

ZOCS celebrates the life of Betty Ward

By Freeman Mwenge

Acknowledgements

Zambia Open Community Schools gives tribute to the life of Ms. Betty Ward who committed much of her time and passion to raise funds for the Orphans and Vulnerable Children in Zambia.

Ms. Ward was a life member of the Uniting Church in Australia and an ardent supporter of the building project in Kalalaska.

The late Ms. Ward gave an immense amount of support toward construction of a 1x3 classroom

block at Kalalaska Community School.

Although she did not live to see nor hear of John and Jenny Preston's hand over of the classroom block later in 2011, she would have been happy to see what she lived for turn into a success story.

Ms. Ward raised more than \$12,000 (AUD) towards the OVC at Kalalaska Community School.

Ms Ward is also renowned for selling vast quantities of lemon butter, marmalade and various Jams to support OVC to attain qualifications in tailoring and carpentry as well as in support of many children hard of hearing.

Her contribution to the school health and nutrition programme will be remembered in this community for many years to come.

Today, school children attend classes regularly which has resulted in the school having increased numbers of children and better academic performance.

"...Betty grew to love her flowers and spent so many joy-filled hours just growing blooms to give away and brighten other peoples' days", Sandi Gilgun-Brookshaw remembers of her mother.

This attribute would be extended to Zambia giving many children, girls and women a reason to hope for a better life in a community that is slowly awakening.

Many children in Zambia stare malnutrition in the face and so they appreciate the warm porridge they still receive every morning as a result of the work of Betty Ward.

When John Preston proposed a moment of silence at the hand over ceremony of a 1x3 classroom block in honour of Ms Ward at Kalalaska Community School, her name was celebrated and has become as concrete as if signed on each one of the mortar bricks she had helped to put on top of another that went to raise a shelter that now houses little minds that one day would make the world a better place for each new born African child.

" An era is now closed and gone", Sandi Gilgun-Brookshaw concluded.

ZOCS wishes to acknowledge the contribution Betty made.

Betty Dawn Ward

12-10-1925

23-5-2011



Betty Ward raised funds for OVC making and selling Jam



Betty Ward