

UPDATE FROM KAMAKONDE COMMUNITY | ZAMBIA

Hands at Work in Africa (Germany) in partnership with
Peppercorn



Hands at Work
AFRICA

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Ten dedicated local volunteer Care Workers, coordinated by Joseph, support the most vulnerable children in the community of Kamakonde. The love and care they provide ensure that each child is physically, emotionally and spiritually cared for.



Watching Mark* chatting with the Care Workers, you would never know that this young man was once described as shy and withdrawn. Yet when they first discovered him, it was a very different story. On a Holy Home Visit in search of the most vulnerable, the Care Workers were with a neighbour when they heard commotion in a nearby home. Compassionately curious, they discovered Mark being abused by his step-mother. Having never been to school, Mark was hungry and lonely, with only his brother and baby sister for company. Quickly inviting him to the Care Point, Mark now receives a meal daily and is enrolled in school, where he is in grade 4. The Care Workers are walking with David and his step-mother to try to resolve their problems. Care Worker Rebekah says: "The Care Workers have a good relationship with him. Every time he has struggles in his life, he comes to them for help."

Community Update

The Care Workers have grown in their ownership of the Care Point and are devoted to the children. They have good relationships with each other and increasingly are open to sharing their problems, facilitated by well-attended weekly Relationship Groups and a Maranatha Workshop, which took place in April. The community struggles under alcohol abuse, teenage pregnancy and childhood marriage, with wide belief in cultural strongholds.

These problems are beginning to manifest in the youth of the area. Healthy leadership is a problem and there is little church involvement. However, 15 Care Workers and Primary Caregivers recently committed to following Christ and made Jesus their saviour! With wealthier people beginning to move in and develop the area, poorer families are being pushed to the outskirts of Kamakonde. However, the number of children attending the Care Point is growing, and the new provision of free education in Zambia is making schools more accessible.



Activities and Projects

A special catering training day enabled the cooks to feel appreciated, improving both their cooking skills and their sense of community. A purpose-built kitchen has been added to the premises, enabling them to practise their newfound skills (pictured left). Recently, deworming took place and the necessities of mosquito nets, blankets, underwear and dental hygiene items were procured, ready for distribution. In addition, a toilet is being built at the Care Point, all of which adds to the children's safety, health and hygiene. With Care Workers struggling with challenging marriages, a Maranatha Workshop was arranged, extending the love and healing that can only come from Jesus. Combined with a commitment to the weekly Relationship Group, this has improved the unity of the Care Workers. In addition, many of the girls attended a youth camp at Kachele and they are now coming to the Care Point, helping and encouraging other teenagers.

