



Karen Jacobsen: To Zambia With Love

The day Australian-born singer-songwriter Karen Jacobsen sponsored Edina, a 3-year-old girl living in Zambia, she didn't know that her life would take a drastic turn that would lead her around the world to meet the little girl who would change her forever.

After she learned that Edina lived in dire poverty, Jacobsen contacted everyone she knew in an effort to recruit sponsors for 100 Zambian girls in 100 days. She even organized a group called "To Zambia with Love" and invited the members to join her on a trip to Africa.

Together with her husband, Tom Hudak, and friend, Neil Gordon, Jacobsen recently traveled to Zambia to meet Edina in person. While there she gave a concert for all the sponsored children and families in Kanyama. She shared her sponsor experience with her fellow Zambian sponsors in the email documented below:

Hi from Lusaka,

Today I met Edina. It was a natural experience to meet her mother, Ruth, and to sit with her. I was so stunned I did not know what to ask. There is a bond that I can't put into words. Even in this short time of being her sponsor, we have been connected in such a special way.

The reality of their living situation is jarring, but something we all marvelled at tonight when we were discussing the day was the happiness of the people.

We drove through the streets of Lusaka to Kanyama, past markets and down dirt roads lined with small concrete-block buildings until we reached a walled building with Children International's logo on the front. Dozens of women and children waited outside and dozens more were inside, and children were playing on the swings and laughing and waving to us as the bus pulled in.

We toured the center and met the staff who do a mammoth job managing over 6,500 children.

It's been a day filled with so many images and thoughts and feelings and I can't capture it in this email.

What I can tell you is...the experiences gave me everything I need to come home and share what CI is doing with the world. This organization provides a haven for children and families and communities. Their commitment to supporting everyone in the community is breathtaking.

Sponsorship is so simple. A small amount of money goes a long way, and I think it's hard for people to believe it could be a solution. But it is.

Your money is being spent efficiently and effectively. Every day of our children's lives are being enhanced due to this sponsorship program. The far-reaching effects into the community are inspiring.

With love,
Karen