



African
Education
Program

We invest in African changemakers

To create the lasting change their
communities deserve.



Cynthia

High school and college
scholarship awardee from
2011-2022. Today, a prize-winning
poet and a graduate of the
University of Zambia.

Happy International Youth Day!



Julie-Anne Savarit-Cosenza

African Education Program
Co-Founder & Executive Director

Amos Youth Centre
Co-Founder & Board Member



Lumuno Mweemba Chongo

African Education Program
Program Advisor

Amos Youth Centre
Co-Founder & Director of Programs

Celebrating Youth Leadership: A Story of Community-Led Change in Kafue, Zambia

- **Our Roots:** Beginnings of a 20-Year Journey
- **Today:** Flagship Learning & Leadership Center
- **A Closer Look:** Reproductive Health Access Initiative





Our Roots

Beginnings of a 20-Year Journey

2004

African Education Program Founded

In March 2004, four Radnor High School (USA) students founded the African Education Program to serve their peers living in under-resourced communities affected by the HIV/AIDS pandemic in Zambia.



LINDA JOHNSON / Inquirer
Planning a fund-raising event to benefit the sick and needy in Zambia are Radnor seniors (from left) Julie-Anne Savariti-Cosenza, Christian Mark and Hillary Bridges. All three are also athletes at the school: Savariti-Cosenza plays soccer, Mark is a rower and Bridges plays tennis. They created their own nonprofit organization — the African Education Program — to aid Zambia.

Radnor trio sets up charity to aid Zambia

2005 First Container

Our initial vision was twofold.

1. A personal connection to the people we were serving through our soccer coach's brother who was a community leader in Kafue, Zambia.
2. Offsetting the waste in our schools by recycling and giving them to a community in need.





About Zambia

A photograph of four young girls in a classroom. They are all smiling and have their right hands raised high in the air. The girl on the far left is wearing a white lace vest over a red and white striped shirt. The girl next to her is wearing a white polo shirt. The girl in the middle is wearing a white t-shirt with a pink heart and the text 'I LOVE SLEEP OVER'. The girl on the far right is wearing an orange short-sleeved shirt. They are sitting at a desk with a book that has '40' and 'BOOK' visible on it. The background shows a window with metal bars and a view of greenery outside.

Did you know?

95%

Of Zambian 15-year-olds do not reach international proficiency levels in reading and mathematics.

In Zambia, Limited Access to Basic Necessities



59%

of Zambian children live in poor households.
45.4% of the population lives in extreme poverty.



48%

of Zambians are unable to meet their minimum calorie requirement.
35% of children are stunted.



82%

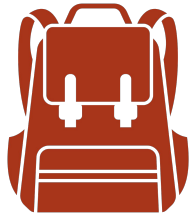
of Zambian women are unable to obtain modern feminine hygiene products.



66%

of Zambians are under the age of 25.

In Zambia, Limited Access to Quality Education



28%
of students reach 12th
grade and only 50%
start high school
despite free education.



50%
of children with
disabilities will not
attend school.



64%
of youth are literate.

For those lucky enough to pursue their education, they face under-resourced schools and under-trained teachers relying on rote memory teaching.

Most students attend public school for only half the day and rarely develop critical thinking skills. Creativity is also stifled.



John
11th grader



More Than a One-Time Project

2005 Trip to Zambia

A grant enabled the founders to travel to Kafue and meet the community receiving the container. Meeting with their peers, clearly this would not be a one-time project.



2006 Amos Youth Centre Founded

In August 2006, African Education Program volunteers, alongside Kafue community leaders and youth members, opened the flagship Learning & Leadership Center, named Amos Youth Centre.



Today: Our Mission

The African Education Program (AEP) unlocks the potential of African youth and adults by building and growing community-led organizations. These organizations lead local transformation through quality education, health, and community development initiatives.

Over the last 20 years, we have developed a unique model for partnering with community leaders to drive transformation through quality & inclusive education, health & well-being, entrepreneurship, and leadership development initiatives.



African Education Program



Today

Flagship Learning & Leadership Center

Flagship Learning & Leadership Center

Amos Youth Centre is Community-led & Community Operated



Majority of the Team are alumni of the center who have come back after their studies to spearhead the work.



Programs are informed by the children, youth and women. Learning and adaptation for greater impact.



The majority of the Board of Directors are Zambian. Focus on good governance and accountability.



Focus on Zambian resource mobilization and income generation to become less donor dependent.

Our Decade-Long Investment in a Child Creates Leaders



Age 5-10
Young Learners
Program



7th Grade
High School Prep
Program



8th-12th Grade
Academic
Support & Clubs



Gap Year
College Prep
& Volunteerism



College & University
Scholarships
& Volunteerism



Adults
Alumni Program
& Giving Back



MIRRIAM
Aspires to change
reproductive health
for Zambian women.



GEASAR
Seeks to increase
the quality of
education that
students access.



FEBBY
Seeks to change
special education
for children with
disabilities.



SMART
Aspires to be
President of the
Republic of Zambia.



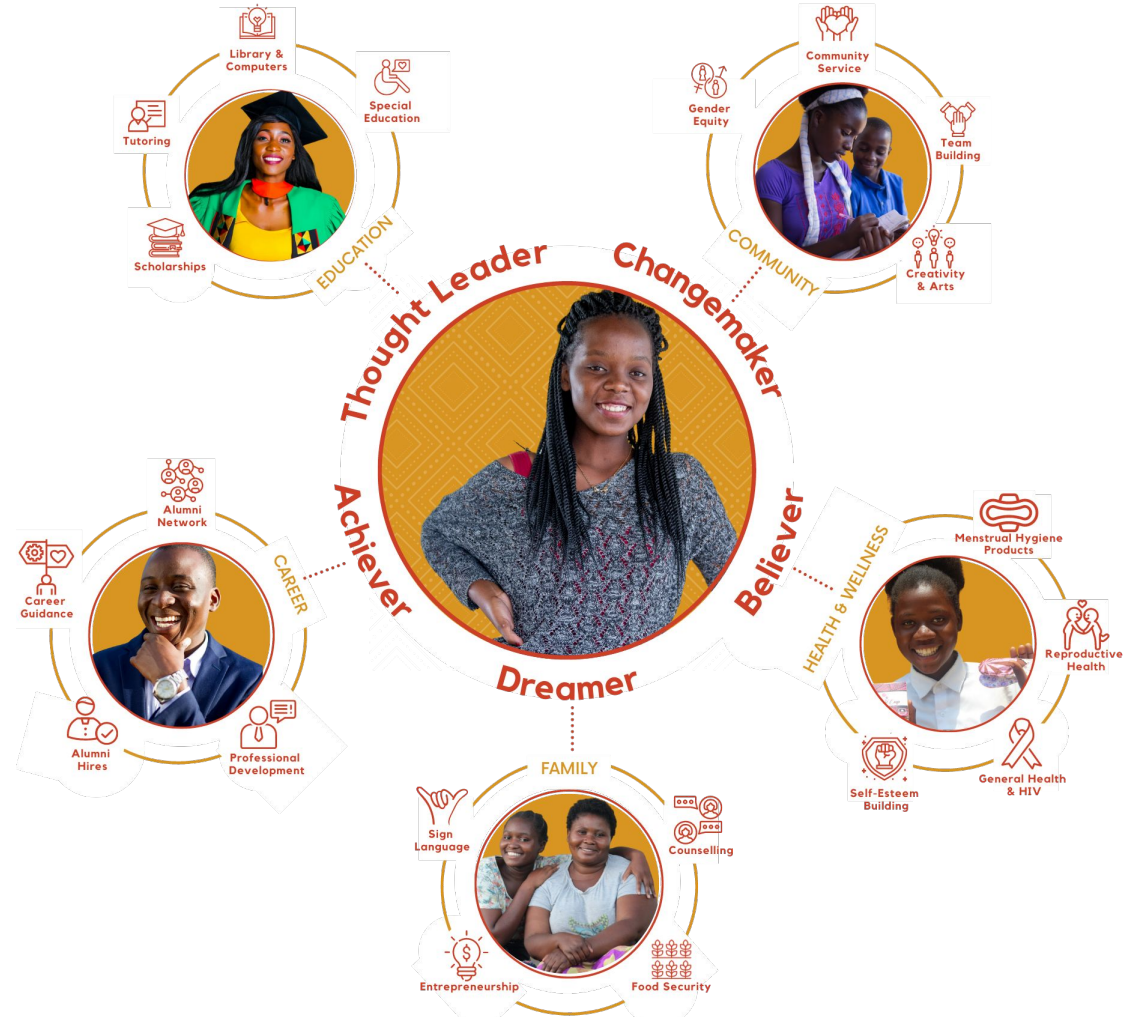
NATASHA
Dreams of
changing how
Zambians
access news
and information.



Program Highlights

Holistic Approach to Learning & Leadership Development

750+ children, youth and women access programs 3-5 times per week.



Scholarships for Education Access & Academic Tutoring

Academic support programs and clubs lead to higher graduation rates. Scholarships enable advancement to college.

Impact:

- In 2022, 86% of 12th graders passed the national exam compared to 69.31% nationally.
- 115 college and university graduates to date.
- 50 current college and university students and 56 in the College Prep Program.



Read for Rose Special Education Program

Girls and boys with disabilities learn the communication, academic, and/or life skills they need to live fulfilled lives while advocating for the changes needed in society so that they have equal access to education and economic empowerment.

Impact:

- 21 girls and boys with disabilities have individual learning plans.
- Each child has a tablet for enhanced specialized learning.
- Sign language classes for parents to better communicate with children who are hearing impaired.



Nutrition & Food Security

To mitigate hunger, we serve daily meals to the most children and youth.

Impact:

- The Nutrition Program serves over 250 hot, nutritious meals daily.
- These meals are more than porridge, they include a protein, vegetable, and a starch for increased nutrition.



Entrepreneurship & Financial Literacy

As a Global Catalyst Partner of Street Business School, we train mothers and guardians during a 4-month Women's Business Training.

In addition, we have a program for children and youth to gain knowledge, skills and resources about starting a new small business along with other financial literacy skills.

Impact:

- 140 mothers and guardians have graduated from the Women's Business Training.
- One cohort reported a 264% increase in income after the 4-month program.



Leadership Development & Volunteerism

Leadership development has always been a key component to our work and woven throughout all programs.

Impact:

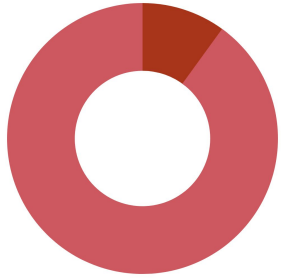
- Annual Leadership & Life-Skills Camp held in August for 100 youth to build a strong leadership skills base.
- Weekly Leadership & Community Service Club promotes regular skills development and service.



A Closer Look

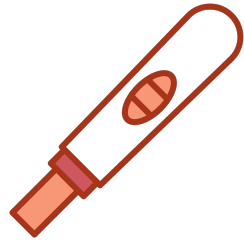
Reproductive Health Access Initiative (RHAI)

In Zambia, Limited Reproductive Health Access



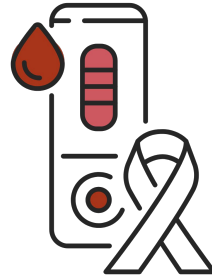
10%

of young women in Zambia (ages 15-19) use modern contraceptives, due to lack of access and education.



30%

of young women become pregnant before the age of 18. In peri-urban areas like Kafue the rate is 15-20%.



50%

of young women in Zambia (ages 15-24) are knowledgeable about HIV prevention.



14.6%

HIV prevalence among females (ages 15-59) compared to 9.3% for males of the same age.

History of RHA1

In 2007, we started distributing disposable pads and condoms to girls and boys at the Learning & Leadership Center. In parallel, we also introduced reproductive health programming at the Center as part of our holistic approach for empowering youth.

Building on nearly 15 years of work, the Reproductive Health Access Initiative (RHA1) was formalized in 2022 to address the lack of information about or access to family planning, modern contraception, and HIV / STD prevention programs, as well as the gender discrimination and cultural / social taboos that prevent girls and women from accessing crucial healthcare services and exercising their reproductive rights.

By equipping girls and women with the best modern tools to own their health, we're empowering them to participate fully in education and public life and to achieve their full potential.



Our Work

Ending Period Poverty

Through our partnerships with Saalt and Pixie Cup, we're distributing reusable menstrual cups and period underwear to the girls and women at the Learning & Leadership Center so they can take full advantage of their academic and professional opportunities.



Our Work

Shifting Community Perspectives

We believe that community members are best-positioned to create sustainable change, so we're working with family members in the community to start a dialogue and to shift perspectives on menstrual health, contraception, and reproductive rights.



Our Work

Increasing Access & Options

In collaboration with local partners like Pride Community Health Organization (PRICHO), we're unlocking access to inclusive, judgment-free reproductive health consultations, pregnancy and HIV testing, contraception, and educational materials.



Our Work

Promoting Peer Education

To amplify the impact of the RHA, the Learning & Leadership Center partners with Gold Youth Development Agency to train our youth as peer educators so they can teach their fellow students about reproductive health, contraception, teenage pregnancies, HIV prevention, and self-esteem — and further drive community-led change.



Our Work

Creating Girls' Agency

Guided by our belief that access to modern menstrual health knowledge and supplies changes lives, we distribute reusable cups, pads, and period underwear, and empower girls at the Learning & Leadership Center to choose what works best for them. The freedom of choosing the product they use is vital for creating girls' agency and lifting them up to participate fully in their education and in public life.



Our Work

Empowering Boys

Recognizing that boys, girls, women, and men can all participate in community-led change, the Boys Talk Club meets weekly at the Learning & Leadership Center to educate boys about gender equity, reproductive / menstrual health, and how they can empower girls and women.



Learning & Adaptation

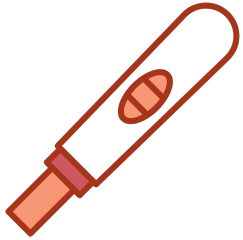
In addition to regular monitoring and evaluation across the center, we actively seek opportunities to assess, learn and then adapt RHAi for increased impact.

- University of Pennsylvania Master of Public Administration student completed capstone research project assessing menstrual health program.
- USAID Youth Excel Research-to-Change grant to formulate and test community-driven solutions for changing the cultural and social taboos surrounding menstrual health and hygiene.

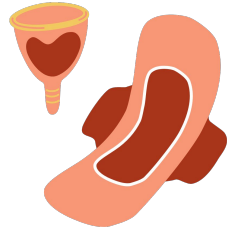
From these assessments we learned that there are still barriers in mother to daughter communication on reproductive and menstrual health, as well as the challenges that girls face in schools which include a lacking proper hygiene facilities.



RHAI Impact



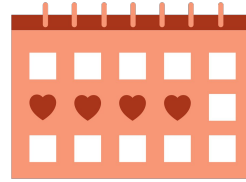
Only 2% of young women at the Center become pregnant compared to 15-20% locally.



502 menstrual cups and 486 packs of reusable pads distributed to date.



91.7% of young women in RHAI feel more comfortable managing their periods at home.



89% of young women at the Center who received reusable pads report using them during every period.



RHAI girls report a higher level of well-being than non-participants, and are less likely to be absent from school due to lack of access to menstrual products.

Thank you! Questions or Comments?

www.africaneducationprogram.org

