

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Lubuto Library Partners awarded USAID/ASHA grant to build 4th library in Zambia

American Schools and Hospitals Abroad recognizes Lubuto Libraries' excellence

Washington, DC (January 15, 2015) — The U.S. Agency for International Development's Office of American Schools and Hospitals Abroad (ASHA) recently announced that Lubuto Library Partners (LLP) is among 34 recipients of grants to American organizations operating overseas that demonstrate the leadership, innovations, and best practices of the United States in health and education.

"We are honored to receive this grant from ASHA because it recognizes the great contribution of America's public libraries and librarians to global education," Lubuto's Founder and President Jane Kinney Meyers said. "American public libraries are a cornerstone of civic participation, information access and literacy, and public spaces for learning. This support from ASHA and Judie Feedham will help us to build libraries in Africa that can support local communities in these critical ways".

Lubuto Library Partners will use the \$234,144 ASHA grant, together with an additional \$100,000 private donation from a U.S. citizen, Judie Feedham, to construct a public library at the Mthunzi Centre on the outskirts of Zambia's capital Lusaka. The Mthunzi library will be the fourth library LLP has developed in Zambia with support from donors, local communities and the Zambian government, with two libraries in urban Lusaka and a recently-opened third library serving the children of Nabukuyu, a rural community in Zambia's Southern Province. Construction on the Mthunzi library is expected to begin shortly.

Increasing access to high-quality education, says ASHA Director Katherine Crawford, "ultimately strengthens a country's workforce, lifts populations out of extreme poverty and creates resilient societies." The ASHA grant will enable Lubuto Libraries to make further progress towards these goals, through its integrated programs on reading, art, music and drama, mentoring and psychosocial support. "Ultimately, we hope that our model for libraries that truly meet the needs of the communities they serve, and particularly our emphasis on ensuring that we provide core collections of books that are relevant and meaningful to our users, will become widespread in Africa" says Jane Kinney Meyers.

ABOUT LUBUTO LIBRARY PARTNERS:

Lubuto Library Partners (www.Lubuto.org) is an innovative development organization that builds the capacity of public libraries to create opportunities for equitable education and poverty reduction. Its mission is to enlighten and enrich the lives of children and youth in sub-Saharan Africa, especially those not in school and highly vulnerable.

Lubuto constructs enduring, indigenously-styled open-access libraries stocked with comprehensive collections of well-chosen books and appropriate technology. These libraries serve as safe havens and are the center for Lubuto's programs, which offer education, psychosocial support and self-expression through reading, music, art, drama, computers, mentoring and other activities.

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