

In communities affected by HIV and AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa, children and women are extremely vulnerable. They have no support system and are oftentimes a burden to their community. But because of people like you, WOW is providing a way for orphans and widows to be empowered with life essentials, life skills and hope in knowing the love of Jesus Christ. Every gift given to WOW in support of a WOW community helps build up a generation of godly leaders and empowers women to lead their families in healthy ways.

Establishing sustainability in Chibanga

Chibanga, a small rural community nestled in the heart of Zambia has overcome many challenges. When our team visited the community in the spring of 2009, we were overwhelmed by the incredible change in the community. Your donations are truly making a difference!

Before WOW donors became engaged with the community, women were unable to care for their children. Almost every woman struggled to feed her children. Clean water was unavailable and few families had any way of getting health care. An overwhelming sense of hopelessness had settled like a dark cloud over the community.

But today mothers are hopeful and actively participating in change.

Your gifts equipped us to join with community members in building a second classroom for the Chibanga Community School – the school we began building just one year ago. Today the second classroom is free standing and offers educational opportunities to many vulnerable children. The children are also receiving one hot meal each day which is supplemented by the community gardens managed by the widows' group. Because of your gifts, the community now has 10 sewing machines. Each machine is treasured because it helps the widows generate income. Women are also building stables to shelter the goats. Through these shelters, women are able to ensure that the goats are healthy, using the milk to feed their children.



Although many projects are in the beginning stages, we know that with your gifts, and God's faithfulness, families in Chibanga are being restored and renewed with hope for the future.

Giving life to the vulnerable

When our team met Lydia, she was in an impossible situation. Hungry and depressed, this young mother was left to care for eight young children on her own. Living in Mgona, Malawi, a community devastated by extreme poverty and disease, made life extremely difficult. Lydia shared her heart with our team telling us "I always sat alone in my bedroom every morning thinking of where to get food for my children. I thought that was the end of me."



Through our partnership with a local community-based organization, Somebody Cares, we were able to offer Lydia and her family immediate care, providing them with food, clothing, medicines and spiritual counseling. For four years we cared for the family, helping Lydia raise her children while also sending them to school. Today, thanks to the gifts of WOW donors, Lydia is one of 12 widows who have successfully completed a three-month-long tailor training course. The group now shares a tailoring business within the community. Lydia is also an active member of the community garden program which allows her to provide her family with healthy food each day.

In the past year, Lydia's spirit has been completely rejuvenated. Although her community continues to struggle against the devastating effects of HIV and AIDS, Lydia knows that through WOW the future of her children is beginning to be brighter and brighter with each passing day.

Rebuilding Kawale through practical care

Thanks to the gifts of WOW supporters the community of Kawale, Malawi has gone through an incredible transformation over the past few months.



In partnership with the Kawale Orphan Care Religious Committee, WOW helped deliver mosquito nets and blankets as well as school supplies to one hundred orphaned and vulnerable children. The health of children

has improved with a reduction in malaria cases as well as an increase in literacy and educational training for orphans.

WOW has also assisted in a community garden program, empowering widows through agricultural training and supplying them with maize seed and fertilizer. Widows are learning farming basics and the food they grow not only provides nourishment for their families but also food for the school feeding program. Additionally, in the months to come we will be finalizing the construction of a Life Centre which will be equipped with a hall and washrooms. The Life Centre will provide a place for training widows' groups, feeding programs, food storage and orphan care.

As WOW continues to partner with the Kawale community we pray for guidance and continued support for these orphans and widows as they battle against the ongoing threat of HIV and AIDS.