



Lubuto Library Project

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



Newsletter No. 7 — May 2008

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A \$20,000 CHALLENGE GRANT AND OPRAH'S ANGEL NETWORK PUSH LUBUTO FORWARD

So many of you responded generously to the \$20,000 challenge grant offered by our extraordinary patron and Advisory Board member, **Marilyn Hollinshead**, that we matched the amount by the end of April...and kind donations are still coming in. We are most grateful to Marilyn and to all of you who contributed. This essential financial support is what is enabling us to plan our next libraries, along with Zambian and international partners. On the drawing board right now are five libraries, with excellent and eager host organizations ready to go.

Oprah's Angel Network also recognized our accomplishments by inviting us to submit a grant proposal, and have responded with a grant of \$10,000 toward the construction of a Lubuto Library in the rural area of Nabukuyu, Zambia.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The seven months that have passed since the opening of the first Lubuto Library in Lusaka, Zambia, have shown us, and the world, how wonderful our library and its programs are for vulnerable children. The latest reports are that the street children at the Fountain of Hope just LOVE their library. Other groups in Lusaka planning to host Lubuto Libraries don't want their children to have to wait until we can build theirs: they are finding ways to take them to use the library at the Fountain of Hope right away!



Of course, the reaction and impact on the children is the most important measure of our success, but responses from Zambian society and Government have also been overwhelmingly positive. We have received strong support from the Ministry of Youth, Sport and Child Development and the Ministry of Education, both of whom have told us they would like us to build our libraries throughout Zambia – and are acting to help us do just that. We work from the ground up, with local communities, to create sustainable institutions that reflect and celebrate Zambian culture, that are owned and run by Zambian organizations, and we are humbled by their outpouring of support for this very new idea.

CONNECTING CHILDREN WITH ADULTS WHO CARE

With a Lubuto Library as a new focal point, Zambian professionals are volunteering to offer exciting and innovative programs to the vulnerable children we serve. These regular programs include: Visual Arts with artist and teacher Mwamba Mulangala; Reading with Zambian and international volunteer librarians and teachers; Performing Arts and Storytelling with Barefeet; and Motivational Mentoring with Dr. Lawrence Mukuka. Other programs currently being developed include a book-based Literacy program, Health and HIV/AIDS counseling, an environment program and Photography in Nature.



A Lubuto Library, with enriching programs, furnishes a beautiful, welcoming place and an effective way to reach and help Zambia's most vulnerable children like no other. As Zambian Ambassador Mbikusita-Lewanika recently put it:

"This is the way we are, traditionally, in Zambia: the adults come together to take care of all of the children." And this is what Lubuto Libraries are designed to facilitate.

LIBRARY/INFORMATION PROFESSIONALS POWER LUBUTO'S GROWTH

Volunteer and fundraising support from information professionals of **SLA**, the Special Libraries Association has continued to grow since Jane Meyers received the Dow Jones Leadership Award at SLA's 2007 annual conference. Many SLA members have joined in fundraising, most notably **Judy Harris** at **Bryan Cave LLP** in St. Louis. Thanks to continued generous support from **Dow Jones and Co.**, Jane will attend SLA's 2008 conference in Seattle, and with Lubuto volunteer **Ann Sweeney**, have an opportunity to thank SLA supporters in person, and hand out DVDs of the first Lubuto Library opening celebration at Dow Jones' exhibit area. Thanks to Brodart Library Supplies and Furnishings, there will be a presentation on the Lubuto Project at the ALA (American Library Association) annual conference in Anaheim, where Jane will be joined by: **Tatum Preston**, co-founder of **Lubuto Alabama**, who will be building future library collections in Tuscaloosa, AL; Lubuto Advisory Council member **Dr. Denise Agosto** of Drexel University's i-School, whose research has shown Lubuto to be a model for library services to disadvantaged youth; and **Dr. Laurie Bonnici**, whose information technology classes at the University of Alabama are assisting Lubuto with website and other technology development. Along with their ongoing acquisitions support and fundraising for Lubuto, University of South Carolina's Library and Information Science Student Association (LISSA), the ALA Student Chapter of the Year, will join the speakers at a Lubuto poster session at ALA, and will also present a poster session on Lubuto at IFLA, the Int. Federation of Library Assn's and Institutions conference in Ontario. Lubuto will also be represented at SCECSAL, the Standing Conference of Eastern, Central and Southern African Librarians in Lusaka by Lubuto trainer **Naomy Mtanga** of the Univ. of Zambia School of Library Studies, along with **Holly Morganelli**.



THOUGHTS ON LUBUTO LIBRARIES:

On seeing Lubuto's beautiful buildings and excellent collection and services, the First Republic President of Zambia, **Dr. Kenneth Kaunda**, called the Lubuto Library a place where "*we're still holding on to humanity.*"



"[The Lubuto Library Project] has established the equivalent of a caring library, accessible to all children, especially those who cannot attend school - it is a place of learning through story telling, drama, mentoring, and lovely books; it is a place of safety; it is based upon traditional approaches by which children learn about the world and their place in it.... The buildings are gorgeous!

...Eleni [Coromvli] ... has created structures that invite people to gather and socialize.... In the safe space that this library provides the children participate in a number of programs that embrace informal education, child protection, and HIV and AIDS education. Some of these programs are the performing arts, visual arts, the environment, and a mentoring program where children receive life skills. It is a unique way to reach children that I have not seen replicated anywhere else."

Dr. Jonathan Brakarsh, clinical psychologist and international OVC consultant, Harare, Zimbabwe.

VOLUNTEERS IN AND TO ZAMBIA

For her practicum in completion of her Master's in Information Science at Pratt Institute, Holly Morganelli secured the first Nasser Sharify Fellowship for International Librarianship which will enable her to work with the first Lubuto Library and our program in Lusaka this summer. The wife of Sweden's Ambassador to Zambia, Maria Ronnås, is also finishing a Library Science Master's degree, with an emphasis on children's library services, and is working with our first library as well. Stacy Langner carried out MLS research with our program in Zambia in March related to evaluation and knowledge management. And development professional Dana Sandstrom, resident in Zambia, has been providing essential program assistance and volunteer mobilization to get our first library up and running.