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*Al Jacobson (l) and Peter Lloyd (r) at the SWAAZ teacher's conference.*



*Dedication ceremony of the Ng'ombe family support home in Lusaka.*

## CWB Teachers' Conference Meeting a Need in Ng'ombe

This past spring, CWB held its third annual teacher/OVC coordinators conference, and it was a great success. A total of 25 teachers and managers representing each of our eight compounds came together for the two-day meeting held at SWAAZ's headquarters in Lusaka. The aim of the two day workshop was to strengthen the educational experience of our children by inviting front-line teachers and school coordinators to share their stories, insights, and experiences.

Following opening remarks by Molly Samakai, Executive Director of SWAAZ, the participants addressed two major questions: (1) How are our children doing in school? and (2) What can we do to strengthen their performance as well as the partnership between the schools, CWB and our NGO partners?

On the first question, teachers generally gave CWB sponsored children high-marks, and stated that there had been improvements from a year earlier. Overall, CWB children were reported to be "well-behaved" relative to other students in the classroom and eager to learn. The coordinator from Highland School serving the Fumbelo community, for example, stated that "the children have continued to do well in school."

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On a beautiful July day in 2009, CWB dedicated a lovely new pre-school building that had been built with generous contributions from First Parish of Lexington and UU of Blacksburg, Virginia. While the new Ng'ombe Family Support Home was much appreciated, trip member Cherie Noe recognized that there were still some unmet needs. Specifically, the school lacked a protective wall, needed in Lusaka for security. As a result, all of the students were using one room so another room at the back of the school could house a watchman. Additionally, there were no kitchen facilities which meant that lunch for the students was prepared on the front porch and pots and mealie meal were stored in the classroom, taking up valuable space. Since gaining the new school building, preschool enrollment had significantly expanded, leaving students without enough desks and only one pit latrine.

When these needs were presented to fellow First Parish member, Al Jacobson, he decided to remedy the situation. On a follow up trip in February of 2010 he obtained pricing estimates for meeting each of these needs. He then gathered a group of fellow CWB supporters from First Parish and Pilgrim Congregational churches in Lexington and asked each of them

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*The Ng'ombe Family Support Home now has a newly completed protective wall, two new latrines, a level play yard, a second classroom, and a new kitchen.*

### Meeting a Need in Ng'ombe, from page 1

to reach out to fellow friends of CWB with a goal of raising \$10,000. Within two months all of the needed funds were raised. Under the leadership of SWAAZ, work commenced in the summer of 2010 and was completed by the end of the year. The Ng'ombe Family Support Home now has a newly completed protective wall, two new latrines, a level play yard, a second classroom, and a new kitchen. New desks have arrived much to delight of students and their teacher, Nina. The Ng'ombe Family Support Home currently supports 60 preschool children.



### CWB Teacher's Conference, from page 1

A number of suggestions were made on ways in which we might be able to strengthen the program and more specifically, the educational experience of our children. One of the more interesting suggestions involved the development of a "sensitization" program for caregivers aimed at increasing their own understanding of the value of an education. One of the participants remarked that caregivers do not always value their children's education and instead urge them to complete household chores or work in the markets rather than go to school. Other suggestions included extending the tutoring program now in place for 7th and 9th graders to an earlier age, and increasing nutritional supplements, especially for the older children.

The conference concluded with strong agreement that coming together and sharing experiences and suggestions was a very powerful and positive way of improving the educational experience of the children. At the same time it provided a valuable way of connecting with CWB, our NGO partners, and other teachers and professionals doing similar work.

[NOTE: If you would like to know more about the conference as well as proposed recommendations, please contact Al Jacobson at [al@CWBusa.org](mailto:al@CWBusa.org), responsible for CWB field operations.]

### CWB Welcomes Two New Board Members

#### Patrick O'Reilly

In 2010, Patrick O'Reilly retired after over 40 years in health and human services. His career began in the Peace Corps in Nigeria followed by work in community relations for NYC, as Co-Director of the Center for Survey Research at Yale, and in cardiovascular risk reduction programs at Boston Medical Center. For over 20 years Patrick worked at Masspro, advancing healthcare quality. Patrick has a Masters in public health from Yale University and a PhD in applied social science from Boston University.



#### David North

David North has 25 years of experience as an operational corporate finance executive.

He is a CPA with a BA from Dartmouth College and an MS in Accounting from the NYU Stern School. After 4 years at Deloitte & Touche, David held corporate finance positions at several multinational companies including Cabot Corporation, Newell Rubbermaid, Invensys and Cookson Group Plc. before being hired as Chief Financial Officer for New England Confectionery Co.



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