

# hot off the Press



# The Ripple Effect

Each time a man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring those ripples build a current which can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance."

John F. Kennedy

SHARING THE STORIES OF BCS STUDENTS MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF OTHERS

IN THIS ISSUE

## Making Global Connections

Getting to Know Students in Chilupula

By Megan C. & Mahlah M.

*"Count your blessings. There are many beautiful things in life to appreciate.*

*The gift of life is priceless."*

*-Lailah Gifty Akita*

Remember our Character Connections class (CC) in December? The class began with each group coming together and playing a variety of games that helped us to build connections with others to get to know the students in our classes better. Students went to the gym for a whole school assembly where all of the people in our BCS community were honored for the work on PROJECT COPE, RAISING HOPE, our school-wide project that helped to raise money to buy two-wheeled tractors to send to our partner village in Zambia. The assembly ended with a job well done from our own principal Mr. Morawski as students headed back to their classrooms. As they were sent back each student had one question in their mind. "What is one question you can think of to send to a student in Chilupula that will help you understand them better?" The questions submitted to *The Ripple Effect* Newsletter were incredible! BCS students wanted to know answers to questions like, "What does the name of your school mean?" to "What do you for fun?" we can truly see how the students at BCS are all different and unique in many ways based on the questions they wanted to know about the students in Chilupula. In this article, you will be able to discover what makes each of

the kids in Chilupula unique and different as you read the answers to your questions submitted not long ago. This second "Hot Off The Press" edition will focus on the questions related to the home life of Chilupula Villagers.

Enjoy!

-Ripple Effect Team

### Answers to your Questions about the home-life of Chilupula Villagers

Do the kids in Chilupula ever have free time?

Yes, kids in Chilupula do have free time especially after the planting season is over; however, girls rarely have free time.

Do you have jobs/chores after school?

The kids in Chilupula have many chores. Girls draw water, cook, and wash clothes and dishes. The boys look after cattle and make chicken and goat houses.



### Homes in Chilupula

We live in houses like the ones pictured.



# Did you know...

## What is your home like? What is your bathroom like?

Our homes are simple. Houses and roofs are made of mud and grass. We rarely use cement to build our homes, just simply mud. We do not have many things in our houses like sofas, refrigerators, television or radios. Chicken houses are constructed near our homes. Sometimes, if families have cattle, they will construct the cattle houses near our homes as well. Our bathrooms are made of sticks and grass, and normally without a roof. They are outside our homes slightly away from the main house because of mosquitoes.

## What does a day look like for you? For example, what sports do you play, what do you do for fun, what do you eat and how often do you eat? Do you eat at home or school?

All days look normal to us just like any other day. We do not often have sports, and we eat mainly nsima. We do not eat at school because the school does not provide food. So if we have no food at home we go hungry to school.

We often go hungry most of the days because we do not have enough food to eat. We frequently run out of food most of the year because we do not grow enough to take us the whole year round.



**"Appreciation can make a day – even change a life. Your willingness to put it into words is all that is necessary."**  
-Margaret Cousins

## What does a typical day look like for a boy and girl in Chilipula? Do their days look different? If so, why?

The days look almost the same for both girls and boys in Chilupula village. The only exception is that girls tend to do house chores like drawing water and cooking before and after they come from school. The boys do not work every day, but have specific times of the year when they are busy too.

## What responsibilities do the girls have when they work in the fields during the day?

Girls do the planting of seeds and apply fertilizer while the boys are plowing the fields. Girls mainly tend to weed the fields, and help harvest the crops when they are ready. They, also, help to cook for the family when working in the fields.

## What games do the kids like to play?

Kids like to play soccer, (which they call football), and netball. They do not have a factory made ball, but they learn to make them in their early years. These two types of games are the most common because they only need a ball to play the games. Some kids play chess at school although according to the teachers chessboards are not adequate for all the children to learn and play chess. Girls also play another local game called wida which involves drawing on the ground and they jump the lines drawn like hopscotch. They also play hide and seek. Almost all the kids in Chilupula village have not seen or played a video game like the XBOX or Playstation.

## How are the boys and girls treated differently? How are they treated the same?

All children, boys and girls are treated the same way, because they are children. Parents are very strict with girls more than boys, and in terms of discipline the girl child is mostly disciplined by the mother. The fathers discipline the boy child. The mothers are with girls most of the time to teach the girls chores perceived by the community as chores done by the women. The boys spend most of their time with the father who teaches them chores perceived as male chores.

***We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.***  
-Winston Churchill

## What challenges do the girls face?

Girls are expected to marry early due to tradition. They are not always able to finish school before they are married and have children. At school, there are no bathrooms. They have a latrine outside the school if they have an emergency. Girls are quite embarrassed and ashamed to use the latrines so they often are absent from school as they get older.



## How have your lives changed since receiving the donations and how did you feel? How has life in your village changed since you received the tractors?

We know for a fact that our lives will drastically change with the donations in the long run, especially starting our farming season 2015. We have been able to cultivate easily with the tractors. Before the tractors came, we used to hire oxen to cultivate our fields. If you did not own your own cattle or tractor, you would have to wait until the families who did own their cattle or tractor were finished with their fields before you could tend to yours. Finally, the villagers are thankful for all the donations and will take good care of the tractors.

***How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world.***  
-Anne Frank

***We have made a difference in the lives of the people of Chilupula and they have made a difference in our lives!***