

# School Aid

Building Partnerships with African Schools  
Winter 2009/2010

Dear Friends,

2009 was an eventful and productive year for School Aid. The six consignments sent from our Beaconsfield warehouse are benefiting over 140 under-resourced schools in Tanzania, South Africa and Eritrea. In 2009 School Aid reached more than 80,000 children, bringing them materials to enhance their education and improve their life chances.

We would like to thank everyone who has worked so hard to make this happen. We greatly appreciate the dedication of those who pack in the UK warehouse each week, of the drivers who keep School Aid 'on the road', of the growing numbers of volunteers with marketing, administrative and fundraising expertise. We are most grateful to the volunteers in Africa who liaise with beneficiary schools to discover and monitor their resource needs, who ensure that consignments arrive safely at their destinations, and who promote School Aid's work. The contribution of each person is valued.

Our partner organisations, sponsors and donors are important in helping us achieve our aims. Our sincere thanks to those who assist us in so many ways to deliver practical support to African children's education.

This year we have worked in a challenging financial climate. The Lord's Dinner stands as a highlight. It demonstrates the belief of so many people in what we are striving to achieve. The substantial amount raised, almost £40,000, enables us to plan further ahead. Thank you to all who contributed to this successful event.

Our first sister organisation, School Aid South Africa, was launched in March, built on six years of work by volunteers and partner organisations in South Africa. It gives formal focus for School Aid's growing reputation there for practical intervention in schools. We wish the new organisation, its directors and volunteers, well.

My fellow trustees are a dedicated and talented group whose support has been most helpful during my first year as Chairman. As the year ends, Chris Knight steps down as a trustee. School Aid has benefited hugely over the years from Chris's enthusiasm, drive and vision. She has our profound gratitude and warm good wishes.

Best wishes to you all for 2010.

*Janis Mowlam*  
School Aid Chairman



President Joy Baker and Chairman Janis Mowlam  
visiting schools in South Africa

## **...other highlights from 2009**

### **A Message from Tanzania**

*from Peter Michael, representing the Rombo Development Trust in Tanzania. A 40-foot container of educational resources was sent to the Rombo region in March 2009.*

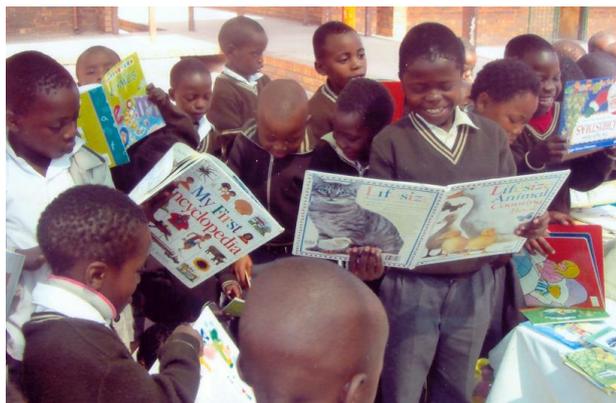
School Aid has just given someone's life a meaning. It has empowered these African kids to desire to fulfil their dreams and has given them a tool to make their lives better or worthy of living. And School Aid has provided a tool to unlock the great potential which is in these kids, which will transform their lives, their surroundings, their society/nations, and the world as a whole. Whenever this will happen you know you will have a part in it, whether you will know or not it doesn't matter, but what matters is that you have done it and it will surely happen. You had better be proud of your contribution.

Well done - keep it up!

### **A Message from South Africa**

*from Vuyelwa Masangwana, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the new School Aid South Africa, from a speech given at the Lord's Dinner to benefit School Aid in October 2009.*

I am honoured to be standing in front of such an amazing audience. I am touched to see many of you here besides the many calls in your life you choose to be with School Aid tonight. You might not realise the message that you are sending to me and the children in Africa, your presence is saying 'little girl, little boy, even though we have never met, I believe in you, I believe in you so much that I am willing to invest into your future'.



We have a saying that goes as follows: 'Give a man a fish and he will have food for a day; teach him to fish and he will have food for life.' Making education available to ordinary children in South Africa, many of whom would never get the opportunity otherwise, is not only a worthwhile contribution, but is also an investment in the future of those children and of the country.

School Aid Book Day at Ebomini Primary School

Before I step down from the podium, may I request you to just think of this: All little children love to recite 'Twinkle, twinkle little star!' They, the children, are in fact the little stars. The only difference is that there are millions of them who are denied the chance to twinkle... School Aid, with your assistance, will ensure that a few more – no, actually many more – will get the opportunity to twinkle! I thank you.

### **Highest Accolade for School Aid Founder and President**

Lady Baker has been awarded The Paul Harris Fellowship by the Rotary Foundation of Rotary International. This is the highest award a Rotary Club can give, and it was awarded in recognition of Joy Baker's tangible contribution to the progression of friendly relations among peoples of the world.

Rotary Club of Chesham and District Governor for 2008/09 Les Lee said '*Through Joy's inspiration in founding School Aid and her energetic personal involvement at all levels in the organisation to support education in developing countries, no one is more deserving of this recognition by the Rotary Club.*' Not only is it a recognition of Lady Baker's individual achievements but it is also a reflection of the hard work of all School Aid's 50 local volunteers who have helped make School Aid what it is today.

Visit our new website at [www.school-aid.org](http://www.school-aid.org) or contact us at [office@school-aid.org](mailto:office@school-aid.org) or on (01753) 883853.