**A Memorable Visit: November 25 – December 8**

In late November and early December, Judy Kramer, one of the Directors of Friends for Zambia, had the privilege of visiting Twitti Community School for two weeks, connecting with students, families, and staff, and overseeing key projects that support the ongoing growth of the school.

**November 25-29: A Busy Week at School**

With the Grade 7 students having finished their exams at the end of October, November was a time for the remaining students to wrap up the term. During the last week of school, Judy spent her days visiting classrooms, meeting with students, and connecting with many of our sponsored families. It was a particularly meaningful week as Judy had the opportunity to meet with the families of students who have been nominated for sponsorship for the 2025 school year.

One of the highlights of the week was joining the amazing school bus drivers, Uncle Austine and John Mutale, on their routes. Judy was able to experience firsthand the joy and camaraderie that comes with the daily bus rides—often filled with lively singing and laughter!

The week culminated on **November 29th** with the annual end-of-year party. Students and staff enjoyed a full day of celebrations, which included eating, dancing, and playing games. It was a perfect way to celebrate the hard work and accomplishments of the school year.

On December 3rd, Judy had the opportunity to lead some professional development with the teachers around the use of games and manipulatives in their classrooms to support learning.

**Lilayi Education Trust Board Meeting**

On **December 1st**, Judy attended the Lilayi Education Trust board meeting, where important decisions about the future of the school were discussed.

**Ongoing Projects and Programs**

During her visit, Judy was able to check on the projects that have been funded by Friend for Zambia’s generous donors. These include the free meal program for sponsored students, completed repairs to the ablution blocks, completed painting of the exterior of the school and reviewed the teacher manuals that were purchased using donated funds.

**Technology and Supplies: A Generous Contribution**

On **December 1st**, Judy attended the Lilayi Education Trust board meeting, where important decisions about the future of the school were discussed. Judy arrived in Zambia with two extra suitcases filled with technology and school supplies generously donated by her friends and family. Over the course of her two-week visit, Judy was able to use these donations to purchase additional classroom supplies, books, and materials to support our teachers and students. We are deeply grateful for these contributions, which make a significant difference in the day-to-day operation of the school.

**Challenges and Hope for Zambia**

This year, Zambia has been facing significant challenges due to a drought that affected much of the country. The lack of rain has led to low water levels, which, in turn, have impacted Zambia's hydroelectric power generation. As a result, the government has implemented a **load shedding** program, meaning most areas only receive up to six hours of electricity a day.

Twitti school has a generator to ensure that classes can continue, but after months of heavy use, the generator was in need of repair. During her visit, Judy was able to coordinate the necessary repairs, and by the end of her stay, the generator was up and running again. This will be crucial in ensuring that our students have a reliable learning environment, especially during the power shortages.

As Zambia continues to pray for the rains to return, we remain hopeful that the situation will improve and that the school will continue to operate smoothly, despite the challenges.

**A Heartfelt Thank You**

Judy’s visit was a reminder of the incredible support that comes from our community. The donations of technology, supplies, and funds, along with the dedication of our teachers, staff, and families, make the school a beacon of hope for the children we serve. As we look ahead to 2025, we are excited about the future and the opportunities for growth and progress.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the success of this school year. We couldn’t do it without you!