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Winter 2010 Issue

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Borehole for clean drinking water



Dwankhozi students working in class at their new desks.



Children of Dwankhozi.

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## Subvert the Dominant Paradigm *by Katherine Solan*

Challenge the status quo; find a new viewpoint; question the standard assumptions; investigate beliefs; make a change – Subvert the Dominant Paradigm. It's a phrase that has stuck with me since I heard it in a lecture during my Wheaton College years. The content of that lecture has long flown my memory, but the phrase has continued to drift through my thoughts and challenge me in the years afterward. It's the phrase that crossed my mind when I sat down to write these thoughts. I realized that it's probably what we could say has happened, in different ways, for each of us who have become involved with Dwankhozi Hope.

It is arguably a common assumption that philanthropic work is that of the "have's" giving to the "have not's" of a certain community. But the experience of working with the people of Dwankhozi has been radically different from this notion. What has developed over the last few years is a symbiotic relationship with a community on the other side of the world – each part giving to the other and filling in the gaps that the other may lack with grace, humility and friendship, offering rich and humbling opportunities to grow and change for every person that becomes involved.

## Call it Hope *by Missy Lein*

Have you ever felt a sense that you were meant to do something? Have that vague feeling that comes from somewhere deep inside- from a place you cannot even put your finger on but you just know it? That is how Beth came to be on a plane bound for Zambia, Africa. "At one board meeting, I realized I have to go. I need to meet these families- these parents and kids. I just felt it was something I needed to do even though I was fearful."

We were awed as a group to experience miracles by way of connections that were made and the work that has already been done at the school. So much progress has been made and the generosity of others both in the US and in Zambia is causing mountains to move there for the betterment of the Dwankhozi Community. But more importantly, we experienced the transformational power of lives colliding and the reminder

And, we're of the opinion this is the best form that philanthropy could ever take – allowed to thrive by the strength of open hearts and a rich collection of viewpoints, dedication, talents, hopes, goals, ideas and experiences.

We want to be sure you know that this most certainly includes you. We're always looking for ways to open the doors even further to invite you to be a part of this work, in any way it might be meaningful for you and the people of Dwankhozi. Perhaps you'll find you have a desire to join a future trip to the school with our team; perhaps you have ideas for a unique fundraiser; thoughts on a way to tell the story you've become a part of to others in your circle and invite them to join in. Whatever your gifts or talents or passions may be, take a moment and imagine how there may be some way that you might like to enter further in and share your thoughts and ideas with us! It just may be that your ideas of what philanthropy is, and the role of supporters in it, is a paradigm that could be shifted for you in a similar way that is has for us – where support becomes participation and then relationship. If your heart leads you in this direction, go with it, and let us know!

that we are connected by the fact that we are human: we laugh, we love, we fear, we dream and we hope-these are the things that draw us together no matter what language you speak or what country you refer to as home.

"Getting to the school, being surrounded by the community, meeting the moms with their babies- that's when I felt transformed. That's when I felt I had a clarity of purpose but more so that's when I felt humbled to be a part of this. That's what the last 4 years was for...One of the most wonderful moments for me was when the moms surrounded me. We didn't speak the same language but we touched and we laughed and we hugged. All I could think to give them was pictures of my children- to share stories. I had gone to love but felt loved by them. I was going to share but so many others shared with me. I felt blessed by them."

## Plans and Progress

- Progress**
- Completed construction of the school building
  - Delivered textbooks, school supplies, sports equipment & desks to students
  - Provided clean water to the community by drilling a borehole (closed well w/ pump)
  - Built latrines
  - Supported teachers education & training

- Current Plans**
- Help complete Pre-K building
  - Medical mission trip in May of 2011
  - Build teachers housing to attract trained teachers

- On the Horizon**
- Build additional building for grades 8-12

### *Climbing for Change* by Katherine Solan

Recently, a friend of Dwankhozi Hope undertook an extraordinary journey to fulfill a dream. For Chris Kenessey, climbing Mt. Kilimanjaro was something he couldn't wait to undertake but in conversations about Dwankhozi Hope and what we've worked to accomplish, he discovered a natural link between his goals and ours. He'd been looking for a way to make a direct difference in the lives of others in Africa and realized that his climb could be dedicated to not only fulfilling his personal dreams but also to raising money for DH and the kids at the school. When he approached us with his idea, we were overcome with excitement and deeply honored. Enthusiastically joining our resources with his, we worked with Chris to create a fundraising campaign involving his friends, associates and family. The event soon became one of the most exciting and successful fundraising efforts DH has been blessed to participate in. He

reached the summit on Mt. Kilimanjaro on August 25<sup>th</sup>, and it is probably safe to say it was one of the most grueling, exhilarating and momentous events of his life. We can't be more proud of Chris nor more in awe of what he's done and his heart to support the DH mission in the process. We're excited to share Chris' story in even greater detail in a future newsletter. His inspiration helped to solidify our thoughts as an organization about how we'd like to continue to involve our supporters on deeper and more personal levels. What Chris, along with everyone who had the opportunity to support him, accomplished is an amazing example of what is possible when one starts thinking outside the box for giving to causes that one believes in. Our deepest and most heartfelt thanks to Chris and everyone who contributed toward his support and Dwankhozi Hope's mission in the process!

### *Reflections from Zambia through the eyes of Team Dwankhozi Hope* by Mike Kim

As an avid cyclist, one of the biggest thrills of cycling is the connection you have with your surroundings. The smell of the air, the feel of the road, the touch of wind, rain or sun on your skin - all these things make up the experience I have when I ride my bike.

When Charles Masala asked if I wanted to ride my bike with him in the Tour D'Afrique for Dwankhozi Hope in Zambia, I admit I was a little hesitant. My first thought was pretty lame- I actually conjured an image of a lion chasing me down a road while riding my bike. But, soon, the excitement of the challenge took over and, after months of training, I found myself on my bike riding through Zambia.

The first part of the ride can be summarized in one word, chaos, as we struck out through the heart of Lusaka, the capital of Zambia. When the name of a highway is called the "Great East Road", a cyclist knows he's in trouble. Combining the traffic with riding on the opposite side of the road in addition to navigating roundabouts from hell, I can't believe I made it out of Lusaka alive!

But, even as I was preoccupied with staying alive, I felt an instant connection and bond, not to the road, the smell of the air, or the feel of the wind on my face, but to the people. That is something I have never experienced while riding my bike in Seattle. People I passed yelled out in praise. Kids waved and gave a big thumbs-up. Each local cyclist I passed gave such a warming smile, my heart melted. Suddenly, my focus shifted; instead of worrying about my speed, the wind direction, or obstacles in the road, I began to deeply absorb the experience of my surroundings and the Zambian people.

On the second day of our journey, Charles and I were riding alone except for a faint figure behind us in the background. Every minute or so, I would look back and that faint figure kept getting larger, closer. Soon, I was able to make out the figure; it wasn't

another Tour D'Afrique rider, but a local kid with a passenger! Now, the typical Zambian bike might as well be made of solid lead for how weighty it is - this one had two passengers and it was gaining on us! And as these two kids came alongside, we had a wonderful conversation and rode together a while. It was an experience I'll never forget.

As the saying goes, it's all in the journey, not the destination. What I learned to appreciate was not the thrill of speeding down a hill. It wasn't the thrill of beating another rider or the sense of accomplishment after riding 100+ miles in one day. It wasn't even the thrill of seeing Victoria Falls, one of the seven natural wonders of the world. The biggest joy and thrill was in the interactions I had with the people of Zambia. It was an honor to ride for Team Dwankhozi Hope and to experience the people of Zambia. Please visit [www.dwankhozi-hope.org](http://www.dwankhozi-hope.org) for a video of the bike ride.

