



# Lubuto Library Project

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



Lubuto Library Project Newsletter No. 18 – December 2010

## **Successful opening of Ngwerere Lubuto Library on 10 November (view slide show)**

The opening celebration for the second Lubuto Library was a great success, with some 500 children, youth and adults attending,



despite unseasonably early rains and not-quite-completed construction (see backstory below). Funded by [Dow Jones & Company](#), this was the first Lubuto library built in partnership with Zambia's Ministry of Education, who chose Ngwerere Basic School as its host due to its proximity to many street children and vulnerable youth. We were honored again by our special guest, the First Republican President of Zambia, [Kenneth D. Kaunda](#), who was introduced by his former political advisor and member of Lubuto's Advisory Board, [Mark Chona](#). The Guest of Honor, Deputy Minister of Education, Hon. [Crispin Musosha](#), M.P., was represented by Ministry of Education Permanent Secretary [Andrew Phiri](#). Member of Parliament for Mandevu, Hon. [Jean Kapata](#) also made congratulatory remarks, and the emcee was our own Mulenga Kapwepwe, Chairperson of the National Arts Council of Zambia. U.S. Ambassador to Zambia [Mark C. Storella](#) was also an honored guest, and [Jane Kinney Meyers](#) welcomed and thanked all who made the library and its celebration possible.



The opening activities included story dramatizations and dance performances by Zambian youth and readings by [Peggy Chilema](#) and [Gankhanani Moyo](#) of local-language books they created during a recent book-making workshop co-

sponsored by the Lubuto Library Project and the Zambian Board on Books for Young People. Also, a letter from [Ellen Tise](#), president of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions was read by the president of the Zambia Library Association, [Francine Makondo](#).

Local supporters who made the opening celebration possible included the staff of the Ngwerere Basic School, the U.S. Embassy in Zambia, the Hellenic Association of Lusaka, Protea Hotels Zambia and SPAR Supermarkets, through whose generosity we were able to offer refreshments to our young guests.

## **Getting by with a little help from our friends....**

Library construction wasn't even close to being finished when I arrived in Zambia on Oct. 9<sup>th</sup> – no walls or roofs on any building, and work continued every day up to the November 10<sup>th</sup> opening – literally, until just about a half-hour before it started, when the thatchers had to leave the site. It wasn't finished, but was close enough. Only on the morning of the opening was the collection able to be unpacked and put in order on the shelves, which was done cheerfully and extremely competently by "our" new Fulbright library science professor to Zambia, Mary Wagner, her husband Bill Moore and daughters Lebo and Nora, along with another Zambia Fulbright, Gloria Cho, Lubuto's great friend Stacy Langner, who had come to Zambia for the opening, and our fantastic volunteer/project manager, Jennifer Campbell. The evening before (Tuesday), the same group gathered with me at the home of our generous host, Dipak Patel, where we made 250 peanut butter & jelly sandwiches (with ingredients donated by SPAR supermarkets) for children coming to the opening, and then folded and stapled some 300 programs. That morning the same friends painted the library's shelves with sealant, after having stained the wooden shelves the day before. Everyone's presence and willingness to jump in and do whatever was needed was literally what saved the day!

All the while, Eleni Coromvli juggled and oversaw thatchers, construction workers, plasterers, decorators and others, while making design decisions – literally - down to the last minute! I went to the Lusaka airport at 12:30pm the day of the 4pm event to pick up freelance photographer Jason DeCrow, who came from New York City to photograph the event just two weeks after his wedding. It rained, and we had no tent, but Mark Chona reminded us that rain is a fortuitous sign and no one seemed bothered at all. With some 500 in attendance, the opening was deemed by all a great success!

### ***New Advisory Board member***

We are thrilled that Mark O'Donnell, CEO of Union Gold Zambia Ltd., chairperson of the Tourism Council of Zambia and longtime representative of Zambia's business community, has agreed to serve on Lubuto's Advisory Board.

***We need your continued financial support to do our important work!***

Please send checks to:  
Lubuto Library Project  
5505 Connecticut Ave., NW, #368  
Washington, DC 20015-2601  
or make donations through [www.Lubuto.org](http://www.Lubuto.org)

Spread your donation throughout the year through monthly donations charged to your credit card.

Our deep thanks to those of you who have already donated to Lubuto this holiday season. You directly change the lives of thousands of vulnerable youth. Our supporters gave children in Zambia 50,000 life-changing library visits last year, and now with two libraries your impact will certainly double!

When you give to Lubuto:

- *You help Emmanuel, Ireen, Enesto and others create, display and sell their artwork to support themselves and sustain the LubutoArts program*
- *You help teachers Mirriam and Betty collaborate with young Moses, Loveness and Joe (who earn school fees and valuable computer skills) to teach out-of-school children to read on OLPC laptops*
- *You help youth in dire circumstances return to school rather than live on the streets, and*
- *connect those already on the streets with people who can help them lead a positive life*
- *You allow hundreds of marginalized children to enjoy good books every day and to just be children*
- *You open doors of opportunity to thousands of children and youth to whom every other door is closed!*