our Young Leaders and Ambassadors of Positive Social Change Programmes so that we can empower our students and enrich their experiences with us. In turn, we want to give them the chance to make more impact.

We are indebted to the generous support of ReCares, Brian Murtagh Charitable Trust, LGT Vestra, The Skinners School, Clifton College and Baraka Community Partnerships, the trustees and a major donor. We are very grateful for the pro bono legal and office support we have received from Morgan Lewis, the law firm especially with their help on staff contracts and memoranda of understanding, from Southworth and Co, Chartered Accountants, for their independent review of our accounts and from RedandGrey for their design work. Our volunteers have worked on all aspects of our organisation including social media, fundraising, events, mentoring our students, presenting at our forums and marketing. We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their involvement including, of course, our trustees.

We are very excited by Our Moon Education's continuing evolution. We are committed to helping young people in Zambia to realise their academic potential so that they can contribute to positive social change in their communities and across Africa. This report provides a financial summary of our charity, describes our work and its impact more fully, tells the story of how I founded Our Moon, explains the roles of some of our volunteers and showcases our students.

Helen Leale-Green
Chair and CEO

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

The accounts produced in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 and have been signed off by the external accountant John Southworth FCA of Southworth and Co, Chartered Accountant.

We have had a successful year, increasing our income by 90% and from a wider range of income streams with 27% coming from corporates, 25% from major donors and 21% from trusts and foundations. This has meant that we have been able to take on more students as well as a programmes manager to improve the programmes that we are able to deliver. While our cost per student has risen substantially, we planned for this to happen, increasing the support to the students, the opportunities available to them and the quality of the programme.

Our core costs remain very small as a proportion of our total expenditure. The main items are IT in the UK (hosting of the website), marketing materials, and fundraising. It amounts to 6.5% of our total costs. In Zambia, we pay for an office which doubles as a classroom.

We have moved our banking facility in the UK to Barclays Bank and will be opening an account in Zambia in the near future. We transfer money to Zambia via the broker, Ebury UK, whenever they can provide us with a quote. Scholars' stipends and travel expenses are paid through World Remit using MTN Money, the mobile phone operator in Zambia.

Our policy is that we aim to hold at least six months ongoing expenses in reserve. This is to ensure we have sufficient money to pay the ongoing student expenses and the next sum of school fees.

Alan Leale-Green (FCCA)
Trustee

BALANCE SHEET OF 31 DECEMBER 2017

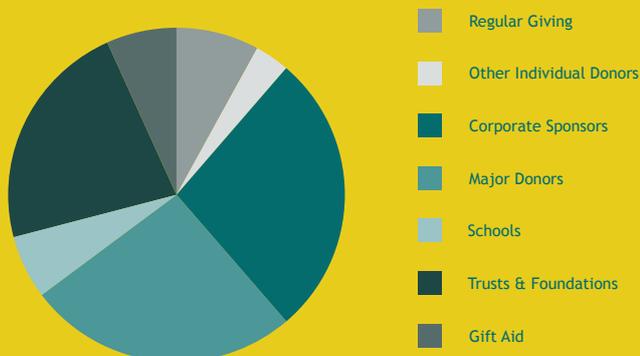
	£	£
	2017	2016
Fixed Assets	0	0
Currents Assets		
Debtors	1,460	230
Loans to Students	820	820
Bank Account	21,272	3,749
	23,552	4799
Current Liabilites		
Creditors : Short Term	9,886	675
	9,886	675
Currents Assets Less Current Liabilites		
Total Assets Less Current Liabilites	13,666	4,124
Long Term Liabilites	0	0
Total Assets Less Total Liabilites	13,666	4,124
Capital & Reserves		
Funds Unrestricted	3,129	2,215
Funds Restricted	10,537	1,909
TOTAL FUNDS	13,666	4,124

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

	£	£
	2017	2016
INCOME		
Regular Giving	2,966	9,685
Other Individual Donors	1,207	1,119
Corporate Sponsors	10,266	4,347
Major Donors	9,721	0
Schools	2,241	0
Trusts & Foundations	8,249	0
Gift Aid	2,686	2642
Events	1,018	2,281
Gift Aid	255	244
Interest	0	5
TOTAL INCOME	38,608	20,323
EXPENSES, FUNDRAISING & MARKETING		
Costs	1,915	680
Charitable Activities	24,939	15,122
Governance Costs	2,212	1,318
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	29,066	17,120
Surplus of Donations Over Resources Expended	9,542	3,203

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DONATIONS RECEIVED



OUR MOON EDUCATION'S WORK



VISION

A world where young people in Zambia are empowered to become socially-conscious leaders.

MISSION

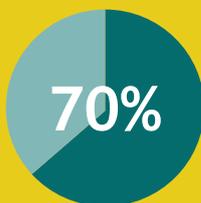
To empower Zambia's young people, through education and personal guidance, to bring about positive social change.

“I see Our Moon Education as an organization that equips and provides young Zambians with sustainable tools to help grow and develop our country economically. I envision a better Zambia led by the youth who are eager and passionate about our country, and also proud of our culture.”

Theresa Ng'andu,
Currently studying at
Swarthmore College,
Pennsylvania, USA, majoring in
Economics with French.

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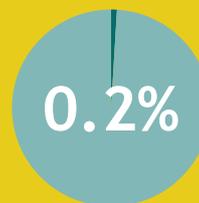
WHY WE EXIST



Zambians living in extreme poverty.



Zambians completing secondary school with just over half being awarded their school certificate.



Zambians attended university - the third lowest in sub-Saharan Africa.



The gap between completing school and starting university - if they have a place.

FOUNDER'S STORY



“Justin has helped me learn the importance of keeping an open mind at all times; I was able to find a suitable way of presenting my research findings to my community because of the way Justin challenged me mentally.”

Thando Lungu,
Current scholar on Young
Leaders Programme

One of Helen's former students, Justin Mushitu, a Zambian, encouraged her to visit Zambia as he felt she could make more impact working directly with students in his country.

Justin linked her with other NGOs and, together, they put on some workshops with teachers and students.

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Her visit culminated with them putting together a programme that aimed to help bridge the gap in the education, skills and experiences required to get to good universities abroad.

He says, “...I applaud Helen for persevering in the mission to deliver an international school service to students who are clueless of international university application systems... by combining the A-levels, SATs and university guidance, we are able to fight the breach in our education for financially-disadvantaged young people in Zambia”.

Justin studied in Canada. When he returned, he started volunteering for Our Moon in Zambia. He is now the first (and only) paid employee. Justin is passionate about giving Zambian youth the same educational opportunities as he has had. He develops their critical-thinking and problem-solving skills equipping them to find solutions to Zambia's problems. Justin's story exemplifies how students go abroad to study and are still keen to return home to help contribute to their country's development.

Helen says of the work she does at Our Moon:

“Being around these extraordinary young people, who are filled with optimism for the future, is contagious. I am so happy to be part of their lives and hope that by giving them a good grounding, they will be able to make the positive social and economic change that Zambia needs. Justin sets a wonderful example to young people in Zambia through his continuing involvement with Our Moon”.

“Helen has shown so much dedication in helping underprivileged children from around the world. Her past experience ... makes Helen well-qualified to develop Our Moon's work in Zambia. This is because Helen has the compassion, intellect, and dedication to help students with a lot of potential but zero opportunities. If it wasn't for Helen, I would have not made it to Stanford. She recognized my potential and believed in me.”

Timothy Mazai,
Studying at Stanford
University, majoring in
Computer Science

PROGRAMMES

YOUNG LEADERS PROGRAMME

Our main programme is our young leaders programme. Its aim is to begin the development of Zambia's leaders by supporting them in gaining:

- Knowledge - through attending school (currently Hillcrest) or online/self-study for A-levels, SATs and other qualifications necessary to enter and do well at university
- Skills - develop employability skills through work experience, CV writing, making presentations, gaining interview practice
- Dispositions - through volunteering, community-based projects, blogging, reading for understanding, writing, problem solving and critical thinking
- University education - we guide students in their applications to universities around the world where we know that there are full scholarships.

“Helen’s vision for Our Moon is not only to ensure that many Zambian youths begin to realize their potential, but also to ensure that they use the skills and knowledge they develop to impact their communities - she is dedicated to giving Our Moon her whole and ensuring that many lives get touched by its work.”

Bwalya Kasanda,
Studying at the Sauder
Business School, University of
British Columbia, Vancouver,
Canada

SELECTION

We select our young leaders during a two to three-day Tomorrow's Leaders Forum where participants are introduced to opportunities to study abroad, how to make applications, how to write application essays and what it means to be African. Participants are tested in English, Maths and two of the three sciences over three hours. They also attend an interview and participate in a group exercise.

Scholars need to show the following:



Be academically very bright - at the moment, we define this as achieving 6-8 points in their grade 12 exams.



Demonstrate commitment to their communities through volunteering work that they have done.



Share their vision for how they might contribute to their community, country or continent's development.



Be from a financially-disadvantaged family.



They also must show commitment to all aspects of our programme.

AMBASSADORS FOR SOCIAL CHANGE PROGRAMME



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The Ambassadors for Social Change is an exciting development. In order that we can impact more young people in Zambia, we have developed a training programme for young leaders with potential to help them develop their critical thinking and question the things that go on around them so that they can also contribute to positive social change. Training courses are held at our Chibombo camp site and involve some of the local children in our activities. Our ambassadors prepare blogs based on issues they see around them loosely connected to the themes of culture, identity and education. These are published on our website and on our Facebook page. These young people may have a later opportunity for us to guide them in their university applications or to be taken onto the Young Leaders Scholars' Programmes.

“What a wonderful experience in Chibombo: beautiful stars in the sky, cooperating villagers, good traditional food and the Ambassadors’ programme. This programme made me realise the need to discover our culture and identity and consider these in relation to our education. Reading and writing were two of the things we explored - now I am a better reader, poet and writer. When I actually came to Chibombo, I was able to experience and appreciate the difficulties others go through. We are one and the same, living under the same moon and sky. Meeting new friends makes me happy; sharing ideas, story-telling, dancing and singing all made my stay in Chibombo an unforgettable adventure.”

Grace Lutombi,
Currently studying at
University of Zambia

IMPACT SO FAR

Our impact can be difficult to measure simply unlike some programmes where there are clear outcomes to many direct beneficiaries and where the programme outputs take place over a relatively short timeframe. We have our direct beneficiaries - our scholars and ambassadors. Their stories over the next few pages describe how they already benefit from Our Moon's involvement and continue to do so. However, there are many secondary beneficiaries in our model, which is more of a cascade effect of impact and over a period of years.

Students' families/households - often large and with numerous other extended family members - average **8**. Benefits - allocate their money for children still at home for food and school fees.

Students' peers in their former schools - scholars typically came from government schools with between **600-800** students. Our Moon scholars will return to their schools to talk to and encourage current students.

Students at Hillcrest - **150** A-level students and around **200** in Grade 12 - our scholars give talks about the opportunities open to these students to continue their studies.

Volunteer organisations - our scholars volunteer at a number of organisations, affecting all those they come into contact with. Mostly they are involved in teaching including basic numeracy and literacy, IT, sensitising to issues that face youth such as HIV/AIDS, how to avoid early pregnancy, and empowering young people, especially girls, to stand up for themselves. The manager of the charity where two of our current scholars have volunteered said: "The two have been an inspiration to their juniors whom we are currently mentoring". Paul Kasoka, from Copperbelt Health Education Project

Advocacy with government - Our Moon staff, alumni, scholars and ambassadors have the common aim of advocating for positive social change. Although change takes time, we hope that we can impact a significant proportion of the population through making change happen.

On campus at their universities - experience shows that our alumni go on to high profile roles within their universities, getting involved in extra-curricular events and volunteering. Eg one of our alumni introduced a Model United Nations into her university, involving around 100 students. It has been made into annual event. Another alumna is working with vulnerable indigenous women in Vancouver while at university - around 50 women are involved. One of Helen's former students, and now a trustee of Our Moon Zambia says "I have really enjoyed working on this project after being funded by a foundation that concentrates on giving out small grants for students. The really cool thing about my project is that I have been able to put into practice some of my engineering skills learnt at university." Chanda Singoyi, currently studying at Bucknell University, USA, majoring in engineering and economics.

In their work - our alumni go on to work in socially-conscious jobs affecting many people over a long period of time. The research that Helen did for her Master's degree demonstrates this clearly - "The burden falls on the lower classes, like ourselves, to work in jobs that create social change". Nelisa Tebequa, currently studying for a PhD as a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford University.

Ongoing volunteering - our alumni plan to continue to give back to their communities outside their jobs. They have aspirations to set up schools, clinics, and to provide the funding through their salaries to bring about positive social change.

CURRENT STUDENTS



BENADETTE NANYANGWE:
Ambassador for Social Change.

Benadette would like to be a nurse, but it isn't easy in Zambia to be able to afford the training. A very determined young woman, she found a job and is saving to put herself through college.



SUNDAY CHIBUYE:
Ambassador for Social Change.

Sunday dreams of becoming a doctor and has been admitted at Copperbelt University.



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Ambassador for Social Change.

Chabota has written a number of blogs supporting African identity. From his experience at Our Moon, he has learnt to become proud of being African.



JUSTINE BWALYA: First year scholar, studying for A-levels.

Justine's ambition is to become an engineer. Our Moon is helping him on his first step to achieving that goal.



CHITUNDU LIMBIKANI: First year scholar, studying for A-levels.

Chitundu wants to become an engineer and is fascinated about the power of ideas to instigate change. To relax, Chitundu loves a good game of chess.



JANET BOTHA:
Second year scholar studying SATs.

Janet has a place to study at University of Edinburgh starting in September. Janet will be studying Civil Engineering at university and is passionate about making sure that everyone in Zambia has access to clean water.



FRANK KASONGOLE:
Ambassador for Social Change.

Frank is currently studying Natural Sciences and Education at University of Zambia. His experience at Our Moon has helped him develop his reading and writing skills and made him realise that hard work conquers all.



MALAMA MUSHITU: studying for A-levels.

Malama started in a government school supported by Our Moon when we first started out. He is now being tutored at Our Moon's centre in Chibombo. Malama believes that education is the master key to unlocking the inequalities that exist in his society.



PRECIOUS KALUNGU: Second year scholar, studying for A-levels.

Precious is passionate about teaching the next generation of Zambians and would like to study education at university. In her spare time, she has written and recorded some gospel songs.



PRINCE NGOMA: Second year scholar, studying for A-levels.

Prince's goal is to become an electronic engineer. "Education calls all men to the passing on of knowledge and wisdom. Education develops all minds into firm foundations for a wiser Africa".



CHRISTOPHER KAUMBA: Ambassador for Social Change, studying for SATs.

Chris's joy is in learning. He says that Our Moon has given him the confidence to develop solutions to the problems he sees around him. He can see that his views matter and are worth vocalising.



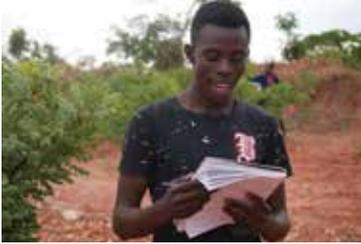
THOMAS LIFUTI: First year scholar, studying for A-levels.

Thomas wants to establish a technology university in Zambia to compete with universities like MIT. Thomas is our resident techy and has implemented the chrome books that were donated to us.



CHRISTOPHER ZULU (centre): A first year scholar studying for SATs

Christopher is currently working as a tutor. He loves playing football. He is passionate about teaching and would eventually like to establish a university to improve education opportunities in Zambia.



SAMSON KAIMA:
Ambassador for Social Change.

Samson strives for social justice. He is a positive and energetic young man and, despite the sadness that he has witnessed, he is determined to break the shackles of poverty that have gripped his life since his father died. He has helped support his family's needs by playing football.



WATSON MUSHIMBEI:
First year scholar,
studying for A-levels.

Watson wants to become a chemical engineer. Watson came first in the whole of Zambia in the recent Chemistry olympiads. He is a very determined student and loves the feeling of being outstanding at a subject. In his spare time, Watson enjoys playing football.

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ZOE MEBUDE STEVES:
First year scholar, studying
for SATs.

Zoe would like to become a lawyer. In his spare time, Zoe likes to write and has just released the first part of his first novel online. He says "Our Moon makes us feel welcome and loved, creating a wonderful environment for us to focus on our studies".



GRACE LUTOMBI:
Ambassador for
Social Change.

Grace is currently studying at University of Zambia. She hopes to become a lawyer. She says she has benefited from Our Moon's support and mentorship. "Thanks to Our Moon, I have become a more responsible citizen looking for solutions to everyday problems".



QUINCY NAMONJE:
Second year scholar
studying for A-levels.

Quincy holds a conditional offer to study Economics with Psychology at University of Edinburgh. A natural leader, Quincy is always willing to advocate on behalf of others. "Our Moon is an organisation that doesn't just let you explore yourself academically, it also allows you to embrace different aspects of your life".



THANDO LUNGU:
First year scholar,
studying for A-levels.

Thando has been working on a community-based project studying the coping mechanisms of street children in her area. It made her reconsider her career options as she realised that she wants to make sure that young people have access to the health care they need.

STUDENT VOICES

CAREER POEM



Man cannot predict the secrets of tomorrow but I know that money
Destroys judgement.
The pursuits of the rich are as satisfied as their bones;
Is Heaven only for the rich man?

My love for chemistry brainwashes the Sun;
My love for chemistry respects not the dollar
Because my beloved, Chemistry, only finds pride in my identity.

O Chemistry, my desire is to really know the nakedness of your thoughts;
My eye is not a wandering desire to love another.
Chemistry, you are the black clinging to my skin - you are the energy of song
In my sweat; you are my love for bread.
Love is a calling that many do not hear
But I heard you, O Chemistry, when you called me to be a chemical engineer.

Watson Mushimbei

EXTRACT FROM BLOG ON OVER-ENROLLMENT IN SCHOOLS

I visited my former community school. The headmistress shared with me a number of challenges that our education system faces. Her top concern is over-enrollment in schools and how it is a challenge to proper and quality learning.

According to UNESCO in 2016, the average pupil:teacher ratio in Zambia is 48:1, one of the highest in Southern Africa. And this is only the average - imagine many classes will have many more students per teacher!

There are a number of factors that have contributed to over-enrollment in schools, the main one being over-population. With Africa's exploding population, it has led to lack of school places. There are too few schools to cater for the large population. Children want to be in school but there are just not sufficient schools. This is the reason why Africa still has children or pupils squatting under trees to learn.

Another factor is poor school management. Each and every school should or must have a maximum number of pupils to occupy one class - I think 30-40 pupils. But you find that school heads enroll more than a school can accommodate, sometimes because they want to gain money in the process.

The main problem of over-enrollment is that large classes are hard for teachers to manage. For instance, if a class has 60 pupils a teacher cannot attend to each pupil. This, therefore, affects pupil performance. Pupils' understanding differs - some are fast learners while others are slow learners. It affects pupil performances because the syllabus is rarely finished leading to poor results.

With population explosion, we also find we have too few teachers who are well trained. This also impacts class size and performance of students. The teachers we have become demoralized because they can't teach effectively.

In conclusion, over-enrollment undermines proper and quality learning in schools. Good school leadership is very important and more schools and classes should be built to accommodate a lot of pupils. More teachers need to be trained well so that the learning environment should be conducive for proper learning. Everyone has a right to a good quality education and there must be responsibility from everyone.

Chabota Chiyanka

EDUCATION FIGHTS IGNORANCE



O ye men of ignorance, hear now the words of the wise: hear now
The mystery of everlasting life.
I learned my way out of the chains of ignorance - I learned John 3:16
And I now believe that life stops at birth and continues
when one dies;
Indeed, the day of death is better than the day of birth.

Why do you ask how I know this? Haven't you understood
That education is the key to understanding the ways of a man under the sun?

When my moon - Our Moon - shines, open your ears and hearts because
knowledge and wisdom call.
Education calls
All men to the passing on of knowledge and wisdom. Education develops
All minds into firm foundations for a wiser Africa.

Prince Ngoma

EXTRACT FROM A BLOG ON GENDER

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In Zambian society, males may believe that to be masculine they should be in control and appear unemotional, be the dominant partner in a relationship, exert pressure or force on their sexual partners, become sexually active early and have many partners, work in careers that are mechanical and analytical, assume responsibility as the 'breadwinner', achieve status by earning lots of money, take risks to prove their manhood and resolve conflicts with violence. Females may believe that to be feminine they should be emotionally sensitive and vulnerable, submit to the wishes and demands of a sexual partner, have children regardless of personal wishes, meet the needs of others before their own, choose careers in the 'helping professions, be physically active by someone else's standards, tolerate sexually harassing behaviour without complaint, assume responsibility for sexual assault or rape and also avoid non-traditional careers in math or the sciences. A first step in overcoming stereotypical thinking is to be aware of what stereotypes people hold.

I don't think genders are yet equal. Even from a young age, boys are regaled by their parents; girls are sent to do chores. That being said, what equality we do currently have has put an incredible amount of pressure on the women

folk. In some relationships, women are expected to be the child caregivers, work full time and also do the household work and cooking. So, in households where the men still wear the pants, so to speak, women definitely are being hurt by having far too many tasks on their plates.

Gender equality is important. It is intrinsically linked to sustainable development and is vital to the realization of human rights for all. The overall objective of gender equality is a society in which women and men enjoy the same opportunities, rights and obligations in all spheres of life. Equality between men and women exists when both sexes are able to share equally in the distribution of power and influence, have equal opportunities for financial independence through work or through setting up business, enjoy equal access to education and the opportunity to develop personal ambitions, interests and talents, share responsibility for the home and children and are completely free from coercion, intimidation and violence both at work and at home.

Grace Lutumbi

MEET OUR SCHOLARS

I was born in Zambia's Lusaka province, in 1999. Both my parents passed on when I was only five years old. I was raised by my siblings. My two sisters - who were only a few years older than me - made sure I received a good education, while my brothers were always on the move trying to put food on our table.

Thanks to all their efforts, I continued with my education. Throughout my life, days came when I felt really unfortunate and when I had to sleep on an empty stomach because we had nothing to eat. But those were the days that pushed me to work harder in school. In high school, I was one of the best students in maths and sciences. Teaching math to fellow pupils and encouraging them to work harder was just one of the things I enjoyed doing. My particular passion for Physics developed just as I realised that many things I did as a child were all about physics.

I began with fixing things like remote controllers and joysticks for fun, then came my obsession to learn more about the various kinds of technology in existence. During my hunt for information, my former teacher of physics suggested I should study computer engineering. I realised nothing would suit me better!

Being part of Our Moon has given me hope and courage to do my best to become a computer engineer. I wish to apply to university abroad, as it will give me advanced knowledge of engineering. I will never forget where I have come from and I am always trying to help those in my community who are going through the same things I went through. I also hope that through studying computer engineering, I will bring technical solutions to Zambians to make our lives easier.

Justine Bwalya

I WISH

Day in and day out, Year in
And year out,
I wish to see technicians - oh yes, technical engineers.
I wish to be
in place where technical knowledge is exploited; even to be at the grave
where technological ignorance is buried.
I breathe to see nanotechnology and robotics.
I wish to configure neural systems and, when the time comes,
I will wish
To see an institution return to my community; even double what it gave me.
Day in and day out, year in and year out, yes, all the time,
I wish
To see an engineering institution for you, within you, O Mother Zambia,
I wish by Zambia, for Zambians, and for Africa -
in Africa - I wish.

Thomas Lifuti





BLOG: CULTURE'S VULTUROUS VENTURES

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Zambians are a people, living in the space of approximately 752,614 square kilometers. Full of races, tribes, traditions and cultures, yet unity is our theme. We are Rich, not with money but of practices that take us a century behind. Where I come from, hard-work is when you go to the farm early in the morning (4:00AM) and come back in the evening (7:00PM) hoeing the whole day in the bright shining sun (30°C) - now that's hard work! When the farming season comes, whether you go to school or not, everything has to wait. It's culture. And for as long as our parents are not educated and have not felt the light of education, then these cultural attitudes will be passed on to generations to come.

Years ago, before circumcision was medically practiced, the North Western part of the country had this same practice - Mukanda - in place. Every mid-year, boys aged between 6 and 12 years were targeted. This being tradition, parents willingly gave away their children for a period of one month to be circumcised in the bush. The practice was inhumane. Nevertheless, what 'needed' to be done was done.

Just yesterday, early-marriages were a normal practice. I watched two of my sisters and cousins go through a traditional practice called Chisungu (a traditional practice to mark the beginning of puberty) at the age of 12 to 15 years. Over a week, they were taken in the bush by the river side where different initiations were performed. They were being taught things that married women should do - or not do - in a house hold. It is still being practiced in rural areas to date. I dare you to say, "It doesn't matter where you come from," as a statement to mark the uprising of a poor man.

Ignorance and shallow minds are everywhere; it's like early-marriages that were seen as traditional two days ago but are now being denounced. When are we going to condemn these traditions? I imagine every time how much more developed Africa would be if we stopped turning a blind eye to practices that drive us away from a better future.

However, not all our traditions should be outlawed. There are, of course, our traditional dances and drums, ceremonies and cuisines that make Zambia outstanding and irresistible, practices that make me still proud to be Zambian and distinguish me from my peers in other countries.

Frank Kasongole

WORDS FROM AN ALUMNA

Helen is a passionate, hardworking woman who strives for excellence to see the next Zambian generation live their own dreams. Our Moon made a breakthrough for me possible. With Helen's help, today I am university undergraduate in one of the top universities in Canada. I am living my own dream. I see many Zambians pushing through what was impossible for them. I see many youth finding their way to the top with Helen as their lead.

Ashley Nyangani - former Our Moon SATs only scholar (2016). Currently studying at University of British Columbia, Canada, majoring in Sociology. Ashley has been a mentor to an Our Moon scholar.

BLOG: QUALITY EDUCATION

As an African, I'm not blind to the problems we face; I'm not blind to my needs and those of my kind.

Many though, these problems are, I wish to talk about one:

THE QUALITY OF MY COUNTRY'S EDUCATION!

Much cogitation is going through my mind as I see little fellows carrying their bags to school:

Should education be limited only to the classroom?

Should I learn the same things odd and old ages learnt in school?

Should I learn them in the same way?

I want to make a positive impact in my country but,

Do I have the tools to do that?

Can I learn basic, yet important, survival skills in the classroom?

It embeds a lot of fears!

Why am I, a high school student, unaware of how to manage waste?

Why am I, a student in an exam year, studying only to pass?

Why am I, a student in university, studying to beat my mates?

Why am I taught to pass only so that I can have money...?

All this is my thought. Quite sadly, that is all it is: a thought.

How I wish someone would listen. Maybe they would be courageous enough to add sound to it. Maybe then, someone can hear, comprehend and implement.

Honestly, that is what I want: to be heard.

Perhaps, others have taken notice of this problem:

They send students to study abroad. However, there are fears of brain drain. Though required to return to their countries once they complete their studies, many agree just to have an opportunity to disagree.

Others are advocating for more people in the classroom but that means more people joining the same cycle of thinking which has not, for most, done us any good. The increase in quantity only deprives quality because as it is, we cannot handle both. Quality, however, will definitely help quantity.

Some have provided libraries but how many Zambians (Africans) will trade a movie for a book chapter.

Certainly not many, if any.

However, I have pictures in my mind of a learning arena that is conducive.

E-learning introduced in schools. While not every learner can afford a tablet in class, the tutors can and could use more updated information to teach the learners. The government could make one compulsory and have some tablets specially designed for learning and place a discount for the learner. Everything, always remember, is deliberate.

I should keep a clean environment because I have been taught why not necessarily how.

I should be taught to study so that I can have knowledge. I should pass an exam because I know.

And because I know, I can influence my community rightly.

All my learning in university embraces cross-learning and together with my mates, I think and provide solutions to my country's problems.

I do not work on having but on being.

This is my picture:

Everyone employs getting knowledge as a culture.

We only have power over what we know.

Knowledge is essential.

The classroom should not be a place where visions are blurred. Rather, they should be more focused. It should be a mind opening tool.

Are we too lazy to change direction?

Laziness is a slippery tree. A tree planted in the waters of ignorance occupied by the beasts of pain, suffering, poverty etc.

Success is not by accident.

And as an African, I'm not afraid to take the turn.

Because only if we will, can we.

Chris Maumba

MEET THE TRUSTEES & KEY VOLUNTEERS



HELEN LEALE-GREEN
CEO (VOLUNTEER)

Helen has worked for many years with students from developing countries and founded Our Moon Education with the help of one of her former students. Helen says: “My vision is for Our Moon to open doors for Zambian students to access education and shape them into becoming young socially-conscious leaders who can drive forward their communities and continent. Helen is one of the inaugural members of the HALI Access Network, a group of like-minded organisations working with young Africans to help them access higher education opportunities at home and abroad. Helen has recently completed an MA in Education and International Development at UCL’s Institute of Education. Previously she worked for PWC as a management consultant and is a qualified accountant.



VICTORIA HANCOCK-FELL

Vic has over ten years’ experience working in the education and non-profit sectors in the UK and internationally. She has a PGCE and a Masters in NGO Management. Vic has a comprehensive understanding of and respect for complex communities in African countries, having been involved with similar organisations since 2008. She is the Founder of an online support network of over 500 small NGOs and is currently the UK Director at Vision Africa. Vic says ‘I passionately believe in Our Moon’s work to support the futures of high-achieving, low-income students in Zambia. I am particularly passionate about working together with these young people to develop a generation of compassionate and socially conscious leaders that the world needs more than ever.’



ALAN LEALE-GREEN

Alan has over 40 years of experience in the securities and futures industries. Working for a number of city institutions, and latterly establishing his own compliance consultancy business, he gained a wealth of experience in financial, risk and corporate governance matters. As Our Moon’s Trustee, he believes education is essential for all young people to have real opportunities to improve themselves and their communities. Alan is also a trustee of a UK Academy of schools based in Thanet, Kent. He enjoys watching his sons playing sport (preferably in the sunshine!) and driving his 1965 Ford Mustang.



WALKER SYACHALINGA

Walker was born in Zambia where he received his primary and secondary school education until 2005 when he moved to the UK. He is now a lawyer editing tax law reports and volunteering with Liberty, the civil liberties charity, on human rights queries. He became a trustee of Our Moon Education in 2016 seizing the opportunity to make a contribution to his home country and assist young people in Zambia. Walker has helped Our Moon with fundraising initiatives and general governance guidance. He continues to look for more opportunities to assist the charity with raising funds to enable more young Zambians gain access to higher education.



PAULA ALIONYTE

Paula is a fundraising consultant currently studying for an MSc in NGO Management at Cass Business School in London and working for an international disability rights organisation based in Africa and Asia. Paula has a solid understanding of fundraising practices in the UK and has worked with a number of non-profit organisations providing database management and data protection advice, managing volunteers and consulting on fundraising strategy. She has experience in direct marketing, relationships fundraising, events and corporate fundraising.

Paula says 'Access to tools, resources and skills to grow one's professionalism and understanding their possibilities is key to a successful life. I believe that Our Moon Education does great work in ensuring that Zambian youth are well-equipped in this regard'.



ESTER BORTOT

Ester worked in the banking industry for a number of years, most recently at Rothschild where she was a Client Adviser in the Wealth Management division in London. Prior to that she worked at HSBC and Renaissance Capital and holds an undergraduate degree from Durham University. She is currently pursuing a Master's degree in African Development at the London School of Economics having taken the decision to refocus her career in 2017. Born in Zambia, Ester is particularly keen to leverage off her experience to date to help bring about positive change in her home country. She is currently working with Our Moon to devise a workable major donor funding strategy.

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JAMES HAUGHTON

James studied International Development with a research focus on NGO accountability, particularly concerned with accountability to beneficiaries. Having previously worked in Dadaab refugee camp in Kenya, James volunteered for Dig Deep between 2008-13, including serving as a trustee for 18 months before being employed as assistant director by Dig Deep. He is responsible for governance in Kenya and for building capacity within the Kenyan Team and partners.

James is keen to use his knowledge to help Our Moon Education grow and make more impact in Zambia. He is hoping to become a trustee in the near future.



NATHALIE HUSSA

Nathalie has a BA degree in Politics and International Relations from the University of Kent and an MA degree in Human Rights from University College London. She currently works in London as a Fundraising Officer for a substance misuse prevention charity. Half American, half Belgian, Nathalie enjoys travelling to new countries and learning languages (she speaks English, Dutch, French and Spanish). Nathalie joined Our Moon this January to gain experience in international development and is excited to be providing fundraising and communications support. She has enjoyed learning about Zambia and hopes to visit one day to meet some of Our Moon's extraordinary scholars!

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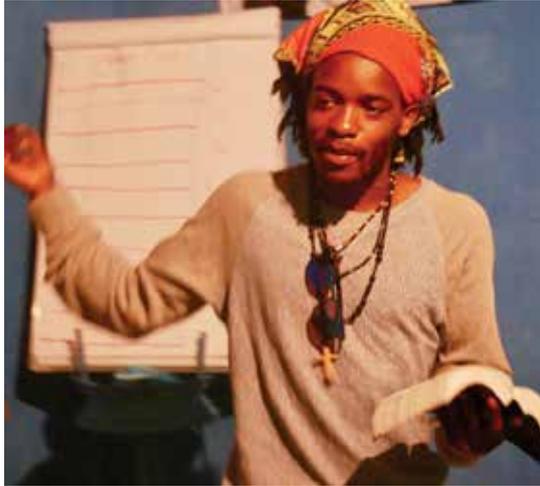
JEN MOORE

Jen has been running Our Moon Education's social media for six months while studying for an MSc in International Development. "Studying international development, I know the value of education and its ability to transform. Managing the social media of Our Moon has given me the opportunity to witness this first hand. Now that I have completed my undergraduate degree in Economics and Geography, I'm beginning to fulfil the ambitions I had as a teenager to specialise in the development field. My experience with Our Moon has spurred me on further. As part of my dissertation fieldwork, I am planning on heading out to Zambia with Helen in the summer and cannot wait to meet the scholars and ambassadors who I've grown to learn so much about!"



DAVID MTONGA

As adviser to the Board of Trustees, David acts both as an ambassador for Our Moon and also advises the Board of Trustees on issues about Zambia. In his mentor role, David offers educational guidance, emotional support and help with students' university applications. He is originally from Lusaka, Zambia, and believes wholeheartedly in Our Moon's mission to break down barriers to education and change lives. David attended Hillcrest School in Livingstone, one of our partner schools. David is currently studying Electrical Engineering at Brighton University and was one of Helen's former students; he loves reading and learning new things.



JUSTIN MUSHITU
PROGRAMMES MANAGER IN ZAMBIA

“I believe that the Bible couldn’t be more right claiming that our people die because of ignorance. It is important to recognise that both society and culture change over time; therefore, if education must play her role, in developing the national mental stamina, then education must change at the same pace as culture. In Zambia, we consider the compatibility of education and age, but we are forgetting that we are not even the same Zambia as 10 years ago. And because of population growth and rising inflation, what was a solution a decade ago is a potential threat to delivering the right solution tomorrow. Consequently, the gap between education and society becomes the gap within our standards of living; education is no longer an equalizer because the education at an international school is at least a decade ahead of the education at a private school - now, consider the gap between an international school and a government or community schools.

Helen and I are determined to persevere in our mission to deliver an international school support and advisory service to students who would otherwise remain ignorant of opportunities open to them. The Zambian education system is slowly becoming incompatible to Zambians; this means, as years go by, fewer and fewer Zambians will be able to access global scholarships - not even within Africa. Therefore, by combining A-Levels, SATs, and university guidance, we are able to fight the breach in Zambian education as well as give financially disadvantaged young people in Zambia the same opportunity as international school scholars. Our Moon is fighting the extinction of Zambians in the global intellectual institutions and empowering them to contribute to the positive social change Zambia needs.”

Justin Mushitu
Programmes Manager, Zambia

EDUCATING YOUNG MINDS

CREATING
EXTRAORDINARY
AFRICANS



Our Moon is a member of the following organisations:

