

First Lubuto Library opens in Lusaka, Zambia

Jane Meyers of the Lubuto Library Project announces the opening of the first Lubuto Library in Lusaka, Zambia. The term "Lubuto" signifies knowledge, enlightenment, and light in the Bemba language spoken in central Africa. Lubuto is an innovative and widely acclaimed library project that has been established to meet the needs of orphans and street children in sub-Saharan Africa.

At a time when so much of the aid community's focus is on the medical aspects of the AIDS crisis, the social and educational needs of the many orphans left behind often get forgotten. The Lubuto Library Project has been set up to offer such children a welcoming place where they can read, listen to stories and connect with others who are there to help them.

The Lubuto Library Project is hosting a celebration of this first library on September 21, 2007, at the Fountain of Hope Street Kids Drop-In Center in Lusaka. The first president of Zambia, Dr. Kenneth

David Kaunda, is the Guest of Honor and will read a children's book to the assembled diplomats, street children and other guests.

The program for this event will feature story telling in both English and Zambian languages, drama and musical performances and art activities by and for the street children. The ceremony will include a welcome from Jane Kinney Meyers, President of the Lubuto Library Project, remarks from Zambian Government representatives and reading of a congratulatory message from the UN Special Envoy for HIV and AIDS in Africa, Mrs. Elizabeth Mataka. Laura Bush, First Lady of the United States, contributed books to the library and sent a congratulatory message that will be read by the U.S. Ambassador to Zambia, Carmen Martinez.

More information on the Lubuto Library Project can be found at <http://www.lubuto.org>.

Sister Libraries Wiki

The Sister Libraries wiki is up and running! ALA's International Relations Office and IRRT are cooperating to produce a "one-stop shopping" opportunity for anyone interested in:

- *learning about sister libraries*
- *looking for a sister library*
- *sharing experiences and activities*

The interactive nature of the wiki allows everyone to post about experiences, share tips and tricks, or request a partner.

There are many libraries around the world looking for a partner - why not you?

For more information, go to <http://wikis.ala.org/sisterlibraries/>

International Relations Office

American Library Association
50 East Huron Street
Chicago, IL 60611 USA