



LUBUTO LIBRARY PROJECT, INC.

BRINGING KNOWLEDGE AND ENLIGHTENMENT TO AFRICA'S STREET CHILDREN

Newsletter no. 3, October 2006

OUR MISSION

The Lubuto Library Project's mission is to create educational opportunities for children affected by HIV/AIDS in Africa. We do this by mobilizing young Americans to build and share collections of excellent books with Africa's orphans and street children, and by constructing libraries to provide those children with safe havens for learning and enrichment.

NEWS

**THE FIRST LUBUTO LIBRARY NEARS COMPLETION
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC MAKES OUR DREAM A REALITY
BRITISH AIRWAYS HELPS LUBUTO TAKE OFF!**

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Support for the Lubuto Library Project has continued to grow. Last spring, appeals to library, book and literary circles through newsletters, listservs, email and word of mouth raised money to begin building the first library in Lusaka, Zambia, and we were humbled by the generous response. We broke ground in mid-June and now, as the roof is being thatched, we are anticipating the joy that street children will experience in a library built just for them – which they, in fact, helped to build. The building will be finished in December and we plan to send the collection by air at the end of that month, to arrive at its destination within two weeks.

WE NEED \$15,000 MORE TO COMPLETE THE CONSTRUCTION.

Here in Washington, students from Edmund Burke School and adult volunteers have been busy classifying and labeling, turning donated books into 'real' library collections, and making sure that the books we send are great ones. Throughout the summer and fall, many top professionals and professors and students from four graduate schools of library science have joined in to help make sure our libraries are first-rate.

We are so grateful to the hundreds of people who gave and continue to give of their time, talents and money, simply because they care and want to help orphans and other vulnerable children in Africa. The respect and caring of their actions will be directly felt by the children in Zambia, and we hope all of our supporters and volunteers will be gratified by knowing how their contribution will change so many lives. We will document this as much as possible, in pictures and words – especially the children's own words, but we also hope that involvement with Lubuto may inspire in some the possibility of travel to Africa and direct contact with the children. We've come to believe that, with love and determination, anything is possible!

Jane Kinney Meyers, President

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC MAKES IT HAPPEN!

When Susan Fifer Canby, our distinguished librarian colleague at the National Geographic Society, introduced us serendipitously to her boss, the Society's CFO Christopher Liedel, we had a strong sense that we were going to begin to move forward much more rapidly. Basically, Mr. Liedel liked what he heard about Lubuto: how we had the audacity to ask for only the best books, to build beautiful buildings, to bring together the best people to serve the most vulnerable, impoverished and endangered children – *even* the National Geographic Society! Since then, NGS has negotiated discounted air and free sea freight to send our collections, and donated and arranged for large-scale future donations of not only their own publications but those of many major publishers with whom they work. Plans are being laid for support to Lubuto in many big and small ways that fit our mutual interest to increase understanding of the contemporary African world and ways we can connect across the globe to help others. Thank you NGS!

BRITISH AIRWAYS TAKES US THERE

Another spectacular person opened yet another door for Lubuto. Don MacDonald, head of Zambian Airways and someone whose family has literally taken some 25 street kids into their home in Lusaka, knew some kind people at British Airways. He asked his friends at BA if they could give us a free ticket to allow Jane Meyers to go to Zambia in November for the opening of the first library and to lay the groundwork for future libraries.... and sure enough, the wish was granted. British Airways, and Don MacDonald, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts!

WHAT'S NEXT?

The U.S. Embassy in Zambia will host a presentation in November by Lubuto staff of our film, *Kids Just Like You*, for various stakeholders in Lusaka. We will meet with potential partners and government authorities to mobilize the support necessary to bring Lubuto Libraries to vulnerable children throughout Zambia and elsewhere in the region. Hopefully we will be able to announce those partnerships in our next newsletter. We will also work out details for building at least one more library in the immediate future – again, details to be revealed later! And completing the building and collection of our first library is the first step: staff will be trained to maintain the library and to offer services to its users. Lubuto's staff will continue to work with that and future Lubuto Libraries to ensure that they are places that truly improve the lives of all of the children who come to them. To do this, we will continue to need your help, so we ask you to please remember and join with our efforts to bring African street children hope for a brighter future.

WWW.LUBUTO.ORG