

sparkventures

igniting hope. investing in the future.



2008 2009 Annual Report

Dear Friends of Spark,

An old African proverb says, “If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.” Spark Ventures began in February 2007 with a vision to go far, by going together. And we are well on our way...

Core to our mission is partnerships — stabilizing, strengthening, and sustaining grassroots organizations that are committed to helping vulnerable children. Critical to our strategy are investors — individuals and groups who will join us in igniting hope and investing in the future. And key to our vision is growth — to learn from each partnership in order to improve and expand our work around the globe.

During my 2006 trip to Africa that resulted in the launching of Spark Ventures, I experienced both the devastating effects of poverty and the resilient spirit of the Zambian people. One of these truly amazing people was a child named Jane Mulenga, who was an orphan struggling to survive. Thanks to the education and care provided through the Spark-Hope partnership, she is now speaking at rallies to raise support for community school education (see below).

I could share story after story of the transformation of vulnerable children that we are privileged to support through your generous partnership with us.

And this is only the beginning. In the near future, Spark will identify a new partnership in Latin America, host regional events around the United States to raise awareness and support and develop a poultry farm in Zambia through its partnership with Hope Ministries.

Together we will do even more to help vulnerable children achieve their potential. Together we will go far.

On behalf of all of us at Spark Ventures and the children we serve, thank you for being on this journey with us.



Richard A. Johnson
Executive Director



Rich with nine-year-old Kainos who has moved from selling tablecloths everyday at the market to attending Hope Community School and benefitting from the year-round meal program

From Orphan to Advocate: Jane Mulenga's Story



Jane (pictured far left) delivering her speech on community schools

For five years after her father passed away from AIDS, Jane and her six siblings survived on the little food that her eldest brother could afford from collecting scrap metal. Jane's mother suffered from bouts of depression, leaving her unable to help the family, and because of the lack of food and healthcare, Jane suffered from several health problems, including attacks of asthma.

Jane's life changed dramatically in 2006, however, when she enrolled in Hope Community School and moved into Hope House, Hope Ministries' orphanage.

Under the care of the house mothers and full-time teachers, Jane quickly became an exceptional student, an example of the immense potential of community schools, which provide an education to the poorest children of Zambia. When a nationwide campaign urging more government funding for community schools sought an articulate student to speak to the public and a committee of government officials at a nationally televised rally, Jane was a natural choice.

Because of the dedicated work of Hope Ministries and the support of Spark Ventures, Jane was healthy and educated enough to deliver an eloquent speech on behalf of community schools and the life-changing work they do for children like herself. Because of the Spark-Hope partnership, Jane was able to transform herself from an orphan to an advocate.

“Now I see a bright future. There is light at the end of the tunnel.” - Jane Mulenga

Statement of Activities

For the year ended June 30, 2009

Revenue and Other Support:

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total
Contributions	\$322,915	226,975	-	549,890
Underwriting	48,320	-	-	48,320
In-Kind Contributions	505	-	-	505
Other Income	1,185	-	-	1,185
Net Assets Released from Restrictions in Satisfaction of Program Restrictions	-	-	-	-
Total Revenue and Other Support	372,925	226,975	-	599,900

Expenses:

Program Services:

Partner Programs	180,449	-	-	180,449
Services to Sponsors	10,982	-	-	10,982
Education and Awareness	61,291	-	-	61,291
Transformation Trips	-	52,183	-	52,183

Total Program Services

252,722	52,183	-	304,905
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Support Services:

Fundraising	66,031	-	-	66,031
General & Administrative	62,114	-	-	62,114

Total Support Services

128,145	-	-	128,145
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Total Expenses

380,867	52,183	-	433,050
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Change in Net Assets	(7,942)	174,792	-	166,850
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Net Assets - Beginning of Year

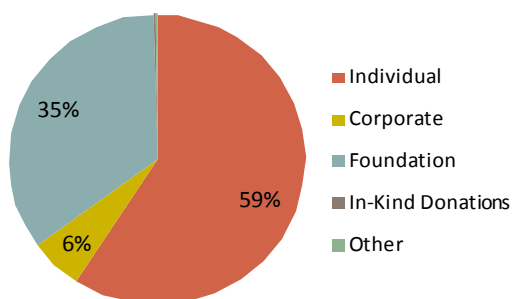
145,065			145,065
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Net Assets - End of Year

\$137,123	174,792	-	311,915
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Revenue and Other Support

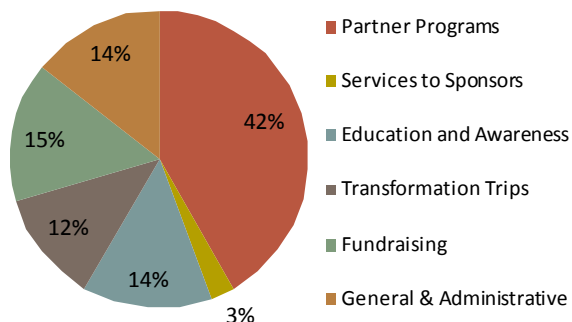
For the year ended June 30, 2009



In-Kind Contribution and Other Income each make up <1% of revenue.

Expenses

For the year ended June 30, 2009



2008-2009

Highlights

Spark Ventures, in partnership with Hope Ministries, has facilitated *incredible accomplishments* for vulnerable children and their communities in Zambia.

Food, Education & Health

- 36,000 meals served to over 300 children in a year-round meal program
- 500 medical check-ups administered
- 16 children cared for at Hope House Orphanage
- 300 students attending Hope Community School

Infrastructure & Capital

- \$85,000 sent to Hope Ministries for construction of new school facility*
- 3 capital projects completed/funded
 - Bus
 - Truck
 - Water well

Employment & Training

- 8 full-time teachers employed year-round
- 3 full-time house mothers employed year-round
- 4 trips completed for leadership training and strategic planning

**Shelby Goldstein Schoolhouse completed in December 2009*



Statement of Functional Expenses

For the year ended June 30, 2009

	Program Services					Support Services			Total Expenses
	Partner Programs	Services to Sponsors	Education/Awareness	Transformation Trips	Total Program Expenses	Fund-raising	General and Admin.	Total Support Expenses	
Partner Operations	\$ 155,817	-	-	-	155,817	-	-	-	155,817
Professional Services	-	-	-	-	-	8,208	16,040	24,248	24,248
Occupancy	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,697	4,697	4,697
Outreach and Events	-	-	23,800	-	23,800	27,616	-	27,616	51,416
Travel	12,305	-	27,034	43,619	82,958	-	8,163	8,163	91,121
Supplies	-	2,418	-	-	2,418	854	4,355	5,209	7,627
Postage and Freight	-	-	-	-	-	883	-	883	883
Marketing	-	-	3,606	-	3,606	3,316	5,435	8,751	12,357
Salaries and Benefits	10,277	8,564	6,851	8,564	34,256	25,154	21,621	46,775	81,031
Other Expenses	2,050	-	-	-	2,050	-	1,803	1,803	3,853
Total Expenses	\$ 180,449	10,982	61,291	52,183	304,905	66,031	62,114	128,145	433,050

To see the complete version of Spark Ventures' audited financial statements for the year ended June 30, 2009, please go to www.sparkventures.org/info/financial-accountability/.

Journey Back to Zambia

David Goldstein and Nancy Williams participated in Spark's Summer 2008 Transformation Trip and are returning to support a mosquito net distribution project with partner Hope Ministries. As they prepared to [travel back to Zambia](#) (February '10), they shared a little bit about their experience.

Why did you want to go on your first Transformation Trip with Spark?

David: I wanted to take a course in my life totally away from me and towards somebody else. I really wanted to do grassroots work right from the beginning, and that's the kind of work Spark does.

What was the most challenging part of the experience?

Nancy: I would just say the poverty that was there. Usually it's not something you would think, but the children in the orphanage are actually better off than many of the other children we saw that are living with their families.

What did you learn about Spark from the trip?

David: I learned that Spark is doing something other than just sending money. That expression about "teach a man to fish," that really came through to me in Spark's work.

Why are you choosing to go back?

Nancy: I can't wait to go back. Even in the week I was there I developed such an attachment to the staff and the children. It will be great to see how the kids have improved and to see what the money we've worked so hard to raise has accomplished.



Nancy Williams and board member David Goldstein at Victoria Falls in Livingstone, Zambia

Statement of Financial Position

For the year ended June 30, 2009

ASSETS

Current Assets:

Cash and Cash Equivalents	208,030
Unconditional Promises to Give	25,000
Grants Receivable	75,000
Total Current Assets	308,030

Property and Equipment:

Furniture and Equipment, Net of Accumulated Depreciation	4,317
Total Property and Equipment	4,317
Total Assets	312,347

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Current Liabilities:

Accounts Payable	432
Total Current Liabilities / Total Liabilities	432

Net Assets:

Unrestricted	137,123
Temporarily Restricted	174,792
Permanently Restricted	-
Total Net Assets	311,915
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	312,347

Board of Directors 2008-2009

Richard Johnson,
President &
Executive Director
*Director of University
Ministries, North Park
University*

Scott Barbeau,
VP & Treasurer
Professional Musician

David Goldstein
*Founder and Attorney, David
Goldstein & Associates, LLC*

Marquita Hanus
*Senior Account Executive,
CareerBuilder.com*

Robert Hon
VP, Credit Suisse Securities

Daniel Marcus
*Investment Advisor, Marcus
Capital, LLC*

Tiffany Staman
*Co-Founder, Breathing
Space*

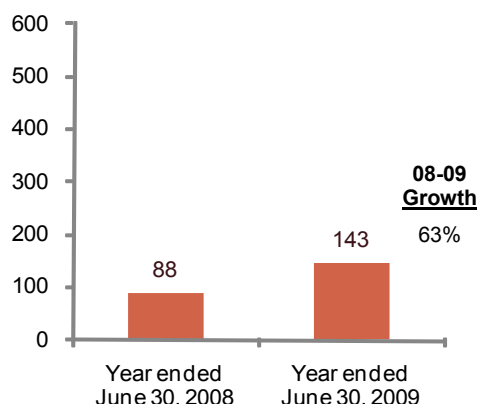
Brian Wu
*General Manager, College
Park Athletic Club*

Princess Kasune Zulu
*International AIDS Activist;
Spokesperson, World Vision*

**For a current list of the Board of
Directors, please visit [our website](#).*

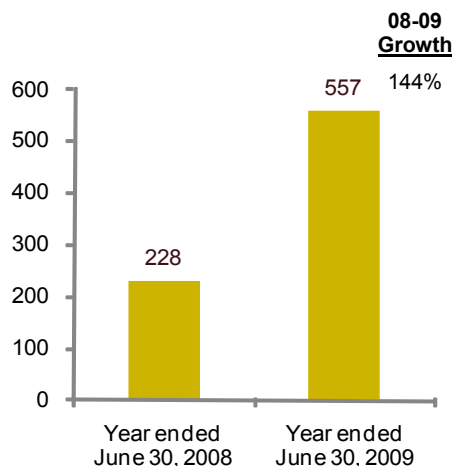
Child Sponsorships

For the years ended
June 30, 2008 and 2009



Investors

For the years ended
June 30, 2008 and 2009



A Message from Our Partner

Dear Spark Ventures Investors,

Since we partnered with Spark Ventures in 2007, our work has progressed tremendously in terms of staff motivation, teaching quality and resources, food supplies at the school, and reduced orphanage operational costs.

All this tremendous progress has been made because of your generous giving.

We now have over 300 children attending our school and benefiting from our meal program regularly. Six new employees have improved the quality of education and care being offered. Staff motivation has increased greatly because of leadership training provided through Spark Ventures' partner development programs.

Thank you for all your financial and moral support, without which all these positive changes would not have happened.

We will continue to be dedicated to working with and empowering children in order to contribute towards the realization of an improved and empowered society.

Rev. Charles Mumba
Executive Director
[Hope Ministries](#)





Spark Ventures exists to form **partnerships** with **high-impact** organizations around the world that help **vulnerable children** achieve their **potential**.