



ZAMBIA ORPHANS AID



*Zambia, with more than **1 million orphans**, is one of the African countries hit hardest by the HIV/AIDS pandemic.*

Zambia Orphans Aid in the United States of America is a private voluntary organization (PVO) that was registered in Washington D.C. in August, 2000 to assist institutions and community organizations in Zambia that care for nearly 1 million orphans, the majority of whom have been orphaned by AIDS. ZOA operates in three countries: the US (ZOA-US), Zambia (ZOA-Z), registered in 2003 as an NGO, and the United Kingdom (ZOA-UK), established in 2006 as a Charity.

Zambia's orphans are trapped in a cycle of poverty. It can only be broken by providing access to education and skills training which will enable them to secure long-term employment. In a country where more than half the population struggles to meet its daily food needs, much more remains to be done to mitigate the impact of the HIV/AIDS pandemic on orphans and vulnerable children, and the households taking care of them. The mission of ZOA is to enable as many orphans and other vulnerable children (OVC) as possible to realize their potential by:

- ◆ Assisting children to complete their schooling by providing books, uniforms and fees, as well as nutritional supplements where necessary.
- ◆ Helping school graduates to acquire skills for the world of work.
- ◆ Funding income-generating activities, the profits of which allow the community to support its own orphans.

ZOA-US works through our sister organization in Zambia (ZOA-Z), which is responsible for the initial assessment of projects and recommendations for funding as well as ongoing project monitoring. The close relationship between ZOA-US and ZOA-Z allows for good governance and is crucial to the disbursement of funds in the most effective way possible.