

\$44,643 Raised

\$110,000 Goal

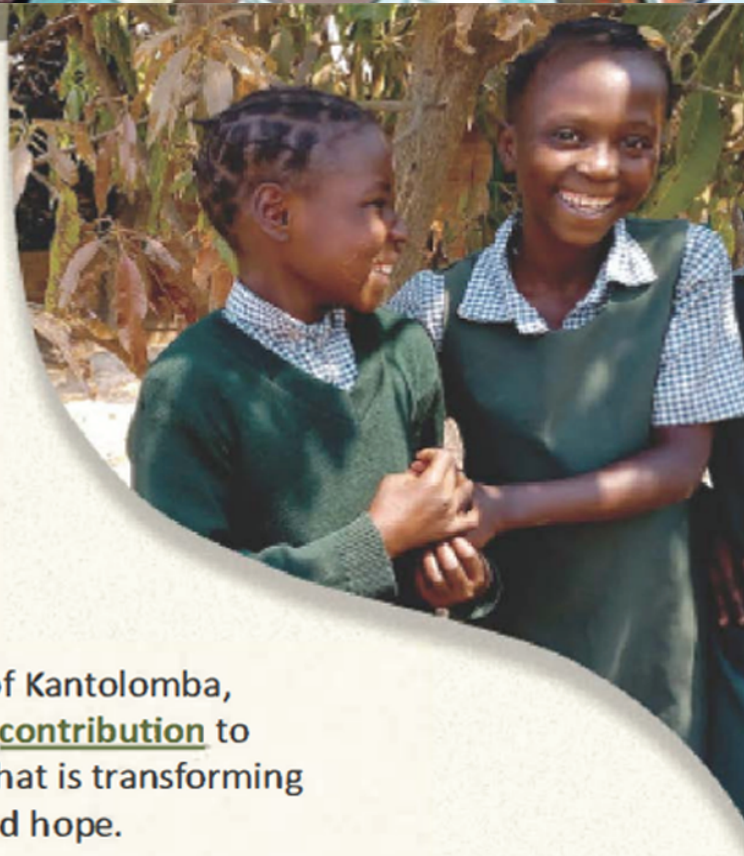


**AFRICA**  
VULNERABLE CHILDREN  
PROJECT  
a project of Living Compassion

## Your generosity supports their education!

Did you know educating girls is one of the most effective ways to care for the planet and address the climate crisis?

Support the girls in the community of Kantolomba, Zambia, to go to school by making a contribution to Living Compassion Africa, a project that is transforming lives through nutrition, education and hope.



## Vision

*It began with a question to Theresa Kapenda, a resident of Kantolomba.*

*Q: "What would you do if you had money?"*

*A: "Feed the children"*

When we arrived in Ndola, we found a community of 8,000 adults and 3,000 children lacking in all basic services: no safe drinking water, medical care, employment, adequate housing, electricity, or schools. They told us their ideas and dreams for what their community needed. Together we came up with a way to support their ideas for community empowerment.



We started feeding 25 children in August 2005.



We dug a well to provide clean water to the community.



We built a building so children could have a place to eat.



We hired a nurse to provide emergency medical care.



We found teachers in the community to tutor the children.



We launched a roof loan program so the community could weather the rains.

The community started an after school program, vocational training for girls, a tuck shop, an adult education program, and several micro businesses. And today we feed 1,000 children.

<https://livingcompassion.org/africa/>

## Girls Are Rocking It



Best of friends, Monica and Benadette are two of our grade 12 girls this year.

Families in Kantolomba, faced with impossible financial choices, do not see value in keeping a girl child in school. "Even if you wanted to," noted one mother, "it just doesn't seem to make sense."

Thirteen years ago Living Compassion began providing education assistance. "The nutrition program, in itself, was probably the number one factor in allowing families to keep their children in school," Veronica told us. "Out from under the constant threat of their children dying from malnutrition, and all resources needing to be funneled to sustenance, parents could direct what little they had to other needs, education among them." But for many years, this still meant boys stayed in school while girls got married.

But with the unwavering support of the team in Kantolomba, a tiny group of courageous, determined girls has been bucking that convention. They demonstrated to themselves, to their community, and to Living Compassion that they would do whatever it took to persist in their education. Fast-forward 6 years. The first group of these girls is now in college, and the entire community of Kantolomba is standing up and taking notice!

"The most amazing thing," Theresa reported to us one day, "mothers, even fathers, are now coming to me and asking for their girls to be in the program. They are seeing the value. The attitude has shifted completely." She said she sees families making their own investment in girls' education now, even aside from what the project is providing. "It just shows you what the example of a few girls can do!"

## A New Leader Emerges

"You can see the change in Peter," Theresa reports. "There is a new confidence in him."



Peter has been in the cooperative for over ten years. He has an interest in carpentry and eagerly volunteered to be the first adult to enroll in the pilot skills program. He hopes to turn his interest in carpentry into skills that can generate a sustainable income.

Peter has very little formal education, but after just three months in the program he is flourishing. He is learning carpentry, computer skills, how to run his own small business, and the mathematics related to these tasks. But what warms Theresa's heart is how Peter is blossoming as a leader taking responsibility.

He has taken charge of the little team that goes to skills school. He checks up on them. He ensures they are dressed properly and are prepared to apply themselves in school. "No one asked him to do that," she says. "He is stepping up!" You can't teach that trait!

A new shoot from deep roots, indeed.

## We're not the only ones with roofs.

From November to May, Kantolomba is whipped by torrential rains and high winds. Home is a dangerous place to take shelter from a storm. Unfired bricks, used to build houses, disintegrate in the heavy rains and collapse, creating a life-threatening hazard.

When Living Compassion first started, most people in Kantolomba did not have the money to put on a good roof. Tarps, metal sheets, old wheelbarrows, anything that could serve to make or hold down a roof was pressed into service. But it seldom worked...

...until the roof-loan program was launched. Every cooperative member received money for home repairs and to put on a proper roof. The loans were paid back and the money went into a revolving fund to provide other community loans.

As you walk around Kantolomba today, you see that almost all roofs are good roofs. "It is not just Living Compassion houses," Theresa explains, "people in the community learned the value of saving to put on a good roof. In the long run, it saves one a lot of money because you don't have to keep rebuilding your house. I think it is a very good example of how Living Compassion in Kantolomba is changing the whole community. It makes me very happy for all of us."

The roots of long-term investment have spread throughout the whole community!

