

Boy breaks piggy bank and gives to Zomba Kidz

**By Sheila Potter
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Rhys Wynn-Williams isn't sure what the fuss is about. The eight-year-old has donated \$40 he received as gifts to Saanich's Zomba Kidz project.

The money, given to Wynn-Williams for Christmas and his birthday, will help build a community centre for preschool-aged kids in Zomba, Malawi.

"There are kids out there that need homes and food and I can provide that with a little money," he said, matter of factly.

But his actions impressed the staff at Saanich Hall, who held a small party for Wynn-Williams on Tuesday.

Municipal solicitor Chris Nation thanked the boy and told him he was the first

person to contribute who wasn't a Saanich employee. Then Nation presented Wynn-Williams with a small carved elephant from Zomba - and a tax receipt, which puzzled the eight-year-old.

Nation explained to Wynn-Williams that he can use the receipt to lower his taxes when he is old enough to pay them.

Wynn-Williams heard about the Zomba Kidz project through his mom Vera Wynn-Williams, a Parks and Recreation employee. She told her son about Saanich's African sister city over the dinner table.

When Rhys said he wanted to donate money, his mom offered to show him pictures of the project's work on the Internet, but she said he wasn't that interested in the details, given the obvious need.

"He said, 'they're orphans, they need a place to sleep. I don't need to see the building,'" she said.

Before he heard about the village, Wynn-Williams said he had planned to use the money to buy Yigioh cards, a trading card game of Japanese monsters.

For more on Saanich's Zomba Kidz project, call 475-5477 or visit the municipality's website at www.saanich.ca.



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Rhys Wynn-Williams donates money he received as gifts for his birthday and Christmas to the Zomba Kidz project.