



ZOA brings together Zambians and friends of Zambia to confront the impact of the AIDS pandemic and challenges of poverty and seeks ways to respond to the desperation of children affected by both.

Mulele Mwana Tailoring Course is a Success

MULELE MWANA SKILLS TRAINING CENTRE, LUSAKA PROVINCE

Since 2002, Zambia Orphans Aid-US has been assisting Mulele Mwana Skills Training Centre by supporting youths enrolled in the food production and tailoring courses, and by providing funding for the feeding program at the community school. The stories of two Mulele Mwana graduates of the tailoring program who have gone on to establish businesses of their own are featured in this article:

Winfred Musenga graduated from Mulele Mwana Tailoring School in 2008. He worked for two other tailoring shops, including the Evet Fashion Designs at Arcades Shopping mall in Lusaka. "And that was my last place to be employed by someone!" Winfred said. He decided to go into business for himself.



Winfred Musenga at his tailoring shop

"In April 2013, I started my own fashion shop with a domestic machine," Musenga said. "After three months, I managed to buy another extra industrial and domestic over-locking machine. I started my business with working capital of K3000, (\$600 US) and my client orders rapidly increased. I decided to buy (4) extra machines. I later employed three workers so that they can help me," said Musenga."

"I have passion towards tailoring and am willing to share my skills with the young ones or anyone who is fresh from school. The four workers I have, three women and one man, are fresh from school," added Musenga.

"I thank Zambia Orphans Aid for the support that they have rendered to me," said Musenga. "May my God pour showers of blessings on you all. Without you, I wouldn't have been where I am today. Thank you very much once again!"

Gloria Mukonde is a 26 year old woman who was orphaned when she was in Grade 8 and was taken in by her grandparents. She was expected to put time into caring for them as well as her two younger sisters and a brother. For these and financial reasons, she had to leave school when pursuing Grade 9 studies. She moved to Lusaka in pursuit of economic opportunities. In 2009, she was enrolled in Mulele Mwana's Tailoring class and was supported by ZOA-US.

Upon graduation, she could not find employment as a tailor. She worked at a Maid center, and later joined a security company. A year later, she was employed as a tailor. She remained there for one year, during which time she worked as a security guard at night. Gloria saved money from both her jobs and by the end of 2011, she had bought herself two sewing machines and worked at home, mostly making ladies' garments. She made sufficient profits to invest in an industrial sewing machine and moved into Chilenje market where she rents a store.

MULELE MWANA SKILLS TRAINING CENTRE, *continued*

As of today, she owns 3 industrial machines and one embroidering machine and employs one young woman. She is currently training one family member in the same field, and hopes to open another store soon.

Gloria has continued to support her grandparents and three siblings, but has also picked up where she left off in school. She attends evening classes in order to complete her education. She hopes to take a teachers' course so she can start her own training center. In August 2014, Dr. Shimwaayi Muntemba, founder of ZOA, visited the store and was impressed by both the quality of Gloria's work and the flow of customers.



Gloria with Mulele Mwana student affairs officer



Gloria at her shop

In 2011, ZOA -US shifted its support to Mulele Mwana graduates who often find it difficult to start small businesses due to lack of seed capital. We wanted to encourage more success stories like Wilfred and Gloria. We agreed to provide funds to purchase sewing machines and equipment for a tailoring cooperative for Mulele Mwana graduates of the tailoring program. Since then, three of its members have moved on to start tailoring businesses of their own.

ZOA-US Supporters Visit St. Anthony Children's Village

In September of last year, a group of ZOA-US supporters from St. John Catholic Church in McLean, Virginia, visited three of our projects that they help to fund, including St. Anthony Children's Village in Ndola, Copperbelt Province. Jay LaMonica and his son, Gabriel, were among the visitors. "While at St. Anthony," Jay said, "We met Peter, an angelic looking young man, who appears to be about ten years old, but is closer to 20. He suffers from sickle cell disease and is not able to attend school. He is a talented artist and when he heard my grandson Jack likes to draw, he immediately sketched a few drawings of superheroes and saints and presented them to Gabriel to give to Jack."

"Being with the joyful and loving children who are cared for at St. Anthony Children's Village has been life changing," said both Jay and Gabriel.



Gabriel LaMonica, from McLean, Virginia, with Peter, a resident at St. Anthony Children's Village