



**Cecily's
Fund**

**Summer
Newsletter
2021**

**Our Journey
Together:**

**Join Team
Cecily's Fund
on our
Virtual
Zambian
Challenge**

**Alumnus
John Sela
talks about
Leadership**



Warm greetings to you all, our cherished supporters. Welcome to our Cecily's Fund 2021 Summer Newsletter!

May we begin by saying a huge thank you to everyone for your continued support. We truly appreciate the various ways that you consistently support Cecily's Fund and the programmes we implement in Zambia.

In this newsletter we share how despite dealing with challenges that are out of our control, we remain committed to successfully delivering the vital programmes that enable access to education for our beneficiaries. You can read more on page 3.

Our main feature on pages 4 and 5 addresses Leadership

Put on your running shoes and dust off your dumbbells! Join Team Cecily's Fund on a 20,000km virtual journey from Witney to Lusaka in our 2021 Zambian Virtual Challenge. More information and instructions on how to sign up for yourself, your family and friends up is on page 6.

Have you ever run 10km? The London 10k race took place on the 25th of July, and we celebrate the success of our supporters who took part on page 7. Follow other ongoing fundraisers along on our website and social media.

We hope you enjoy reading!

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Cecily's Fund is named in memory of Cecily Eastwood, who died in Zambia during her gap year in 1997. The charity was set up by her parents, Alison and Basil. Over the years, our work has helped over 20,000 children and we've spent over £6 million on projects in the country, building brighter futures in Zambia and helping to break the cycle of poverty.

Social

Keep up with our news on Twitter, Facebook and YouTube at /cecilyfund and on Instagram at cecilys.fund



About and Contact

Cecily's Fund is registered charity 1071660. Our work makes education possible for orphaned and vulnerable children in Zambia.

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Access to Education + Menstrual Hygiene Social Enterprise Project



Our Access to Education programme continues to provide essential support to children in need. In 2020 we were able to help marginalised children with school fees, uniforms and books, supporting 433 highly disadvantaged children in Kitwe district alone. We also help train school guidance teachers in the care of orphans and vulnerable children, contribute towards teacher salaries and support feeding programmes. Now our new approach to working with schools is gaining momentum as we continue to work closely with selected schools, building capacity and focusing on setting standards in four key areas of governance, pupil care and support, parent and community engagement, and strengthening links with local Government.

Helping Mothers and Carers Become More Financially Literate

Our GROW (Grassroots Owning our Wealth) Saving and Loan Group initiative helps women and their families retain their independence and maintain economic empowerment, a significant step towards creating confident, self-sustaining communities.

The combination of financial literacy training, with learning how to save small amounts of money has resulted in many vulnerable women being able to start small businesses and accumulate wealth by saving regularly.

One carer shared, *“Before the training my teenage daughters and myself used to use ordinary sanitary pads and sometimes chitenge cloths during menstruation. The girls did not have adequate information about menstrual hygiene. I am very thankful that the training has taught me vital information about menstrual hygiene which I will be able to share with my daughters and others in the community.”*

Most of the mothers and carers participating in the financial literacy training have received little or no formal education.

The opportunity to learn new skills enables them to learn how to budget and become more financially literate. Despite not having any prior knowledge of record keeping, budgeting, or simple calculations, they proudly expressed that they had learnt a great deal of useful skills and information that they were happily ready to start applying to their personal finances as well. Many of them explained that they were pleased to move away from their use of money lenders known as *Kaloba*, where the initial borrowed amount attracts 50% interest in addition to collateral. At the end of a training session a mother, Chanda, excitedly said *“I have learnt a new skill! I can now actually manufacture reusable pads - for use by myself and my daughters and also for sale, which can make money that I can use for household welfare.”*



Photo sent by local partner.

(Above): A participant learning how to manufacture reusable sanitary towels

Leadership Through Service: John Sela's Story

Are leaders born or made? What inspires individuals to take on leadership roles?

Cecily's Fund alumnus John Sela is running for the Councillor's seat in his local community, Chati Ward — and his motivation is extremely personal. We are fortunate to find out how and why the boy who sold home-brewed beer became the man determined to help provide innovative approaches to sustainable community development.

In a few short sentences, please tell us about yourself.

Life was hard growing up. While I was fortunate to go to school, it became increasingly difficult for my family to support me and my 5 siblings and once I completed school, I was met by the unforgiving conditions of unemployment. This painful and difficult period went on for a few years and it wasn't until 2015 when a neighbour told me about the Cecily's Fund project called Connecting Communities Learning for Life (CCLL) that I first began to have hope for the future again. During this time, I was exposed to so many ideas and opportunities to learn and I gained useful skills. The guidance I received from the Cecily's Fund team inspired me to register my own organization.

To what extent has Cecily's Fund impacted the direction of your vision for your community?

The value that is so rooted in me is of servanthood towards the people around and the community at large. I always hope to provide a light for people feeling like they are in darkness. In addition to my newly acquired skills, I had since learned about Cecily Eastwood's life story, and I remain moved years later by her passion to help vulnerable children & young adults whose parents died from HIV and AIDS pandemic.

My time as part of the CCL4L programme was truly life changing!

What is the vision for your service should you be elected Councillor of your ward?

The vision for my community stems from the many challenges that Zambian OVCs and their families face, which among other things, include extremely limited to no access to adequate health and education infrastructures. Lack of employment opportunities is also a very big challenge for many Zambians - especially the youth. This makes them lose hope and end up loitering, becoming irresponsible in the community and often find themselves engaging in all kinds of detrimental activities such as drug and alcohol abuse, prostitution, early marriages, and

robbery, to name a few. Approximately 70% of my community are living in poverty. My vision once elected is to contribute to health, education, infrastructure development, employment creation and poverty reduction amongst the marginalized, vulnerable families in my community, Chati Ward.



Alumnus John Sela is running for Councillor's seat in his community.

“Currently I am a founder and president for a non-profit youth-led organization called Mindset Life Youth Association.

Our vision is to raise youth advocates and leaders in promoting quality education, good health practices, and entrepreneurial career pathways in Zambia.”

“...Cecily’s Fund taught me that – true leadership focuses on uplifting the life of others.”

Which qualities do you believe a great leader must possess?

There are a number of qualities that I strongly believe a leader should have but the following are so dear to my heart and they include;

Vision – I am a strong believer in the adage that says, ‘Vision is everything for a leader’. It is the vision that leads the leader, provide hope and help him or her to organize resources needed to achieve it.

Communication – There cannot be a leader without followers and vice-versa. Thus it is the duty of a leader to communicate his or her vision and make people understand why they should get involved in that vision.

Servanthood – I have learnt that leadership is not necessarily being in the position to give instructions or orders but living a life with the focus to bettering the life of others.

Character – Nothing defines a leader better than their character. Leaders are those that never compromise to their rooted principles even when others don’t agree with their course of action.

Initiatives – Things don’t go as planned, and to be a good leader, I always try to take the initiative by looking for new opportunities and willing to take action.

Please share how your personal experiences have influenced your vision for your community.

As a result of the hardships we went through as a family, I knew the meaning of poverty at a very tender age. My mum used to brew the local beer called *munkoyo* and then sell it just to buy food for us. Paying our school fees was also a struggle. I remember mum would take me and my siblings with her to do piecemeal work in an effort to raise money towards our education.

When I passed grade 10, I used to walk 11km (6.8miles) to go to school. Also, there was no water in the area I went to school—we used to share the ponds with wandering animals. This was all very challenging, and unfortunately this is still the case for several children and young youth here in Zambia. Personally I believe in being the change you want to see, as nothing changes until one takes the step. The challenges I faced are the wheels that drive my

passion for improving the livelihood of the people in my community.

Any final words?

To all readers, especially youths:

You should never define yourself by your current situation, nor should you compare yourself to others because we are all unique – believe in yourself. Life is full of ups and downs but the key to the realization of your dream is endurance.

You are born for greatness.

Spring24 Zambian TV: Live Interview with Jackson Tembo

Jackson’s live interview is such incredible insight into how deeply and positively Cecily's Fund impacts the lives of Zambian children and young people in our care.

Jackson gave a very successful television interview when he was interviewed in Lusaka, live on Spring24 TV's Morning Daily Feel Good show. He spoke about life as a Cecily's Fund beneficiary as well as the positive, life-long effect of some of our programmes, such as our Peer Health Educator programme.

You can [watch the interview](#) - and subscribe - on our [YouTube](#) channel called ‘*Cecily's Fund*’.



JOURNEY TOGETHER WITH US!

Cecily's Fund Zambia Virtual Challenge 2021!



Join us on an exciting and unique 20,000-kilometre mapped virtual fitness challenge during the months of September, October and November. Log your own exercise sessions and watch as our team makes its way towards Chazanga on the outskirts of Lusaka, Zambia.

We are aiming to raise £3000 to help support our vital work to improve the lives of orphans and vulnerable children in Zambia so [please sign up today](#).

Starting at our office in Witney and finishing at Bwafwano Integrated Services Organisation (BISO) on the Chazanga compound on the outskirts of Lusaka, this will be an epic mapped virtual mission that will give you an insight into Cecily's Fund supported projects en-route. None of us can do this alone, so we appeal to you and your friends to join our Super Team today to ensure that together we make this happen.

The beauty of doing the challenge virtually is that you can take part at your own pace and in your own space. Your participation can be designed to fit around your work and home commitments. Please stay safe and always exercise in accordance with Government COVID-19 guidelines.

Join in and record your walk, run or cycling distance (or convert other fitness activities into distance using our Activity Conversion Chart). If you use a fitness app – e.g., Strava, Fitbit, Garmin or Apple Watch – you can sync this with the mapping platform for automated uploads.

Please visit our official fundraising page and you can also sign up here:

[Sign up | Click here to sign up](#)

[Cecily's Fund Zambia Virtual Challenge](#)

Virtual Virgin Money London Marathon

General entry now sold out – Cecily's Fund has 3 places!

General entry into the virtual 2021 Virgin Money London Marathon on Sunday 3 October is now sold out. The only way to be a part of the world's biggest-ever marathon is to secure a charity place. Cecily's Fund still has places in the Virtual London Marathon so

if you would like to run for Team Cecily's Fund, please contact: acooper@cecilyfund.org to apply to take part.

You'll have a full 24 hours to complete your 26.2 miles on Sunday 3 October, so don't miss out!

All finishers will receive their running numbers before the event and the coveted official finisher medal and T-shirt post event.

Fundraising

A heart-felt thanks to you, our valued supporters

London 10k: Southborough School for Team Cecily's Fund

A very big thank you to the fantastic staff team from Southborough High School for running the London 10k for Cecily's Fund again! Below is a statement from the school's headteacher, Matthew Illies:

"Some years ago a number of colleagues were preparing to mark World Aids Awareness Day and at that time, we were keen to support people struggling notably with the impact of HIV/AIDS. Internet searches brought to our attention Cecily's Fund and we were particularly interested in the fact that the Fund was principally an educational charity.

Involving ourselves with Cecily's Fund made perfect sense to us as we too are 'in the business of education' Staff were confident that pupils would embrace an opportunity to respond to support 'disadvantaged' young people in their educational efforts. We decided to invite both Alison and Basil Eastwood to the School to speak with us about Cecily, as well as about Zambia and the children there and the work of Cecily's Fund.

We were immensely impressed by both Alison and Basil and over the years that followed, Southborough High School has annually sought to continue our support, specifically by running the London 10K. Every year staff have been generous in giving of their time to run the London 10K and our pupils



Above: The Incredible Southborough High School Team

and the wider school community have been generous in donating repeatedly in support of what all consider to be a 'noble and worthy' cause."

International School of Lausanne Sports Fundraiser

Congratulations to The International School of Lausanne in Switzerland on successfully raising **over CHF1900** from their 13000km virtual challenge!



Participant's photo while on a 10km run: "Good or bad weather, just do an exercise today— it can be inside or outside. You all are doing a great job. Bravo to all of you and keep pushing yourself a little bit. Greetings from the vineyards with the view on Lac Léman."

Would you like to offer to have a virtual coffee morning, a solo adventure challenge, or something bigger (government rules applied)? Everything helps our young Zambians improve their life chances. Maybe your children's or grandchildren's school would like to give a donation from a sponsored walk? All ideas are welcome — and encouraged!

Contact Anne, our Senior Fundraiser (acooper@cecilyfund.org)

Follow us on social media for all news and fundraising updates, as well as to share and tag us in all your photos of either our events or the ones you will be hosting.

For lots of fun ideas and a fundraising pack full of tips, visit cecilyfund.org/fundraise



"I had a Great 10K run, spurred on to dig deep running for Cecily's Fund, a very worthy charity! Please give your support to Cecily's Fund." ~ Julie



Your chance to help out

Donate today and help us change lives in Zambia

Whatever amount you can give, whether regular or as a one-time donation, can help Cecily's Fund build brighter futures for Zambia's orphaned and vulnerable children. Just £5 supports out feeding programme, while £50 can help us keep a child in school for a year.

Please return this form to:

Cecily's Fund
Top Floor, 6 Church Green
Witney
Oxon
OX28 4AW

Single and regular donations can also be made online at www.cecilyfund.org. Thank you for your support!

Yes, I want to give Cecily's Fund a one-off donation of... £

Please tick to agree with the following statement: I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax in the current year than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations, it is my responsibility to pay any difference. This includes any donations I make in the future or have made in the past four years.

Please tick to confirm the above:

Title

First name or initial(s)

Surname

Full home address

Postcode

Email

Date

Signature

This form **must** be signed in order to be valid

Bank Standing Order Mandate

(Please also fill in the left-hand side)

This is an instruction to your bank. Please fill in the form, return it to us, and we will process it for you.

Please pay Cecily's Fund

CAF Gold, Sort Code 40-52-42 A/C No. 00089893

The sum of: £

Each month

Each quarter until further notice

Each year

Date of first payment

Bank name

Bank address

Name of account holder

Account number

Sort code

Signature

Date