

A Letter from Lisa Cavallero

Growing up in the Community Unitarian Church in White Plains, I was instilled with a sense of service—to give what time and resources I could to others. As a young adult I taught both pre-school and OWL Sunday school classes. Now I am spending a year working in financially disadvantaged communities near Livingstone, Zambia, continuing to serve and fulfill my purpose. [African Impact](#), my employer, is ranked the top volunteer organization in Africa and its mission focuses on sustainability for our community partners, which is the reason I am so impassioned to put all my efforts into helping the organization reach its many goals.

One goal is to sponsor 200 children by the end of the year. We currently have 167 students enrolled in our Sponsor-a-Child program, all of whom would not have access to education otherwise. Education is not free in Zambia; all schools require school fees and students must bring their own supplies and purchase their own uniforms. Parents often must choose between feeding their families and sending their children to school. Forty percent of children in Zambia must work to contribute to their household income or are required to stay home to look after others. Over one million girls have been forced into marriage at a young age, and many of them have not been able to stay in school past grade three. These children will not have the opportunity to attend school solely because of family finances.

For the cost of as little as \$5 per week, you can help provide a Zambian child access to education. These children will then have a greater chance to follow their dreams. It will create a ripple effect in their family and larger community; learning how to read and write opens doors to further education and careers.

How much does an education in Zambia cost per year?

Primary School (grades 1–7) - \$290

Basic School (grades 8–9) - \$390

Secondary School (grades 10–12) - \$420

You can learn more about the program at africanimpact.com/how-education-lifts-communities. Thank you for your support.