



Educating young
Zambians for a
better future



**The Stepping
Stones
Christmas
Give 2021!
Helping
Children Back
to School**

**Alumnus
graduates as
medical
doctor! Meet
Dr. Francis**

**Christmas
Shopping
Made Easy**



Welcome!

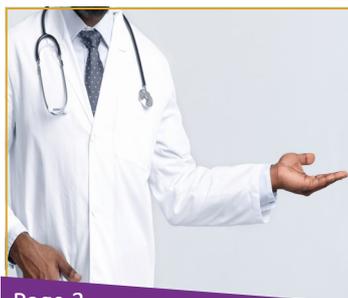
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WELCOME

Greetings for the new season and a very warm welcome to our final newsletter of the year, launching our Christmas Appeal for 2021, The **Stepping Stones Christmas Give 2021: Helping Children Back to School**. The focus of this year's appeal is Helping Children back to School, simply because, the global health pandemic continues to expose the dire reality of those extremely poor and vulnerable families in Zambia who are often overlooked, and who continue to live in extreme hardship. As schools closed for most of 2020, orphans and vulnerable children remained at home. Unlike their British counterparts, they received no education and had no access to books, computers, or ways to learn remotely. Now as schools reopen, we are aiming to help as many children as possible to return to school and gain the education they deserve. Our target of £25,000 is challenging in these difficult times but we hope that through our efforts, the most disadvantaged children will not be left behind. The power of education provided by your support can be witnessed through our alumni feature on Dr Francis. Without your help, Francis would never had gained the opportunity to become a Doctor. Now he is giving back to local communities—as Archbishop Desmond Tutu once said, *'Do your little bit of good where you are. It's those little bits put together that overwhelm the world'*. This year, please do whatever you can, regardless of how small, either donating directly to The Stepping Stones Christmas Give, or by joining in our Zambian Challenge, or holding a fundraising activity or event to help our Zambian Children return to school. With only 2% of Zambia's population being vaccinated, the things we take for granted this Christmas are not available for the majority of Zambians. However, there is hope, and together we *are* making a difference!

We hope you enjoy reading and look forward to sharing more news in the New Year!

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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 cecily.fund



About and Contact

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

For **Newsletter Feedback and Supporter Enquiries** - Princess Green, Communications and Supporter Relations Officer
princess@cecilyfund.org

For **Fundraising Enquiries** - Anne Cooper, Senior Fundraiser
acooper@cecilyfund.org

Phone
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Website
www.cecilyfund.org



The Gift That Keeps on Giving.

How Dr Francis is giving back..



We are extremely proud to introduce to you, Dr. Francis Munkombwe, who has been supported by Cecily's Fund since he was a young teenager in high school.

Dr. Munkombwe is the last born in a family of 7, and after his father tragically passed away when he was in grade 11, his family was faced with a lot of challenges, including not being able to afford school fees. Despite the challenges, the support he received from Cecily's Fund gave him new hope and he seized the opportunity the moment we began paying his school fees. He remained determined to do his best and this was demonstrated when he graduated from secondary school at the top of his class!

During his time in school, he was trained to be a peer-health educator by Cecily's Fund's partner, CHEP which, he says, instilled in him a lot of confidence and helped shape the person that he is today. *'I carried several of the values and life-lessons I learned during my time as a peer-health educator with me throughout school'* he says.

'Cecily's Fund came to my aid by paying my school fees. My burdens lessened, and I graduated high school with flying colours! I then worked as a Cecily's Fund Peer Health Educator for CHEP in 2009. In 2010 I applied to the University of Zambia to study medicine, since my passion lies in health and medicine. It was a tough process getting in, with high academic standards required of students in the faculty. I was overjoyed when I was granted admission, and even more so knowing that Cecily's Fund was still supporting me! After I completed my first degree, Bachelor of Science in Human Biology (B.Sc.. HB), it became very challenging. However, I managed to get my second degree, Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery (MBChB).'

"I am grateful for the sponsorship Cecily's Fund gave me from grade 11 to university. I am now a fully qualified and registered medical doctor and eager to give back by working with Cecily's fund in line with my field of work."





The Stepping Stones Christmas Give 2021!

Helping Children Back to School



Last Christmas was not the usual festive occasion we had hoped for. This year, we want to make it a Christmas to remember through our Christmas Give 2021! Our £25k target will help hundreds of Cecily's Fund's children go back to school, and we are appealing to you, our caring and generous supporters, to make this a reality. The direct effect of the Covid-19 pandemic in Zambia has resulted in School closures, economic and food insecurity, barriers to distance learning, gender-based violence and the most vulnerable, being forgotten and left behind. COVID-19 has created anxiety and feelings of hopelessness about their educational futures. Despite all this and with the help of you, our selfless supporters, Cecily's Fund has remained committed to ensuring that the families who need us most, continue to receive as much care and support possible that will help them to be resilient, and live independently so that they are not continuously dependent on handouts and external help. This year's Christmas Appeal will help us to do just that!



Every gift no matter how small is a stepping stone towards changing a child's life



The Stepping Stones Christmas Give!

Helping Children Back to School



CHRISTMAS GIVE

Can you help us meet our £25,000 target? Give the gift of education this Christmas and help change a life forever. Every donation, no matter how small, will count!

This Christmas, more than ever the poorest and most disadvantaged children need to know that they are not alone and that they are loved and can feel safe and secure with our help.

We know from our local partners that most families have been forced to reduce meal portions as well as cut back on the number of meals they can have each week. The overall health of disadvantaged children has also deteriorated due to limited or no access to frequent, healthy, nutritious food. As the UK moves forward and learns to deal with the after-effects of Covid19, in Zambia, the virus has impacted communities in such a way that its effect will be felt for many years to come. Lockdowns meant that children have now forgotten to read and write, as they were cut off from the rest of the world when everything was forced to close. With no computers, mobile phones, internet or electricity, communities where CF children live, have been made to miss out again, bringing their progress to a halt. As schools reopen in Zambia, the opportunity costs of going to school are even greater whilst parents and guardians struggle to make ends meet.

Money raised from the Stepping Stones Christmas Give 2021 will help us to continue to enable the most disadvantaged children to gain an education. It will support school fees, training and skills development for parents and guardians to lessen dependency, it will help us to provide vital peer health education, after-school activities and rebuild confidence, resilience and self-belief to help keep those children in school.

£5 helps to provide a nutritious daily meal for a child

£10 helps to support community savings groups

£60 feeds four vulnerable families

£100 pays school and exam fees for three children for one year



Fundraising

A big thank you to everybody!



Come Journey With Us! Cecily's Fund 2021 Virtual Challenge — Join TODAY!

Team Cecily's Fund needs you!

Please help us reach our goal of raising £3,000 for this fun challenge which is seeing us exercise our way from our offices in Witney to our local partner in Chazanga, on the outskirts of Lusaka, Zambia via 8 other milestones notable to Cecily's Fund.

We're looking for 300 participants to join the Cecily's Fund Super Team, so please do ask your family, friends and colleagues to join the fun and sign up too, by following this link: [Buy your £10 ticket here](#). Anyone can also donate to our JustGiving page, which is useful if you are collecting sponsorship. [Donate to Just Giving here](#).

Let us get more people on board raising funds for Cecily's Fund.

Cecily's Fund 2022 Online Quiz Night

What colour are black boxes on airplanes? Between which two places did the first railway track in the UK run? Whether you participate solo or form a team within your household, we hope that you will join in the fun during next year's quiz night! Keep an eye out for details.

a). Orange b). Stockton to Darlington



Join us for Lunch and meet our alumni!

After a successful event last year, Cecily's Fund is excitedly preparing for our second 'Meet the Team' Q&A interactive virtual luncheon. **We warmly invite you to please join us to virtually meet, and hear first hand from our brilliant alumni and dedicated local partners in Zambia.**

The much-anticipated, social event will be held **on Thursday, 2nd December 2021 at 12.30pm on Zoom.**

More details will be sent to you closer to the date. This is an event you won't want to miss!

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.

For more info, please contact Anne, our senior fundraiser:
(acooper@cecilysfund.org)

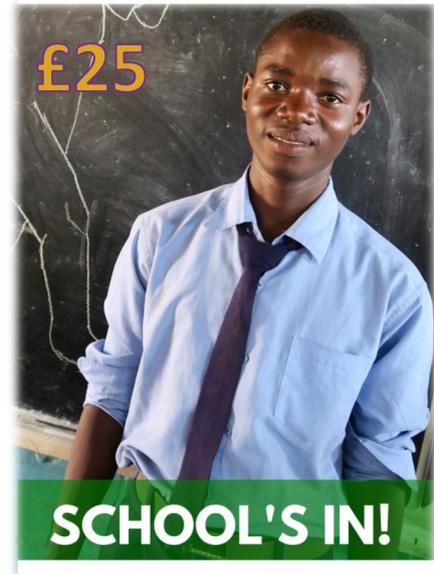
For lots of fun ideas and a fundraising pack full of tips, visit cecilysfund.org/fundraise

Christmas Shopping Made Easy!

Shop gifts from our online shop

Gifts of Hope from £5

Buy a Gift and make a difference to the life of a vulnerable child. With each gift you buy we will send you a greetings card describing how your gift can help to educate a Zambian child, in which you can write a personal message to your friend or relative. See what difference we can make together - and remember that because Gifts of Hope are donations, they're eligible for Gift Aid, making your money go even further.



Your very special gift can remove one crucial barrier between a Zambian child and their education - which can transform a life, a family, and a whole community.





DONATION FORM

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.cecilysfund.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