

## PHILANTHROPIC TOURISM PANEL

### “BUILDING HOMES & SCHOOLS FOR ORPHANED CHILDREN IN ZAMBIA”

#### PRESENTATION BY KATHE PADILLA, ZAMBIAN CHILDREN’S FUND

##### **Biography:**

Kathe Padilla currently divides her time between her home in Tucson, AZ, USA and the Chishawasha Children's Home of Zambia in Lusaka. Kathe has been an activist all her life working in issues of peace, justice, hunger and homelessness. She has worked in and set up many programs in the U.S. including food bank programs, settling refugees, sustainable development and now helping children orphaned by AIDS.

Kathe can be reached in the U.S. and Zambia at: [zambiancf@yahoo.com](mailto:zambiancf@yahoo.com), in Tucson the Zambian Children's Fund is located at 1350 N. Arcadia, Tucson, AZ 85716 or Post Office Box 42996, Tucson, AZ 85733. In Zambia her phone number is 295193 and she lives at 5 Njoka Road, Olympia Park, Lusaka.

##### **Abstract of Presentation:**

Zambia is the perfect country to sponsor a Peace through Tourism Conference and it is a great country for philanthropic tourism. Some of the best reasons for visiting Zambia are the same reasons I originally came.

1. It is a peaceful country. Zambia has never had a war and so there is not the concern of trying to do things in a war zone. Zambia is also a very non-violent society so that tourists' safety is not a concern.
2. Zambia is known as the friendliest country in Africa. Everywhere you go people speak to you and try to be helpful. This is a country of warm caring people.
3. Zambia is beautiful. From Victoria Falls to the "bush" to the cities. There are always flowers and trees in bloom and spectacular wildlife and birds.
4. Zambians speak English. While not everyone maybe from an English speaking country, it is a real help to those of us who are.

I first came to Zambia in October, 1999 to see how I could help the children who had been orphaned by AIDS or other diseases. I pulled together a Board of professional Zambians and together we are making a difference in the lives of hundreds of orphaned children. Currently we have a house in Lusaka where 25 children who have no one and no where else to live stay with 3 housemothers and are receiving 3 meals a day, clean clothing, a safe loving environment in which to grow up in, medical care and an education (K - 12). We teach each child to farm and a skill of their choice. Our hope is that the children who graduate from our high school will have an education that will enable them to attend any University in the world.

In the back of our house in Lusaka we have a small school where our own children, as well as children from a neighboring poor compound go to class. The children who walk to our school everyday are given two meals a day, clothing and medical care as needed. We have a regular elementary curriculum as well as an accelerated program for older children who had never attended school. They are going through elementary school in three years, so that they can catch up to their peers.

We also have a home based program for children living in the house left to them by their parents, or who have grandparents or others to take care of them. We provide these children with all the costs of education and give them a good amount of food on a monthly basis.

We out-grew our house in Lusaka years ago and are now building houses and a school about 8 miles out of town. This is where our PHILANTHROPIC TOURISM program comes in.

We are encouraging people to come to Zambia to help build houses for our children. All of the children in our house and school have brothers, sisters or cousins who need to come live with us. We have a long waiting list of children from throughout Zambia who need to join us. If you are healthy and willing to do physical labor, we need your help in building homes and schools for these children. We have Zambians to show us what to do and how to do it, but we need volunteer workers to help make the housing affordable. This year our volunteer construction crews are scheduled for May and September. If you are interested in helping please be sure to get one of our Construction Brochures and contact us. It costs \$5,000 (US) per person, but for people who cannot afford that amount, we are happy to help them do fund raising so they can come. For more info please e-mail us or call us in Tucson. Thank you.

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