

Zambia Project

Focus: Promotion of Education in Africa

Objective:

To expand Holy Spirit Preparatory School's contribution to the promotion of justice and the fight against poverty/inequality through a long-term partnership with a Catholic secondary school, Minga Secondary School, in Minga, Zambia. In 2007-2008 academic year, HSPS students will fundraise \$46,250 in order to build one 100-student dormitory for girls, as well as money to pay for an HSP service/immersion trip to Minga Secondary School to contribute to construction works and also learn more about the people and culture of Zambia. In 2008-2009 academic year, students will raise another \$46,250 in order to build one 100-student dormitory for boys as well as money to pay for an HSP service/immersion trip to Minga Secondary.

The Need for the Project:

This project will concentrate on promoting secondary education, as this represents the means by which we can improve the life opportunities of the young in Zambia and provide them with the necessary skills to provide for themselves. 81% of Zambian youth still currently do not receive any kind of secondary education. Currently, the 300 "weekly boarders" at Minga Secondary have no adequate facilities. Instead, students are sleeping on reed mats on the floor of unused structures (such as an old kitchen and some small mud huts) Such conditions, exacerbated by the fact that discipline is difficult to maintain, are negatively affecting the health and academic performance of most students at the school. Teachers fare no better, and as a result, there has been a huge turnover of teachers willing to teach at Minga Secondary, particularly female ones. Mr. Cyprian Mchotsa, the headmaster of Minga Secondary since 2005, has listed accommodations as the greatest current need of the school.