



Annual Report

April 2019 - March 2020



African Education Program

New Programs, New Impact

A Message from the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

I was fortunate to have two of the best days of my life this past year. On each day, the African Education Program (AEP) launched a new initiative, one that touches the most marginalized children in Kafue, Zambia and one that will have a profound impact on the lives of our girls. Both initiatives not only represent long-time goals, but were also made possible by inspiring young people. The AEP cycle comes full circle which is what makes them both so great.

Read for Rose Special Education Program— In Zambia, less than half of girls and boys with a disability will ever enter a classroom due to high stigma and few resources allocated to their needs. AEP launched a special education center where children with disabilities in our local communities are able to access quality education and life skills development. The initiative is named for “Rose” — a special child with a big heart who left this earth way too soon.

The best part is that this program was made possible by one of our own high school and college graduates, Febby Choombe. Febby always had the dream to change the education landscape for students with special needs. Now her dream is in action.

Reuse Rise Rejoice Menstrual Health Program— Every month, too many young women in Zambia miss school during their periods and this puts them at a disadvantage to their male counterparts. It can also mean the end of their education if they miss the national exam needed to advance into the next grade.

To ensure that our girls are not a part of this trend, we have been providing disposable sanitary pads each month. But this short term fix was not sustainable and bad for the environment.

A student club at Conestoga High School in Pennsylvania launched the #ReuseRiseRejoice Campaign and the founders of the Club raised enough funds to provide one-hundred of our young women with a pack of five reusable pads and also attend a training to learn how to sew a reusable pad.

Thanks to these young leaders at Conestoga High School, our girls have stepped on to a bold new path, never missing a day of school.

As I took a moment to reflect on young leadership, I was reminded of a quote by the former president of Liberia. She said, “If your dreams do not scare you, they are not big enough.” These big dreams and big initiatives by our young people are made possible by your support. Together, we are doing something meaningful that is changing hundreds of lives in Zambia.

On behalf of everyone with AEP and our local programs in Zambia, I would like to say thank you for making our work possible.

Always grateful,



Julie-Anne Savarit-Cosenza
Founder and Executive Director



Students enjoy a group tutoring session

2019-2020 Spotlight

Zambia Background

In Zambia, 78% of the population is under the age of 25^[1] and 60% of the population lives in poverty^[2]. Education is free until 8th grade, but mandatory fees and failing national exams limit access to high school. Only 28% of students will reach 12th grade^[3] and only 64% of youth are literate^[4].



Successes:

33,202

Hot meals served from April 2019 through March 2020 to the most underprivileged student members. For many, this is their only meal of the day.

30 Academic Support Classes

Provided weekly for 7th through 12th graders in all major subjects to supplement the poor quality of education in schools, as well as to provide college prep for recent high school graduates.

12 Weekly Clubs

Focused on health awareness and HIV-prevention, self-esteem building, leadership development, creativity, and innovation building.

AEP'S Educational Resource Center

Named the Amos Youth Centre, AEP's educational resource center is the physical home of all of AEP's academic support and extracurricular programs in Kafue, Zambia. 400 student members access programs regularly which are facilitated by four local Zambian staff with the support of high school graduates acting as tutors and mentors for the younger students while they wait to go to college.

Challenges:



More space is needed

Over 400 students utilize AEP's educational resource center on a weekly basis. Some classes must take place outside due to lack of space. Attaining the goal to build a custom-designed center is needed more than ever.



More resources are needed

The Nutrition Program is serving over 230 meals daily, but these meals are cooked on charcoal due to the lack of an industrial kitchen which is harmful to the environment.

AEP Vision

Our vision is a generation of African youth with equal access to the resources they need to become educated, responsible, and caring citizens who seek to transform their communities plagued by poverty and HIV/AIDS.

AEP'S Scholarship Fund

Awards yearly scholarships to deserving high school and college students who otherwise cannot afford to continue their education due to mandatory fees for both high school and college. Every January, scholarships are awarded to students who have gone through a vetting process based on their involvement at the educational resource center, their family's ability to pay for school, and their grades.

Successes:

41

 Students received higher education through a college or vocational training scholarship between April 2019 through March 2020.

249

 Annual high school scholarships awarded to 118 young women and 118 young men in January 2020.

16 Students from the Village of Chanyanya

Continued high school through the Rural Outreach Program. In Chanyanya, education ends in 9th grade. Scholarships and room and board allowances give the village's most promising students access to continued education.

5 Students Graduated

College through AEP scholarship in the fields of education and electrical engineering.

AEP Mission

Our mission is to empower the youth of Zambia through education and leadership, to break the cycle of poverty in their communities.



Challenges:

- Only providing 25% to 30% of high school graduates an opportunity after graduation. AEP seeks to provide 100% of high school graduates with an opportunity by adding an entrepreneurship training and financial literacy option, as well as increasing current college and vocational training scholarships.
- Student creativity on the decline. The Zambian education system is deeply grounded in rote memory learning, stifling creativity and critical thinking. AEP is working hard to create opportunities for students to tap into their creativity and innovation, but more programs and resources are needed.



AEP's fundraising is the organization's greatest challenge. The demand for programs and services provided in Zambia is growing. There is also a need to continue to deepen the impact of the programs and maintain the long-term commitment made to each student. This translates into a necessity to grow the donor base, diversify funding sources, and build the sustainability of the organization.

New Programs

30%
Reported using rags or traditional methods during their period

100
Young women were helped by AEP's Menstrual Health training & Pad making

Reuse, Rise, Rejoice Reusable - Pad Campaign

Many girls in Zambia, like in many African countries and beyond, still face segregation and discrimination when it comes to menstruation. They are still considered to be unclean and it is a taboo to even talk about your period. Girls are taught early on to use household items like cloths and rags when their period arrives.

Few families manage to buy sanitary pads for their daughters, with the economic crisis that the country is experiencing, menstruation products are a luxury that cannot be afforded.



Gabriela (Left) & Jessica (Right)

After leaving the AEP's 2018 annual fundraiser, Conestoga High School students Gabriela Calvitti and Jessica Niemeyer felt inspired to give back and make a change. Gabriela and Jessica...

...explained, "After meeting Julie-Anne [AEP's executive director] and learning about her amazing work we immediately wanted to be a part of the organization and wanted to get involved in making a difference with the group of girls from our own high school."

The volunteers identified local Zambian non-profit Copper Rose to partner with and then raised funds through the #ReuseRiseRejoice campaign. After brainstorming several possible projects, these two young volunteers felt drawn to the educational injustice many of AEP's young women face due to their menstrual cycle.

Missing an average of three days of school per month, the young women are at a disadvantage to their male counterparts and can see the end of their education if they miss the national exam needed to advance into the next grade. Gabriela and Jessica explained,



Learning how to make pads with simple tools



“ We believe that women deserve the right to have an equal opportunity of education. We wanted the girls in our own group to help empower the young girls in Zambia. ”

Thanks to Gabriela, Jessica, and their high school group, 100 young women from AEP attended a one-day reusable pad making and menstrual health training, as well as received a pack of five reusable pads.



Febby Choombe teaching to a group of students

Read For Rose...A Place Where Every Child Is Welcome

In March 2019, the African Education Program officially announced the opening of the Special Education Program called Read For Rose. Now children with disabilities and special needs from the local community are able to get access to a quality education and life skills.

Our Special Education Program was named for “Rose” – a special child with a big heart who left this earth way too soon. And Read For Rose has a special place in our hearts too because it is taught by our own AEP graduate, Febby Choombe. Febby decided to return to AEP after graduating from the University of Zambia with a degree in Special Education. She was an AEP program beneficiary

for over six years and one of our incredible success stories. She earned high school scholarships for 11th and 12th grade and college scholarships for her undergraduate degree at the University of Zambia, the leading university in the nation.

Febby has always had the dream to change the education landscape for students with special needs. With her Bachelor of Arts in Special Education in hand, in October 2017, Febby joined the AEP local Zambian team as a special education teacher. In March of 2019, in partnership with AEP's educational resource center, Febby launched Read for Rose, a free special education center where students can acquire language and occupational skills.

Achievements

Read for Rose helps offer termly assessments for the learners with special education needs. Parents are able to see the termly progress report for their children. This has helped Read for Rose identify the needs which most learners with developmental delays experience.

Read for Rose is an environment where they learn their language of communication. Students with hearing impairment can now sign and communicate to each other. Those who can speak now use English to communicate to each other. Those with visual impairments are learning braille language.

Most students could not identify letters and numbers or copy anything on the board. But now, it really is amazing to see most of our students being able to identify and write both letters of the alphabet and numbers.

Read for Rose provides life skills training and helps students with swallowing, eating and incontinence problems.

2019 - 2020 Statement of Financial Activities

During the April 2019 through March 2020 fiscal year, AEP raised \$318,504.00. This represents an overall fundraising increase of 27% over the previous fiscal year.

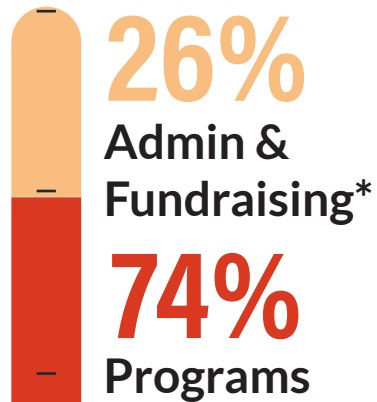
Expenses totaled \$260,813.00 compared to \$249,922.58 during the previous fiscal year. AEP's Administration and Operations and Fundraising expenses decreased. Salary & Employee Related Expense increased due to the addition of a Development Director in December 2019. Grants to AEP's Local Zambian Programs, the educational resource center and scholarship program, decreased by \$12,825.58. This is due to funds raised by AEP's sister organization in France, Action Education Progrès, which also sends grants directly to the educational resource center, as well as a weakened local currency in Zambia.



A group of students posing in school uniforms

Income	April 2019 - March 2020	April 2018 - March 2019
Bank Interest	\$0.00	\$0.10
Restricted	\$0.00	\$0.00
Temporarily Restricted	\$196,040.00	\$144,395.26
Unrestricted	\$121,699.00	\$104,202.00
Sale of Merchandise	\$765.00	\$1,083.00
Credit Card Rebates	\$0.00	\$668.00
Total Income	\$318,504.00	\$250,348.36
Expense	April 2019 - March 2020	April 2018 - March 2019
Admin and Operations	\$14,306.00	\$22,086.00
Direct Fundraising Cost	\$18,078.00	\$19,683.00
Cost of Merchandise	\$0.00	\$1,705.00
Salary & Employee Related Expense	\$72,775.00	\$37,969.00
Programs	\$155,654.00	\$168,474.00
Total Expense	\$260,813.00	\$249,922.58

2019 - 2020 Expense Breakdown



*Local Zambian Programs includes funding from Action Education Progrès; Executive Director's time is estimated at 30% Administration & Fundraising and 70% Local Zambian Programs. Development Director's time is estimated at 85% Administration & Fundraising and 15% Local Zambian Programs.

Student



Racheal Tembo

The students at Amos Youth Centre have a variety of activities and programs to choose from and find their favorite. Two of the clubs that are very popular at the center are the Leadership Club and the Spelling Bee Club and they happen to be Racheal Tembo's favorites. Racheal became a part of AEP in 2018 when she received her first sponsorship for the 8th grade. She is now a 10th grader at one of the larger secondary schools in Kafue, Kafue Day. She is an active student and takes part in almost everything.

“I love the clubs at Amos Youth Centre because they make me very active not only at the centre, but also at school.”

Racheal is the Secretary for the Leadership Club, a position that she carries very proudly. She is happy to be part of the tuitions or tutoring program, especially during the lockdown and closure of the centre that happened in March 2020 when the Covid-19 pandemic arrived. “The closure of the centre has taught me that remote learning is possible and can be fun, too.”

Alumni



Ceasar Samwaka

Ceasar Samwaka was an AEP beneficiary for 9 years, earning his high school scholarship from 8th grade to 12th grade and then a college scholarship to study for his undergraduate degree at the University of Zambia. Ceasar has always loved math and sciences and decided to pursue a Bachelor's degree in education with mathematics and curriculum studies. “Teaching is the best profession for me. I am a role model to the younger

students in my community and working at the centre has been wonderful and exciting altogether, especially with the pandemic. It has not been easy but at the end of the day we have all learned the importance of cooperation and partnership.” Caesar started working as Academic Programs Coordinator at AEP's Amos Youth Centre in January 2020. He is responsible for planning, designing and organizing all learning activities such as the remote tutoring program which has been running effectively throughout the pandemic.

Volunteer



Sherrie Wilson

Sherrie Wilson volunteered for two weeks in Kafue with her son, Jack. Jack focused on sports and team building at the educational resource center, while Sherrie spent most of her time at Read for Rose, our special education hub. A career special education teacher and speech therapist, Sherrie jumped right in working with the Read for Rose students. In addition to teaching sign language and working on eating skills with students with physical disabilities, Sherrie helped to introduce a system for individual student goal setting and progress monitoring.

“I wanted to say how much both of us truly enjoyed the experience!!! Everything about it was awesome.”

The AEP Family



Joy Mweemba
Amos Youth Centre
Executive Director



Lumono Chongo
Amos Youth Center
Programs Director



Julie-Anne Savarit-Cosenza
African Education Program
Executive Director



Pamela O'Brien
African Education Program
Development Director



Fredrick Kamanya
Amos Youth Center
Academic Programs
Manager



Ceasar Samwaka
Amos Youth Center
Academic Programs
Coordinator



Febby Choombe
Amos Youth Centre
Special Education Teacher



Nebat Mwanga
Amos Youth Centre
Information &
Communications
Technology Teacher



Annabel Mumba
Amos Youth Centre
Donor Relations
Coordinator



Anniejoy Mwambe
Amos Youth Centre
Special Education Assistant



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- Chitalu Sikasula
- Nyamazani Tembo

Volunteers & Sponsors

Volunteers who Traveled to Zambia ✈️

- Théophile Aubert
- Michael Candelori
- Karen DelRaso
- Elvire Francois
- Barbara Freed
- Troy Peden
- Julia Peden

- Alan Mittleman
- Marie-Odile Savarit
- Gaël Tanguy
- Jack Wilson
- Sherrie Wilson
- Michael Gubser

Volunteers in the U.S. 🇺🇸

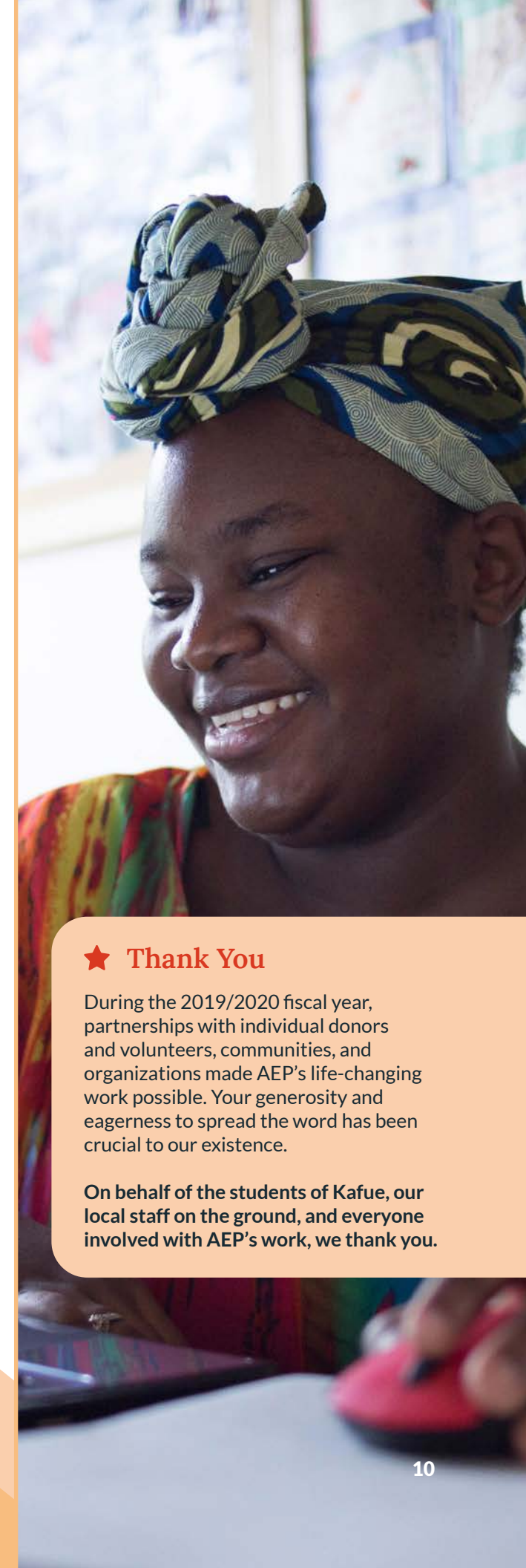
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- Mathieu Savarit-Cosenza
- Catherine Schreck
- Stephanie Simmerman
- Peggy Teillon
- Cyndy Walton-Bongers
- Kayla White

Sponsors



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★ Thank You

During the 2019/2020 fiscal year, partnerships with individual donors and volunteers, communities, and organizations made AEP's life-changing work possible. Your generosity and eagerness to spread the word has been crucial to our existence.

On behalf of the students of Kafue, our local staff on the ground, and everyone involved with AEP's work, we thank you.



Every Dollar Counts



Help us continue our life-changing work and make a donation by visiting

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1. "World Population Dashboard Zambia." United Nations Population Fund, www.unfpa.org/data/world-population/ZM.
2. "UN World Food Programme." WFP | United Nations World Food Programme - Fighting Hunger Worldwide, 3 Mar. 2015, www.wfp.org/stories/10-facts-about-hunger-zambia.
3. <https://www.chemonics.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/Zambia-STEP-Up-education-infographic.pdf>.
4. fhi360 and Education Policy and Data Center's Zambia National Education Profile (2014 Update).