



Lubuto Library Project

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



Newsletter No. 5 — August 2007

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The work of the Lubuto Library Project is made possible through the generosity of our supporters!

Please send check donations to:
5505 Connecticut Ave., NW, #368
Washington, DC 20015-2601
or donate online at:

www.Lubuto.org

**Combined Federal Campaign
#12370**

VOLUNTEERS MAKING LUBUTO WORK

This print newsletter was designed by Ken Meyers, and the email version by Michelle Campbell, Lubuto's new webmaster.

Ann Sweeney, super Lubuto volunteer and Silvina Fernandez-Duque, editor of Lubuto's film, *Kids Just Like You*, will travel to Zambia this fall for the first library opening event.

You can volunteer to help the Lubuto Library Project. Our current needs include website and accounting assistance.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

We are just about to open the first Lubuto Library! Construction of that library, hosted by the Fountain of Hope street kids drop-in center in Lusaka, Zambia, is complete, and now final decorations are being added to the buildings.

The 4,000-volume collection for that library was completed in May, with carefully-selected books classified according to our system that is specially tailored to the needs of Lubuto Library users. At end-May a host of students from Edmund Burke School packed the books and they were sent by air to Lusaka (at a deep discount, thanks to our friends in the shipping department at National Geographic Society and the generosity of International Mailing solutions, LLC). The shipment arrived days later and the books are being put on the shelves right now – and very soon **the doors will open to the children!**

I wish to thank all of you who have given your time, talents and financial support to bring this first library into existence – your contribution will help to change the lives of many children for the better. For those who would like to help us going forward, please join in. We can all celebrate what we have accomplished, and look forward to building the next Lubuto Libraries!

— Jane Kinney Meyers, President



FIRST LIBRARY OPENING EVENT

An event to celebrate the first Lubuto Library will take place on September 25, 2007 at the Fountain of Hope in Lusaka. His Excellency the First President of the Republic Zambia, Dr. Kenneth David Kaunda will be the Guest of Honor, and will read a children's book to the audience. A renowned Zambian storyteller will also entertain the guests, diplomats, officials from Government

and NGOs who will join the street children in the audience. Bare Feet theatre group will perform short dramas, and in the library buildings art and read-aloud and other Lubuto Library activities will be on display. Letters of congratulations from U.S. First Lady Laura Bush and the UN Special Envoy for HIV/AIDS in Africa Elizabeth Mataka will be read, and books donated by Mrs. Bush and others will be on display.

At our grand opening event, President Kenneth Kaunda will help us show Zambia and the world the many different ways that Lubuto Libraries can enrich the lives of the marginalized children we serve. While fostering reading literacy is an obvious objective of a library, partnering with the Bare Feet street kids theater and arts group and the Zambia Library Association enables us to also impart cultural and information literacy. Libraries connect the past, present and future...and our beautiful, indigenously-styled buildings will be a refuge where children can connect with their cultural past the society around them and build skills and hope for the future.

SPECIAL LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION HONORS JANE KINNEY MEYERS

Jane Kinney Meyers was given a standing ovation at the opening ceremonies of the 2007 Special Library Association (SLA) conference in June when she received the Dow Jones Leadership Award. The outpouring of generous donations and offers to help from information professionals in corporate and organization libraries has been gratifying and exciting.

Backing from our colleagues in the library, information and book-related professions has been the source of the majority of our financial support. Now focusing their considerable talents on furthering the Lubuto Project's programs, they are helping us spread the word to their organizations and beyond. **Our continued, heartfelt thanks go to the Special Libraries Association and Dow Jones & Co.**

UN SECRETARY GENERAL'S SPECIAL ENVOY FOR HIV/AIDS IN AFRICA CONGRATULATES THE LUBUTO LIBRARY PROJECT

In sending her 'heartfelt congratulations' for the 'wonderful achievement' of opening the first Lubuto Library, **Elizabeth Mataka**, Executive Director of the Zambia National AIDS Network, Vice Chair of the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, and UN Special Envoy for AIDS in Africa noted the special role Lubuto Libraries will play in improving the lives of orphans and vulnerable children: "...I am also particularly glad to note that the Library will provide a safe haven for children to 'read, learn to read and connect with society at large' while at the same time taking into consideration the sensitivity of the psychological needs of the children."

LUBUTO ON THE ROAD

Jane Meyers recently spoke at:

- the i-School at Drexel University, Philadelphia, PA
- Special Libraries Association annual conference, Denver, CO
- American Library Association annual conference, Washington, DC

After a month in Zambia this fall, Jane will speak at the 4th northeast regional meeting of the American Association of Law Libraries in Toronto, Canada, and in November at the University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, AL.

WHAT'S NEXT?

As we open our first library, plans are advancing for our next two Lubuto Libraries, to be hosted by St. Francis Community School in Itimpi, Kitwe, and the Matantala Rural Development Enterprise in Nabukuyu, 23km east of Monze. Fundraising for the constructions is under way, and in Washington, DC, we have already been compiling and classifying the next library collection.

Dozens of publishers pledged to donate books we requested from them at the American Library Association annual conference last month, and our board members from the National Geographic Society will continue to help us get NGS's excellent books on to our libraries' shelves. A new partnership with the Pearson Foundation will allow us to offer the excellent publications of DK and Penguin Books. And we will continue to work with more and more schools and organizations who wish to conduct book drives and raise awareness of how HIV/AIDS has affected the lives of so many young people in sub-Saharan Africa.



ADVISORY BOARD ADDITIONS AND CHANGES

New Advisory Board members: **Kent L. Brown, Jr.**, Editor-in-Chief of *Highlights for Children*, Publisher of Boyds Mills Press, and Executive Director of the Highlights Foundation; Zambian business executive and civic leader **Mark Chona**, former Political Advisor to President Kenneth Kaunda, member of the International Advisory Board of the Council on Foreign Relations and recently retired as Executive Chairman of Zambia's presidential task force on corruption; **Clare Hart**, Executive Vice President of Dow Jones & Company; and **H.E. Dr. Inonge Mbikusita-Lewanika**, Ambassador of the Republic of Zambia to the United States.

Advisory Board changes: **Peter McDermott** has left his position as Chief of the HIV/AIDS Section of UNICEF to return to the U.K. as Chief Executive Officer of the Children's Investment Fund Foundation; Orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) policy expert **Suzi Peel**, formerly Associate Director for OVC at Family Health International, is now Vice President of Books of Hope.

New members join the rest of our illustrious Advisory Board: Children's literature expert and bookseller **Marilyn Hollinshead**; Malawian **Jean Kalinga**, the IMF Spouse/Partner Association's Civics Program representative and fundraising chair; Zambian sociologist, author and playwright **Mulenga Kapwepwe**, Chairperson of Zambia's National Arts Council and Policy Advisor in the Ministry of Youth, Sport and Child Development; children's literature expert, librarian and teacher **Jewell Stoddard**, Director of Children's Services of Politics and Prose Bookstore; and retired Senior Correspondent of ABC News Nightline **Jim Wooten**, author of *We Are All The Same: A Story of a Boy's Courage and a Mother's Love* (soon to be a motion picture starring Naomi Watts).