Grand opening of two libraries in South Africa

Bokamoso School Container Library

On 18th March 2011 Bokamoso Secondary School in Tembisa township, north of Johannesburg, celebrated the launch of its new library. Staff, students, and representatives of the Dept. of Education and local Rotarians attended the launch arranged by School Aid South Africa (SASA).

Mr Pillay of Active Power sponsored the conversion of the container. A SASA volunteer, Becky Scholtes organised the library books from School Aid UK with the staff and students. The library was opened by former Chief Justice Dr. Pius Langa a SASA Director, Mr. Pillay, and the Principal Mr. Pitse.

Thuthukani Community Library

School Aid, Home and Homes for Children and the South African Dept. of Education, collaborated to create the Thuthukani Community Library and Hub. It was launched on 24th March.

The library is based in Thuthukani Primary School, Witbank township, near Pretoria. It supports the education of the school's 730 pupils, 60% of whom are children affected by HIV/AIDS.

The library is stocked with over 1,000 books provided by School Aid. After school it is open to the whole community and is staffed by a full-time librarian.

The hub includes a drop in centre for pre-school siblings, a kitchen, and a meeting room/classroom for an after-school care programme.

Hope and Homes for Children intend to open five more libraries locally with books supplied by School Aid.

22,000 books to schools in South Africa, Zimbabwe and Zambia

During March, Herne Hill School in London packed one pallet of school supplies for their linked school Khanya Primary in Cape Town, South Africa. Other pallets of books and science equipment are travelling overland to schools in southern Zimbabwe. One pallet is going to a primary school in Zambia, while the remaining pallets are going to South African school libraries.

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS & FRIENDS
**Tanzanian MP relays President’s thanks**

Tanzanian MP for the constituency of Mvomero, the **Hon. Amos G. Makalla**, visited School Aid on 26th March to thank staff and volunteers for their support of 21 schools in his region.

He carried a personal message from the President of Tanzania thanking School Aid for our work in his country.

Mr. Makalla said that, while new schools are being built there is still a severe shortage of textbooks and teachers, hindering students from gaining a quality education. School Aid's input is helping to improve the situation. Mr. Makalla met **Martha Ware** and volunteers as he toured the warehouse.

**Vodafone winner moves on**

School Aid said goodbye to **Josh Palfreman** who spent two months working with us, sponsored by the Vodafone World of Difference award that he won in January 2011.

Josh and his partner Ashura Kayupayupa volunteered for us during 2010 and carried out an impact assessment in Tanzania.

Josh worked with staff and volunteers to update our understanding of how to strengthen support for our partner schools in Africa. He also edited over five hours of his video interviews with staff and pupils, to produce a short film supporting our work. Josh and Ashura gave two fascinating and educational talks about the Tanzanian schools to School Aid volunteers and supporters. They returned to Tanzania to get married, and will continue to volunteer for us in Tanzania.

Congratulations and thanks to them both!

**Volunteer Manfred runs Edinburgh Marathon**

On 22nd May, Manfred McKenzie completed the Edinburgh marathon. He raised much-needed funds for School Aid.

Manfred, who comes from South Africa, volunteered as an IT specialist in the School Aid office during 2010.

**School Aid enters 14th year**

Our Founder and President, **Joy Baker** writes,

“Since 1998 School Aid has improved the education and life chances of over 250,000 African children. The enthusiasm and commitment of our volunteers and friends continue to inspire us.”

**School Aid receives welcome support**

As part of our urgent fundraising programme, we are delighted to receive two donations together totalling £44,000 from HSBC and an anonymous donor.

This recognition of the value of our work is an encouraging signal as we continue our vital fundraising in 2011-12.