



Lubuto Library Project

Bringing knowledge and enlightenment to Africa's street kids, orphans, and other vulnerable children



Lubuto Library Project Newsletter No. 11 — September 2009

Appealing for your help

In July we sent out a (snail) mail appeal to our previous donors, and we are so grateful to those who have already responded with continued generosity.

We want to bring Lubuto Libraries to thousands of others who need them, so our support base needs to be much wider. Please consider donating today and becoming a part of this vital work. Your gift is tax-deductible. Even a very modest donation makes a big difference to our small, direct-service organization.

The generosity of hundreds of individual donors made it possible for thousands of vulnerable young people in Zambia to find hope and education; with over 10,000 visits, the first Lubuto Library has been an overwhelming success.

Our services have now been internationally recognized as model libraries for disadvantaged children anywhere, with specially designed programs led by Zambian professionals that support children in developing their talents, skills and self-esteem, including: Performing and Visual Arts; Literacy; Read-aloud and Storytelling; Motivational Mentoring; One Laptop Per Child (OLPC); HIV/AIDS and Health; Environment; and encouraging children to write and illustrate their life stories and to create their own books.

Through the support of people like you, who appreciate and would like to be part of this innovative humanistic work, we have achieved significant milestones and developed critical relationships that have set us on the path toward establishing Lubuto as a strong, sustainable development organization, working hand in hand with government agencies and the local communities where our libraries are planned. But our future success will continue to depend on support from individuals like you! Please donate today.

Our work is made possible through the generosity of our supporters.

Please send check donations to:

**5505 Connecticut Ave., NW, #368
Washington, DC
20015-2601**

*Or, you can donate online at www.Lubuto.org
You can make either a one-time or recurrent credit card donation*

You can also help by searching the web using GoodSearch (www.goodsearch.com) and shopping online using Goodshop.com (coupons and discounts at more than 1,000 stores) and specifying Lubuto as the charity that you support!

Lubuto's Latest News

As we reported in an April "News Flash," the participants of our Visual Arts Program exhibited (and sold) their paintings at a private art gallery in Lusaka in February - a very proud day for all. We also introduced the wildly popular and heavily used One Laptop Per Child (OLPC) laptops in our first library.



We continue to work to identify and preserve Zambia's oral traditions. To that end, volunteer Karen Chittenden and her son Noah have been scanning Zambian stories from the Library of Congress which will eventually become a valuable resource through our website.

We are also developing a child protection and girl's outreach program whose benefits will extend to many other organizations that support orphans and vulnerable children.

Thanks to the generosity of Dow Jones we are now building the second Lubuto Library, in Lusaka's Garden Compound, another area where many street children stay. In addition, organizations hosting our next several libraries have been identified and we are working with them and the Zambian Government on the details of financing, construction and staffing.

Your Donations Directly Help Our Children

Helping Lubuto's children helps all of us and makes the world a better place

When children and youth are forced to find their own way in the world and excluded from educational opportunities their choice is often to turn against society. In these days when we are so acutely aware of our increasing interdependence in the world, helping to bring Lubuto's hope to such youth will surely contribute to a more peaceful world for all of us.

High quality for genuine impact

Lubuto brings the best of what the library profession has to offer to some of the world's most vulnerable children - who need and deserve the best!



Your gift makes such a difference



Any size gift is welcome, needed and greatly appreciated! All donations are tax deductible and easy using your credit card at www.Lubuto.org.

Please consider becoming a sustaining donor by having a monthly (or other frequency) donation charged to your credit card. A small amount each month will add up to significant help for our work.

Your support will directly change lives, in ways you can see: not just in numbers, but in children reading, painting, listening, learning, and simply enjoying and feeling safe in a beautiful, enriching place of their own. Please help Lubuto continue to be a source of light for these amazing children.

Every donation makes a genuine difference to the children we serve!

Lubuto's sustainable approach

Lubuto Libraries don't impose western educational systems but, rather, are based upon traditional approaches by which African children learn about the world and their place in it. We do everything with a fundamental respect for the society and the individuals we serve.

We work from the ground (community) up and the top (Government) down to ensure impact and sustainability, and our libraries are completely locally owned and operated.

We need your assistance to bring this great treasure of Lubuto Libraries to more and more deserving children – with your collaboration and by spreading the word of our innovative program to others. Only a few years ago Lubuto libraries were still a dream, and we hope that our achievements have earned your confidence.

Lubuto receives ALA President's Award

June's newsletter showed the professional recognition Lubuto has received from the Special Library Association. In July, at the American Library Association's annual conference in Chicago, the Lubuto Library Project was recognized for its excellence and impact with the ALA President's Award for International Innovation.

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION presents this 2009 Presidential Citation for International Innovation to Lubuto Library Project

For founding a professional library development organization that creates indigenously-styled, model libraries with excellent collections and programs for Africa's most vulnerable children, giving them literacy skills and opportunities for educational growth, discovery and joy through reading, storytelling, arts and mentoring programs;

For innovative library services to street children—providing a safe, nurturing space and learning opportunities for children who cannot attend school—providing much more than a room with books;

For connecting American volunteers and students with their African peers through a community service program that raises awareness of the impact of AIDS in orphaning African children and builds balanced and high-quality 4,000-volume collections and sends them shelf-ready to Zambia;

For working to preserve Zambia's cultural heritage; For partnering with governments and colleagues and establishing a funding network to insure sustainability and growth to develop other Lubuto Libraries;

For serving as a true hero to vulnerable children in Zambia and a shining example of commitment to first-rate library services for youth around the world.

James Rettig, President, American Library Association
Chicago, Illinois, July 13, 2009.

