

Over the last few years The HEAL Project has bought a large piece of land and built a house where Jeannie and 30+ orphans and sick children live. A large garden produces vegetables for the house and school, and some for sale, which provides employment for some of the teenage boys who live in a separate house on the site. There is room in the grounds for the children to play games - football is the most popular.

The ongoing need is for funds to pay for teachers and to provide essential equipment such as text books, exercise books, pencils, games equipment, even beakers and plates - basic things. Currently we are sending £3000 per month to the school and £500 per month to Jeannie at the orphanage.

We take everything we have for granted, but their homes have no running water or electricity and the children have few toys. In spite of everything, though, they are a happy uncomplaining group, very grateful for all we do.”

Some approximate costs at the school include:

The cost of a teacher’s salary is £150 per month  
£5 buys a tin of Kapenta dried fish or a bag of mealie meal (to make porridge)  
£500 per month pays for the breakfast and dinners at the school

You can make a one off donation or set up a regular donation.

Every pound raised in the UK is sent to Zambia - there are no administration charges.

Please help if you can: donate online via [www.justgiving.com/healprojectdonate](http://www.justgiving.com/healprojectdonate)  
or by cheque payable to *The HEAL Project*.

**To find out more about the project please contact:**

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**UK Charity No. 1120416**

# THE HEAL PROJECT

**HIV Empowered And Living  
Lusaka, Zambia**

[www.healprojectzambia.org.uk](http://www.healprojectzambia.org.uk)



The HEAL Project is based in Lusaka, Zambia providing education and support for more than 350 children and adults living with HIV and its consequences. The project was started by Jeannie Mulenga in 1999 with the help of Dr Helen Ayles, who lives and works in Zambia where she has clinics throughout the country researching TB/HIV.

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**Jeannie**



**Helen**

**The HEAL Project is run by Jeannie Mulenga - this is her story as to how it began:**

“I suffer from HIV/AIDs. This project began when I was in a desperate state of health after contracting the disease from my husband, who subsequently died leaving me with 3 children and no home. I faced a lot of hardships. My children were thrown out of school because I couldn’t afford to pay the fees. I faced discrimination in all aspects of my life. While living on the streets I met Dr Helen. She started treating me, my health improved and she helped me start a small business. I rented a room and soon I was able to support myself and the children were back in school. There was a need for me to extend the support I had from Dr Helen to other HIV+ people, who were in a similar situation, so we started the HEAL Project.

We now have official charitable status in Zambia and the group is growing. All skills and talents are useful. Some use the sewing machines and make clothes, cushions, curtains, bags etc. Others knit, crochet or do cross-stitch embroidery. Papier mache bowls, banana leaf cards and many other craft items are also made.

We sell the goods in the markets and this is a useful meeting place for people to see that, although we are HIV+, we can still lead full lives. There is still a stigma attached our illness. One white lady stopped at our stall for a chat and said how courageous we were. She had been diagnosed HIV+ but dare not tell any of her family or friends of her condition.

Now we have extended our work into the Ngombe compound where several members live. We have built a community centre and school to provide lessons for the most needy orphans. This is costing a lot of money so we need help in providing basic materials and day to day running costs. A midday meal is provided and the children at the school are growing vegetables to supplement this.

Thank you for what you are doing - we are so grateful for your help.”

Jeannie Mulenga, Chair Person, the HEAL Project

**Joyce Ayles, trustee of the The HEAL Project explains how the UK charity has beome involved.**



“In 1999 we were visiting our daughter, Helen, in Zambia and she introduced us to the HEAL Project. I bought the ladies a sewing machine, as at that time they were hand sewing everything! As the years have gone past, and with help from various other organisations, we have been able to send shipments of vital supplies including knitting machines and several hand sewing machines which are much in demand as most houses do not have electricity.

We have visited each year to see the project and the progress made at the school and Jeannie’s house. At the school there are now 7 teachers plus other ancillary staff, 4 large classrooms, an office, kitchen and storeroom, and a large sewing workshop. Currently 350 children have lessons and food at the school. Vocational skills such as sewing, cooking and gardening are also taught. Sewing and knitting classes are also held for women from the surrounding community, thus giving them a skill to enable them to earn a living.

