

Ladder of Hope Trust
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Dear Friends,

The Trustees are delighted to report that Phyllis Bwalya, mainstay of CINDI(K) for the past 20 years, is presently in the UK her family & us. This visit has been given as a gift to her from the pockets of the Trustees **not** through the LOH funds which are raised solely for the assistance of orphans & vulnerable children(OVC). As ever we can proudly say that the Trustees do not even claim for a postage stamp! Phyllis will be in the UK until Friday 6th of June she has already been to Durham & Hythe, Kent & will be visiting Derbyshire & Warwickshire, her base is in Ruislip. If you would like to meet Phyllis or talk to her personally, please contact me & I will arrange this.

Quick reminder that our range of Gift Cards is now fully available, go on line or contact one the Trustees for more details.

Many blessings much love & thanks,
Sue Brice
LOH Chairman

Phyllis's 'Top Ten' – I asked her to do the impossible & pick out ten highlights from all her years with CINDI(K):

1. **When CINDI(K)** started in 1994 we had no idea how much it would grow & how much difference it would make to the lives of children affected by the AIDS pandemic. Today we can boast that many of the children we have helped along the way are living independent lives, able to support themselves & their extended families.
2. **Although CINDI(K)** is based on the golden rule: 'Care for others as yourself would like to be cared for yourself', we are not supported by any specific religious or other interest group. It is true to say that we have received help from many different faith groups but our philosophy for our children is to give them freedom of choice. The help they are given is with the sole object of helping them to live independent, useful lives. No child is forced into choosing a specific job or career; we listen to their dreams & help them on the road to achieving them.
3. **In 1994 the AIDS** pandemic cut its terrible path through the lives of many families. The women of the local churches felt that they must do something to help. A social worker at Ndola Central hospital said she would take us & show us the effects. We went that day in a convoy of five cars with small bags of mealie-meal, the

stories we heard of lost daughters, husbands who had disappeared & mothers who knew that their adult children had died but did not know where their bodies rested were devastating to experience. I realised that our visit had raised false hope in these families, these motherless children, some babes in arms, some as young as 15 years trying to cope alone. We had arrived with big hearts but with no real idea of how to help: the size of the problem was overwhelming, I felt very guilty because what we did that day was to make the people think that we could change things when we could not & I withdrew from that well-meaning but impossible project. A while later, Sister Anne Bagnell came to see me & said that another group of people from different churches was thinking of setting up a realistic scheme of help. Among these were Anne & John Hogg & our late, wonderful friend, Margaret Smith. We began small & set ourselves targets that we could achieve & which would make a difference.

4. **Each member of the committee** contributed 2,000K per month. The thing that stands out in my memory about our small beginnings is the way I was encouraged & empowered by the members of the CINDI(K) executive committee. I really did not think I could achieve what they were asking & yet by degrees I felt my confidence growing, A good example of this was getting receipts for any money paid out. Margaret was treasurer & she had the foresight to see that we must always be accountable for any money spent. I took on the task of getting receipts for school fees – sometimes I would wait as long as two hours to get a receipt in my hand but I always did. In this way we laid the foundations for the transparent & accountable nature of CINDI(K) where the interests of the OVC were always & always will be the central focus of the operation.
5. **Along the way**, there have been many different members of the executive committee. It has been interesting to note those who have stuck by us through thick & thin & those who fell quickly away because travel expenses & sitting allowances were not on offer – in deed it's true to say that being on the executive was a privilege for which we paid. It is because of many different individuals whose motives were & are truly unselfish that we are as strong as we are today.
6. **Finances have always been pretty insecure.** As the numbers of needy OVCs grew we were glad to receive one off donations from different

organizations. We have been sponsored by some different groups along the way but as world problems changed over the years, these sponsors have either moved on to other interests or folded. The people we are so very grateful to are those who have come to us through networking. CINDI(K)s message spread from our small community across the world. Little people, heard of our work & individuals gave what ever they could – we call them Kind Friends of CINDI(K). These friends have grown in number over the years, it is their constancy & care which has enabled us to enable others. Ladder of Hope Trust began its work to support CINDI(K) in November 2008. It has helped finance the work of CINDI(K) by channeling the donations of individuals & groups through one account. This means that lump sums can be transferred reducing bank fees & also where the givers are UK tax payers it has enabled them to reclaim the tax paid & boost the funds they are able to send across.

7. **So far I have spoken about raising funds** to enable us to pay school fees, give medical help, welfare help & advice as well as nutritional support. To me a very important point to remember is the cost sharing scheme we insist upon. Now, some people tell me that we are a very cruel organisation because we insist that the Guardians contribute what they can & we top up what is needed. The vision of CINDI(K) is to increase self-sufficiency, not to create a climate of dependency. Imagine the self-respect it gives to the family to know that they have shared in empowering themselves, rather than waiting with open hands to be fed like beggars. One clear memory is of a young Grade 7 boy whose grandmother was very sick. Instead of waiting for her to provide, he went out & got piece work tilling a field for a farmer. Once he was paid, he came straight to CINDI(K) & gave his contribution to ensure that he could move up to Grade 8.
8. **One of our greatest successes is the farm** – 27 km outside Ndola. When the farm started in 2000, each guardian was allocated a lima of land (approx ½ acre) & provided with equipment & seeds. A water pump was installed & subsistence farming began. As the years have gone by, the guardians' independence has grown: nowadays all we do is provide 'heavy' transport, maintain the pump & repair the dwelling for the guard. You can only begin to understand what this means to our people in terms of a future which is not down to luck but

increasingly under their own control. Our present vehicle, so kindly financed by St Leonard's Church, Hythe, has been an wonderful work-horse, it continues to be key to both farm work & our wider activities.

9. **We are so proud of what CINDI(K) has achieved** by working with you, people who so kindly give because you want to make a difference. In many of the newsletters you hear of individual achievements – these will continue but there simply is not space here to tell all of the stories. What I want to share with you is what your generosity has meant. Thousands of children have passed through our doors, for the majority this has meant a sustainable future – electrical technicians gardeners, car mechanics, house workers, nannies, teachers. Others have gone on to complete university degrees & take up high profile, well paid jobs. This has empowered them to support not just themselves but members of their extended families. We no longer deal in thous&s, these days it's hundreds – our vision for the future is that one day the doors will close for the last time because our work is done. But for now, our work is still needed & will be for the foreseeable future. As our children grow in awareness we hope that they will work through government, through NGOs, through networking & every medium available to make the need for organizations like CINDI(K) history.
10. **In the immediate future our vision** is to make CINDI(K) increasingly self-sustaining, so that we can share more fully with you in the funding of our work. At the present time, we are beginning to realise our concept of turning the Transit Home into a hostel for F.E. students. The rent they pay for their rooms in the hostel will help to fund on-going costs of utilities, wages & transport. This will enable us to use donations in even more creative ways to enrich & secure the futures of our OVCs & their families.

**Lesa enga twalilila ukumipala pafisuma
fyonse mulechitila baka shiwa naba l&a
bonse.**

(...& for those of you whose Bemba is a little rusty... 'May God continue blessing you for the good things you do for the orphans & vulnerable children.')

With love

Phyllis Bwalya

**(Administrator, Social Worker and so, so much more for CINDI(Kansenshi),
Ndola, Zambia**