

## District Interact Project 2009-2010 DEAAF-Deaf Education and Arts for African Families



This year's District 7120 Interact Project is with DEAAF (Deaf Education & Arts for African Families), a not-for-profit organization committed to providing much needed schooling to deaf children in Monze, Zambia. Many African deaf children live a life of isolation, with no hopes of ever achieving such dreams of becoming doctors, lawyers, or teachers, to say nothing of receiving any kind of formal education. The Children of Monze walk to school barefoot, some two hours each way, to and from school. The founder of DEAAF, Lisa Zahra and her team plan to give these deaf children (ages 4-14) the chance at the education and literacy they deserve.

Twenty acres of land in Monze has been donated for a new school and dormitory and the following is needed: \$210,000.00 to build a school, dormitory and install a safe, sustainable water source. In addition they plan to cultivate their own sustainable food source. There are continued needs for school supplies and shoes and clothes for the children.

Upon taking on this as the district project, we are brainstorming ideas of how Interact students and Rotarians can help DEAAF's cause. Some possible ideas of gathering resources are clothes, school supplies, and a shoe drive. Interact clubs who are unable to gather materials can create awareness of the DEAAF organization to their Rotary Clubs and surrounding service organizations.

One of DEAAF's ideas is to speak to local high schools and promote a \$1 a month for students to donate. If there are two thousand students in one high school, and half of them donated one dollar a month for a year, that could move mountains!

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The organization is also looking for 50 people who would be willing to commit to \$25 a month over the course of the next two years so that Lisa can return to Africa to continue her work. The funds raised will not only allow Lisa to teach the children but will help pay for rent, electricity, water, food and clothing for the children and supplies. Lisa will also be able to get to the surrounding villages in Monze to assist deaf children, as well as set up classes in those villages. [Http://deaaf.org/fundraiser.htm](http://deaaf.org/fundraiser.htm). DEAAF is very close to receiving it's 501c3 charitable status.

“By reaching out globally, we are reaching out locally.” “This is not about me or them, this is all about us”. Lisa and her team believe in The Oneness of Humanity.

For more information please refer to their website [www.deaaf.org](http://www.deaaf.org). If you are interested in having Lisa or one of us from District Interact talk to your Interact or Rotary or Club, please contact us at the emails below. Lisa will be attending the District Interact Winter Social on January 31<sup>st</sup> at the North Lodge in King's Bend Park. If you are interested in attending please contact Laura Cromwell ([lcromwell92@yahoo.com](mailto:lcromwell92@yahoo.com)) or Abby Avallone ([abbynallone@yahoo.com](mailto:abbynallone@yahoo.com)) who can give you more information as well as her video <http://www.vimeo.com/8315549>.

We are asking for Rotary District 7120 Interact Clubs participation in helping this worthy literacy and education cause. As we stated it can be monies, supplies, building awareness or something that has not been thought of . Please let us know if you can help or would like more information.

Abby Avallone and Laura Cromwell  
District 7120 Interact Co-Presidents