



Lubuto Library Project

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



Newsletter No. 8 — August 2008

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www.Lubuto.org

MEET THE FIRST LUBUTO LIBRARIAN

Severino Vasco, the first Lubuto Librarian who runs the library at the Fountain of Hope, is showing the world – wonderfully - how the Lubuto model works!

A former street kid himself, Vasco (as he's known) knows exactly how to communicate and reach out to Lusaka's most vulnerable young people, and he goes out onto the streets regularly to bring many of them in to participate in the library's programs. Some then have chosen to come to live at the Fountain of Hope, but others have become regular users of the library and its programs, and even participate in the community school, while preferring to return to the streets after they leave. A traditional library or school would never have reached these children.



Lubuto Libraries have special organization and access systems specifically designed to be managed by non-librarians like Vasco, whose most important qualification is that they intimately understand and relate to street kids. **You can read an interview with Vasco on a new blog on Lubuto.org's home page.**

**Lubuto's 2007 Annual Report is now available on www.Lubuto.org
Contact us for a print version**

NEXT LUBUTO LIBRARY

Advisory Board member Mark Chona is working with Lubuto's director in Zambia, Eleni Coromvli, to



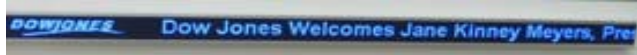
mobilize funds from the members of the business community to build the next Lubuto Library in the rural area of Nabukuyu. The library will be part of Mr. Chona's Matantala Rural Development Enterprise. Oprah's Angel Network has contributed \$10,000 toward this library construction, and LaFarge Zambia has committed to donating cement. **We expect to secure the remainder of the needed support and begin construction at Nabukuyu soon.**

A Lubuto Network Begins to Form

In a new partnership, Project Concern Int'l. Zambia (PCIZ) is supporting our plan to establish a system of Lubuto Libraries, bringing them wherever there are children who need them. PCIZ, whose network links many organizations that are candidates to become Lubuto Library hosts, sponsored a Lubuto Library management workshop in May 2008 that included representatives from several of these groups, as well as the Fountain of Hope. The participants, young and older, roundly agreed that it was an exciting day. One teenage user said, 'up to today I knew that I had to keep quiet in a library, but in the workshop I learned that discussions and many programs can take place in a library.' Other children agreed: they 'had thought a library is only for reading' and 'never knew how involving a library can be.' PCIZ is providing support to a number of Lubuto programs and, currently, makes it possible for children to travel from other centers to use the first library. We are now seeking funding, in partnership with PCIZ, to build Lubuto Libraries at a number of these network organizations.



DOW JONES AND COMPANY ENGAGES THEIR EMPLOYEES IN SUPPORT OF THE LUBUTO LIBRARY PROJECT



Lubuto President Jane Meyers was invited to address **Dow Jones** (DJ) Enterprise Media staff in Princeton, NJ recently. Jane briefed DJ employees on the Lubuto Project and the unique role it plays in support of vulnerable children in sub-Saharan Africa. The presentation received an enthusiastic reception, and DJ is planning to launch an enterprise-wide employee book drive in September. The immediate goal is to collect enough books for an entire 4,000-volume collection, but individual staffers are also planning other ways to help our organization grow and build more libraries. We eagerly look forward to working with the very nice and generous folks at Dow Jones in the future!

RECENT VISITS TO THE FIRST LUBUTO LIBRARY

The northern hemisphere summer has seen many group and individual visits to the Lubuto Library at the Fountain of Hope. A group of **Vassar College** alumni visited the library on July 11 as part of a trip led by Vassar's President **Cappy Hill**, who lived and worked in Zambia years ago. Another group from **St. Paul's Lutheran Church** in DC, which has hosted our collection-building activities for several years, spent a couple of days volunteering in the library. Our old friend **Kenny Hau** shepherded them to and from their hotel, and they enjoyed meeting and working with Kenny, Vasco and the children in the library. Busloads of delegates from the Standing Conference of Eastern, Central and Southern African Librarians (**SCECSAL**) conference also visited the library in July, thanks to transport provided by PCIZ. And many individual tourists to the beautiful game parks and other places in Zambia are now coming to Lusaka's newest tourist destination, the beautiful, indigenously-styled Lubuto Library.



LIBRARY AND INFORMATION PROFESSIONALS CONTINUE TO FUEL LUBUTO'S GROWTH

We can't help but extol the talents and creativity of our colleagues who have combined their professional excellence with their support of Lubuto's model program. **Prof. Rita Ormsby**, an award-winning business and finance librarian at Baruch College, asked an author to channel his enthusiastic appreciation of her outstanding support to his book to a \$1,000 donation to Lubuto. One of LLP's major support-



ers, information entrepreneur **Phil Brown**, generated \$2,000 for Lubuto with a marketplace survey for his new product, *Conflicts Authority*. And Special Libraries Association Dow Jones Leadership Award winner **Richard Huffine** donated \$500 of his award to Lubuto at the 2008 SLA annual conference. We are most grateful for this support from such shining lights of our profession, especially since it reflects their outstanding accomplishments as information professionals.

Other successful fundraising efforts this summer include **Rivka Yerushalmi's** request for donations to Lubuto in lieu of gifts to invitees to her celebration of the completion of her MLS degree at the University of Maryland's College of Information Studies, which garnered almost \$2,000 to support Lubuto's work. And **Eleanor Frierson** organized a lovely fundraising tea under the auspices of **Rich Carson's** presidency of District 7620 of Rotary International at the home of Lubuto supporter **Anne Mehriinger**, who later visited the first Lubuto Library in Zambia with her husband **Terry Beaty** on the Vassar alumni trip.

THOUGHTS ON LUBUTO LIBRARIES

"Dear Colleagues---just back from Zambia where I visited this remarkable library for street kids; it was truly inspirational. If you can afford anything at all, please consider donating to this cause...." Brenda Braham, Digital Initiatives Librarian, Montgomery College, Rockville, MD