



CHICKENS, CHICKENS, & MORE CHICKENS!

A NOTE FROM LUCY JODLOWSKA, DIRECTOR OF PARTNERSHIPS

→ **100%** primary school graduation



→ **35** Zambians with secure employment



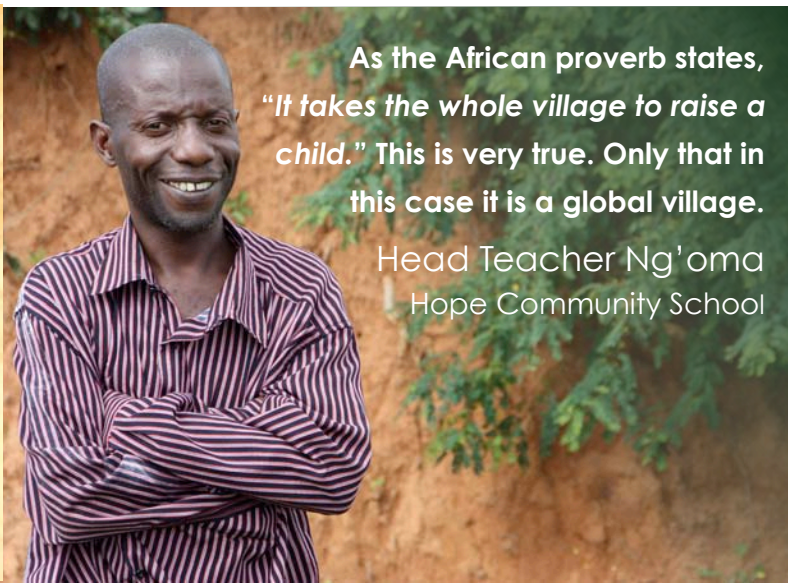
→ **75,000+** chickens to be sold in 2014



When introducing new, potential supporters to the Spark Ventures mission and model, many are pleased to hear about the robust community programs our work supports - meeting the basic needs of vulnerable children in Zambia and Nicaragua resonates with almost anyone. But, regardless of how engaged they are by our important work for children, eyes widen when we mention the poultry farm. Chickens!? they say. And, their astonishment continues as we explain that this year, the farm in Zambia will raise and sell 90,000 chickens, as they realize we are talking about a much larger scale than a few hen-houses in a backyard.

These chickens, of course, represent the critical driving force behind Spark Ventures' model of business driven philanthropy. The success of the poultry farm in Zambia will ensure our partner can provide critical nutrition, education, and healthcare to the most vulnerable children in their community for years to come.

As any young and growing business, the farm has undergone ups and downs in its first two years. But, there have been many wins along the way. Incredible growth since the farm's launch puts our Zambian partner in a good position to make significant strides towards financial sustainability.



WORKING IN A GLOBAL VILLAGE

REFLECTIONS FROM HEAD TEACHER, CHIMFEMBWE NG'OMA

Chimfembwe Ng'oma has served as the Head Teacher of Hope Community School since 2007. He recently reflected on the impact of Hope's partnership with Spark Ventures. We are pleased to share his words here:

It is a relationship based on the values of social justice and equity. It is a marriage of two inter-related visions for the common good of the stakeholders. This underpins the partnership between Hope Ministries and Spark Ventures.

There is a deep underlying commitment to the cause of the less privileged children, upon whose shoulders the future lies. Educating the future is the catch phrase. Therefore the provision of education to the less privileged members of our society is key and fundamental. Much has been done in that regard. Less privileged children face difficult challenges such as inadequate health care, not enough food, poor water and sanitation facilities, just to mention a few.

Spark Ventures, a Chicago-based organization, in partnership with Hope Ministries has made great strides in meeting the needs of children in Zambia. Hope Ministries has set up a community school, an orphanage called Hope House, a clinic and a poultry farm, set up on the premise of bringing sustainability to the venture as opposed to surviving on handouts from well wishers.

Spark Ventures has provided the necessary support in terms of capacity building, financial and technical support. They have invested in the poultry farm with the goal of making Hope Ministries self-reliant. The programs and operations of Hope Ministries are designed and tailored so as not to perpetuate a dependency syndrome in the communities they are operating, but to make them self sustainable.

As the African proverb states, "It takes the whole village to raise a child." This is very true. Only that in this case it is a global village."

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FARM GROWTH IN ZAMBIA

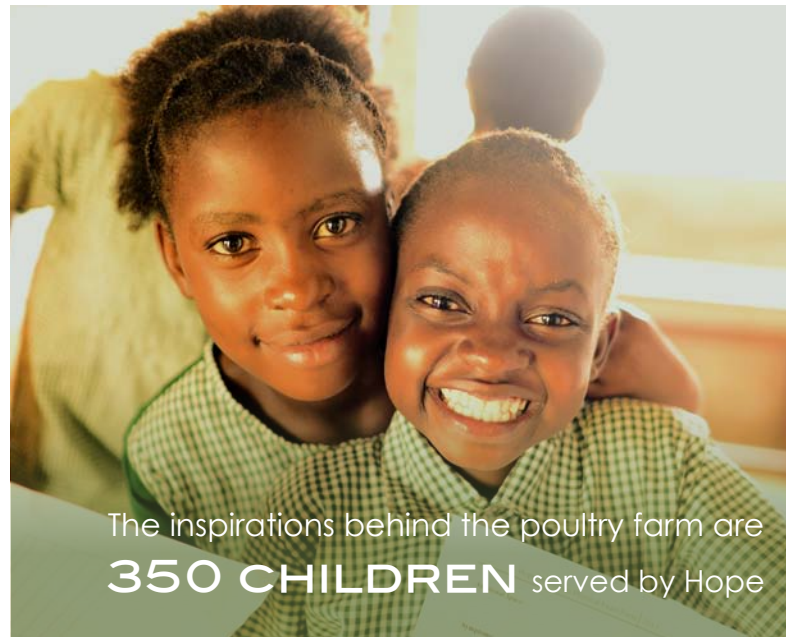
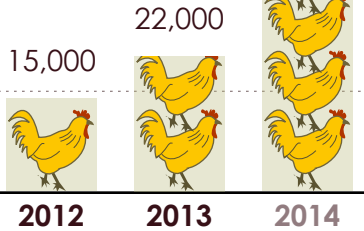
BUSINESS DRIVEN PHILANTHROPY

75,000
anticipated

Dramatic expansion at the poultry farm in Zambia over the past year has more than tripled the farm's capacity. Now raising 12,000 chickens per 8-week cycle, the farm has reached a scale necessary to engage in the national supply chain.

In January of 2014, Hope Ventures signed a contract with Zambeef, one of the largest poultry distributor in Zambia. Selling to Zambeef means that chickens raised by the Hope Ventures poultry farm are making their way to grocery stores around the country. This relationship also means a reliable price-per-pound of poultry raised, and freedom from the expenses associated with marketing and selling the mature chickens individually each cycle.

With critical profitability milestones to meet over the course of 2014, the farm is still a young business with many challenges ahead. But the growth over the past year is indicative of the great potential this farm has to create significant financial sustainability for Hope and their community programs.



SETTING RONALD ON A PATH TO SUCCESS



Ronald started at Hope Community School in Grade 3. Now, he serves as a powerful example of what success in Zambia looks like. At age 16, he tested into a competitive secondary school in Ndola and has just begun Grade 8.

During his time at Hope Community School, teachers described Ronald as well behaved and obedient. In Grade 7, he became one of the school captains, a natural leader his peers look up to. On days that the students run errands around the school, he would lead the charge and make sure that all the chores were completed. At Hope, these chores include things like cleaning, moving furniture, and helping with gardening and playground maintenance.

HOPE GAVE RONALD THE ACADEMIC FOUNDATION TO STEP INTO A FUTURE WITH BIG POTENTIAL.

Ronald comes from a single parent home. He is the eldest of 4 children, all boys. His father died (likely from HIV/AIDS) so long ago that Ronald doesn't remember him. His mother is a vegetable reseller. Purchasing vegetables from those with small plots of land, she moves around her community trying to sell her produce. Making enough money to support her 4 boys with this work is difficult so the meal served each day at Hope Community School was often a critical source of nutrition.

Head Teacher Ng'oma believes that if Ronald were not at Hope, by this age, he would have found himself in a bad situation. He's outgoing and well liked, but if he weren't in school he'd have fallen into alcohol or drugs, like so many of the young teens in the compound who are not in school. Due to lack of resources, places to go, or caretakers that would guide them, vulnerable kids in that area have few paths out of poverty. But, the Spark/Hope partnership is providing that opportunity. Ronald has become a bright young adult who is excited to learn. He speaks English well but is not a big fan of math, he says.

Hope gave Ronald a place to cultivate his strong, leading personality, and the academic foundation to step into a future with big potential.



Ronald with his proud
Grade 7 Teacher, Lewis

sparkventures

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