

# Explore! packed up, headed to help orphans in Zimbabwe

By Gordon Woodworth  
Chronicle News Editor

Back in October, when Janice Holding closed Explore!, the family entertainment center on Warren Street in Glens Falls, she wasn't sure what she was going to do with all of the educational and play equipment.

Then she happened to run into Carol Bayle at their church, Bay Road Presbyterian, and Carol told her about a friend, Teresa Dangwa, who was collecting supplies for an orphanage that serves 350 children orphaned by AIDS in Zimbabwe.

"What a wonderful opportunity for both of them," Mrs. Bayle said last week, taking a break from packing up toys and supplies at Explore!

"It was a blessing for Janice, because she didn't know what to do with all of this,



Teresa Dangwa, left, and Janice Holding have joined forces to create Explore! Early Learning Center in Africa with equipment and supplies from Mrs. Holding's Explore! business in Glens Falls, which closed in October.



Alan Holding, right, and Nyasha Dangwa take apart a jungle gym that will be shipped to an orphanage in Zimbabwe.  
*Chronicle photos/Gordon Woodworth*

and it was a blessing for Teresa, because she does know what to do with it!"

Ms. Dangwa, an Albany resident who founded the Dangwa Initiative, received a \$7,000 grant from Lexis/Nexis to send a tractor-trailer container to Zimbabwe. She and her son, Nyasha, came to Glens Falls last weekend to help pack up supplies that are destined for the Explore! Early Learning Center in Chivhu, Zimbabwe.

"More than 10,000 children will benefit from these toys and supplies and equipment," Ms. Dangwa said.

Mrs. Holding said, "This early learning

center will be like Head Start, and provide early-learning experiences for kids who wouldn't have it otherwise."

She said packing up the contents of her former business "is bittersweet. I'm so grateful this isn't going to die. It's so disappointing it didn't work here, but I'm grateful it has found new life."

Ms. Dangwa said, "It humbles me, and I feel honored to have people give of themselves to kids they will never meet. I'm overwhelmed with gratitude."

Other organizations have gotten involved. Mrs. Holding said the Open Door

## How to donate, what the orphanage needs

Teresa Dangwa and Janice Holding said a large truck will be packed on Friday, Feb. 25, at the former Explore! building on Warren Street in Glens Falls. The tractor-trailer container is scheduled to leave for Africa by ship the next day.

People wanting to donate items should call Mrs. Holding at 793-6185 and leave a message to arrange for pick-up.

Items needed include: girls underwear, sanitary napkins, gloves and hats, chalk for classroom chalkboards, pens and pencils, rulers and calculators, maps and atlases, and notebooks and books of any kind, including textbooks and dictionaries. Medical supplies and clothing are also needed, Mrs. Holding said.



Teresa Dangwa, left, and Janice Holding pack up building blocks to send to an orphanage in Zimbabwe.

Mission has donated blankets and linens it had been collecting, and other groups have donated computers and educational supplies.

"The schools over there are 30 kids and one book, and half of them don't even have electricity," Mrs. Holding said. "Anything we can send them, they will use...This will make a real difference."

Info: [www.dangwa.org](http://www.dangwa.org).

**Reach for the Quality!**

The **Chronicle**

**Locally owned, locally committed**

Published February 10, 2011 • The Chronicle, Glens Falls, NY