



St. Lawrence Home of Hope OUTREACH

Looking back into year 2011

Many reasons to be grateful.

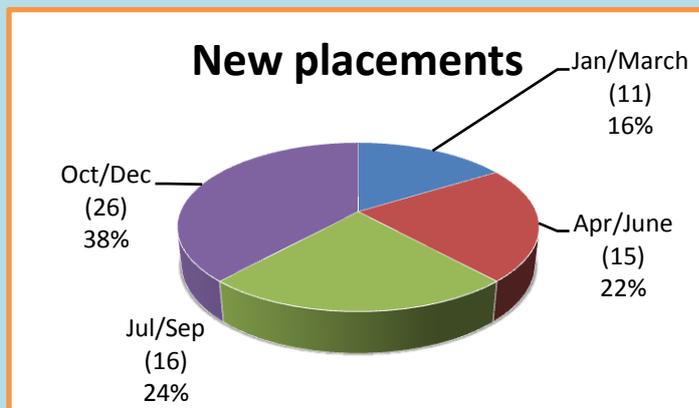
Year 2011 was a record year for St. Lawrence Home of Hope in number of areas. First of all from January till the end of December we have had **68** new placements. Even though 37 children of this number have run away during following weeks or months, some of these came back and were readmitted during following weeks. During the course of the same year, 24 boys were reintegrated back to their families and in some cases (when needed) the project continues providing educational support.

	New placements	Runaways	Reintegrated	Transferred	N ^o in the facility
Beginning of the year					47
January/March	11	8	5		45
April/June	15	7	9	1	43
July/September	16	12	4		44
October/December	26	9	7	1	53
End of the year					52
Difference/Surplus					5
TOTALS	68	36	25	2	52

Average age of the children in our care has gone down this year due to some very young boys withdrawn from the street. This includes two 6 year olds, one 8 year old and several boys in the age range from 9 to 11 years.

Our continuous cooperation with Social Services (DSWO), Child Protection Unit of Zambia Police (CPU) and International Organization for Migrants (IOM) brought in some fruits. These are two brothers from Ethiopia and two young boys from Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). As a joint effort we have managed to take two cases (assault and child sexual abuse) to the Court of Law.

Construction and opening of **new dormitories**, which was possible thanks to funding received from St. Joseph Catholic Parish of Mason City in Iowa (USA) significantly improved quality of accommodation for children and doubled capacity of our centre from 25 to 50 sleeping places.



At the beginning of year 2011 the project also received its first **vehicle**, which was purchased from funds received through fundraising organized by catholic weekly magazine for children from Poland: “Mały Gość Niedzielny”. This addition has significantly improved our mobility and effectiveness in rendering services to homeless children and youth in Zambia.

With support received from Rotary Club of Lusaka and from Highland Family from UK, we were able to rearrange our infrastructure by construction of new **dining area**, and renovating **common/TV** room for children.

We have also managed to make some new friends with the corporate world in Zambia. And so, megastore chain **Pick’n’Pay**, came on board assisting us tremendously in day to day running of our home. They provided some mattresses and blankets for new dormitories, as well as bags of cement to help us with ongoing renovations. They’ve organized great Christmas Party for our children and continue supporting us through twice-a-week donations of food staff from their stores (bread, vegetables and fruits).

BeitCURE Hospital of Lusaka assisted us already in the past (2010) with free of charge treatment and surgery of one of our boys. Also this year BeitCURE came to our help and took care of two new boys who were in need of orthopedic surgical treatment. Both children underwent operation and recovered very well to better health and full ability.

In the area of **education**: all of the children at the centre continue their education at relevant levels; most of them at St. Lawrence Basic School with fairly good results. Four of our boys have passed Grade 7 exams well and were selected to different secondary schools within Lusaka. Six elder boys continue their skills training at DAPP Children’s Town (our partner organization) and should graduate this year. One of them: Steven Chansa has already completed his training in metal fabrication and has immediately found



James (11) and Kephass (12) in the hospital.



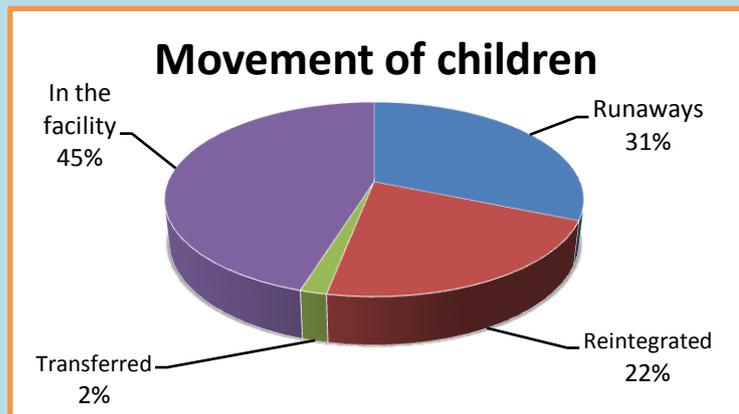
Kephass (12) before and after surgery.

employment as welder in one of the companies in Lusaka. Within few months he should be able to leave Home of Hope and begin his life as an independent and self-reliant individual.

Challenges and setbacks.

Securing resources for smooth running of all essential programs (most of which induce extensive traveling) of the Outreach Program

of St. Lawrence Home of Hope continues to be the biggest challenge we are faced with. During the period of 9 months (from April till December 2011) we have covered the total distance of 27.500km, which is equivalent of approximately 100 km/day. Increased number of new children incurred more travel expenses to our budget. Street outreach, family tracing, home visits and follow-ups require now from us not only more time, but also more resources for fuel and vehicle maintenance. Travel costs only, have come to the total of K 27.500.000 (\$ 5.500) for the above mentioned period of time (excluding vehicle maintenance costs, food and lodging). In this respect, one of the local filling stations – KOBIL, came to our rescue recently offering a one-off donation of diesel worth K 1.000.000 (\$ 200). We can only hope that more similar initiatives will take place during the current year.



Beginning of the construction works.



The final result: new dormitories.

escape from the center.

A lot has been achieved during past twelve months in the area of infrastructure development and renovations. Nevertheless there are still some pending issues that will require our attention in the

near future. The most important of these is renovation of the ablution block used by the children, which after six years of use, has significantly dilapidated. This has already caused some problems in maintaining proper sanitation and cleanness of the center.

In the same line of general hygiene it is our wish to purchase an industrial washing machine to help our two “mothers” maintain cleanness of the children, their clothing and beddings.

The year 2011 was marked also by many types of violence among the population of homeless youth and children in Lusaka. Among these the most common were assaults, but we have also registered cases of murder, child sexual abuse, abortion and suicide. To our best ability we have assisted numerous victims either with medical help, or funeral arrangements. However we have changed our approach with regards to funerals after noticing, that as gruesome and costly as these are, funerals have become for many of the homeless, a form of social entertainment. As for now our assistance is limited to transporting body to the Lusaka Mortuary, obtaining legal documentation and informing relatives of the deceased (if possible).



Delivering another body to the mortuary.

In our effort to curb acts of violence among homeless youth and children, we have managed to bring two cases to the Court of Law. The first one was a case of assault in which we have managed to secure conviction and the perpetrator is currently serving his sentence of 9 months in Lusaka Remand Prison. In the second case, where a 12 year old boy was sexually abused (sodomized) by a “street adult”, our efforts to bring offender to justice were not so successful. In spite of us, together with police officers from CPU, obtaining medical evidence confirming the crime and the victim giving his testimony and identifying his abuser in the court (it has to be noted that with this particular offender it took us three years to find a victim willing to undergo medical examination and give his testimony in the court); to our extreme discontent the court’s ruling was acquittal, based on apparent procedural mistakes (apparently testimony of only one victim was not enough in this case to secure conviction)!



*Some of the boys in clothes donated by **Maitri Poland**.*

The abuser is back on the street, enjoying his unlimited freedom and preying on more potential victims. For the time being we continue exposing his actions to as many of the younger boys as possible. Unfortunately in the past few weeks yet another pedophile has emerged on the streets, brutally abusing two young boys (10 and 13). We are in the process of tracking him down.

Although child defilement cases seem to be on the rise in Zambia, it is still very difficult to bring offenders to justice. Most of the cases are never reported to the relevant authorities. Also the children themselves are not sufficiently empowered to

report the matter to responsible adults. In case of children living on the streets, the shame and the embarrassment combined with feelings of guilt and co-responsibility (very often boys are lured into sexual act by small incentives like cash or drugs) prevent them from disclosing the matter.

Into the future with hope.

“Do what you can, with what you have, where you are” is our motto and we try to live by it every day. Holding on to God’s Providence we strongly believe it is Him, hidden in our homeless brothers and sisters that we are ministering to. Trusting that He will show the way and at the end will make things happen.

Enjoying sympathy and friendship of so many people of good will, we look with confidence into the future, striving to make our home a real place of hope, for those, who in spite of their young age, would be otherwise lost in ditches and drenches of Zambian underworld.

For each smile that was restored during past year we give thanks and glory to God. Committing ourselves into His loving care we strongly believe, that it is His work that we are graciously allowed to do!



Enjoying childhood.

Listening to laughter, noisy games and yes, sometimes quarrels, which fill our slightly overcrowded home; we can’t help but wonder and rejoice, watching how those who were no more than “walking ghosts” just few months ago, are now enjoying their childhood, looking bravely into the future with hope.

Our special gratitude goes to:

- Catholic Women’s League (Zambia)
- [“Mały Gość Niedzielny”](#) (Poland)
- St. Josepha Catholic Parish in Mason City – Iowa (USA)
- [Zambia Society Trust](#) (UK)
- Highland Family (UK)
- Pick’n’Pay (Levy Junction – Lusaka)
- Rotary Club of Lusaka
- Mr. Mathews Brandis (UK)
- “Maitri” Poland
- The Meyer Family Foundation (UK)
- Mrs. Carol White
- KOBIL
- Kalundu Sisters (Zambia)
- BeitCURE Hospital (Zambia)
- Good Shepherd Catholic Parish, Lusaka (Zambia)
- The Ecumenical Council of Zambia
- Mission Club of Kazimierz Biskupi (Poland)
- The Missionaries of Africa (Poland)
- The Zambia Project (Belfast)

... and many people of good will from Zambia, Poland, Ireland, Northern Ireland, Netherlands and United Kingdom!