



# Lubuto Library Project

Bringing knowledge and enlightenment to Africa's most vulnerable children and youth



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July 2012



## U.N. SECRETARY GENERAL VISITS THE LUBUTO LIBRARY

In March we took time out from our day-to-day activities to welcome the United Nations Secretary General, Ban Ki-Moon, to the Lubuto Library at Fountain of Hope. Accompanying him on this visit was the President of the International Olympic Committee, Jacques Rogge.

They were both very interested in the library and its book and technology resources and the programs that they found there. [LubutoArts](#) artists had prepared and presented paintings to both visitors and other dignitaries who accompanied them. The photo at the head of the newsletter depicts the UNSG talking with librarian

Kasela Chombu as he reads a favorite book to children in the library.  
[Click here](#) to view more photos of Ban Ki-Moon's and Jacques Rogge's visit.

### **FINDING A PLACE TO THRIVE IN THE LUBUTO LIBRARY**

Blessing (name changed to ensure anonymity) arrived at the Fountain of Hope a couple of months ago. It's unclear how old he is, and he has obviously suffered a lot of trauma. He did not understand how to behave in social situations and had trouble communicating – leading us to suspect that he might have an Autistic Spectrum Disorder. Despite his problems, he soon identified the library as a place where he felt comfortable - it is very difficult to get him to leave when it is time to go to school!

Blessing became a big fan of the OLPC laptops and uses a wide variety of its programs. He is learning to share and take turns – helping with library routines and now enjoying books for the first time. He takes part in both [LubutoMentoring](#) and [LubutoDrama](#) and is becoming a popular member of the group. We are very proud of the way that Blessing has come into his own since we first met him, and are pleased that the Lubuto Library has become such a central place in his life.

### **LUBUTODRAMA STAR BECOMES A LUBUTO LIBRARIAN**

We are so happy to welcome Kasela Chombu as our new librarian at the Fountain of Hope Lubuto Library. Kasela has long been a part of our library community and an avid user of our resources and participant in our programs. He especially made his mark in the role of Martin Luther King, Jr. in the initial [LubutoDrama](#) productions of 'Martin's Big Words'. He is already a very popular role model for the children who visit the library, and can generally be found underneath a crowd of boys and girls at [LubutoStorytime](#), supervising the [Lubuto Laptops](#) and [Literacy](#) programs, or playing games in the insaka with the little ones.

### **FUTURE ZAMBIAN LIBRARIANS LEARN FROM THE LUBUTO LIBRARY**

Our work to build the capacity of Zambia's library professionals to serve vulnerable children and youth was furthered during 3 weeks of internship spent at our library in June by two students of the University of Zambia's Department of Library Studies. Both students found that the Lubuto model is very different from anything that they have encountered during their studies so far, but they soon adapted and realized the importance of Lubuto Libraries to Zambia's youth and their communities. They quickly gained confidence in working with

vulnerable children through our unique programs and we will continue to provide this training to future librarians in Zambia...and hope that many of them will eventually work in Lubuto Libraries.

### **PLEASE JOIN US AS A SUSTAINING SUPPORTER**

As a Sustaining Supporter, you will receive an email with each donation to keep you informed of Lubuto's latest developments, of which you are a key supporter. And as you know, this support gives thousands of children, who may otherwise never see the pages of a book, the opportunity to learn, communicate and grow in beautiful, safe and welcoming libraries, making a real and lasting difference in their lives. A modest donation charged to your credit card each month or quarter helps Lubuto tremendously.

[Click here to join us!](#)

### **FEEDBACK**

Do you have any ideas for what you would like to see in future newsletters? If so, we'd love to hear from you.

Email us at [webmail@lubuto.org](mailto:webmail@lubuto.org).



#### **[Lubuto Photostream](#)**

Visit our photostream to see more images of the visit of U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon and IOC President Jacques Rogge to the Lubuto Library, or view any of our other photo collections.

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#### **[Lubuto Blog](#)**

Read more about "Blessing's" transformation since arriving at Fountain of Hope a couple of months ago in Nikki Packer's latest post on the Lubuto Library Blog.

[More >>](#)

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