**Holiday Thoughts: Lessons from Zambia**

Boxer Terri Blair and her trainer Abdul Jarvis were moved by the outpouring of love from Lubuto’s children in Lusaka. Last month, Richard Soko took them to the library to show them an important part of his world. Terri gave an inspiring talk to the children, and she and Abdul were struck by what the children gave back to them – not thinking of themselves but how to support Terri’s boxing success.

Now back home in Kentucky, Abdul feels his life was deeply changed by the children. He told us, “growing up poor, all you can think about is making more and more money: to get out of the projects, buy a home for your mother, things like that. But when you get enough money, you realize you need more than that in life.”

Abdul is now dedicated to helping the Lubuto Project provide a safe learning environment for the street children of Zambia. Terri Blair along with other boxers he manages will wear patches on their trunks to declare that they are fighting to make a difference! – with Lubuto Libraries.

**When You Help Lubuto’s Children, You Always Receive More Than You Give**

Another valuable message comes from the obituary of the remarkable Zambian Gilbert Kombe (Washington Post, 11/15/2009, p. c8), a brilliant physician dedicated to fighting HIV/AIDS. The obituary describes Dr. Kombe’s shock at some of the social ills he encountered on first coming to the United States: “He came home and said: ‘Those brown paper bags people are holding? They’re drinking alcohol from them, in the morning! How can they do that when there are free libraries here?’”

Lubuto’s high quality libraries, an extraordinary institution that we in the U.S. often take for granted, are bringing learning and opportunity to those who are marginalized and vulnerable in Africa.

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**Last Chance to Support Lubuto in 2009**

Remember - any donation you make to the Lubuto Library Project before Thursday, December 31st at midnight will be tax-deductible for 2009!

A donation in someone’s honor makes a thoughtful holiday gift, and Lubuto will send a customized card to your honoree. We need your support to do our important work, and even the smallest donation can go a long way! A supporter recently wrote, “…there is a cadre of very talented volunteers and contributors [at Lubuto] who have provided much pro bono and value added service. I feel confident that our small contributions are being well utilized”

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**Help Lubuto through GoodShop**

As the holidays approach, we would like to remind our supporters that you can raise money for Lubuto when you shop online, and receive the same low prices, by shopping at GoodShop and designating the Lubuto Library Project as the charity that you Goodsearch/Goodshop for.

Another way you can help is to ask your employer or local businesses to buy their office supplies through GoodShop and to choose the Lubuto Library Project as their designated charity. Nearly all of the major chains including Staples, Office Depot and OfficeMax are on-board!

Finally, please don’t forget to search the net with the GoodSearch webbrowser. If you download the new GoodSearch/GoodShop Toolbar, it will make it a breeze for you to help change the world!

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**Our work is made possible through the generosity of our supporters.**

Please send check donations to:

5505 Connecticut Ave., NW, #368

Washington, DC 20015-2601

Or, you can donate online at www.Lubuto.org

You can make either a one-time or recurrent credit card donation
Danny Glover Helping Lubuto Libraries
Join us at our Annual Fundraiser
A reminder to save the date April 15, 2010 for our fundraiser in Washington, D.C. with Danny Glover

If you would like to receive an invitation and information on ticket purchase for what is sure to be a very entertaining and enriching evening, and if we don’t already have your address as a donor, please send your postal address to info@lubuto.org.

Changing Lives, One Child at a Time

The first Lubuto Library had nearly 10,000 visits in its first year, and in 2009, well over 25,000! Like the best libraries in the U.S., Lubuto Libraries offer varied programs tailored to the needs of the populations they serve.

Recent measures of the impact of (and demand for) the Motivational Mentoring program have proven the need for many more Lubuto Libraries in other locations, both urban and rural.

About 800 children, both in- and out-of-school and with near-equal participation of boys and girls, participated in this groundbreaking program and its “mentoring clubs” in the past two months alone, and another 130 completed the program’s “pilot literacy program.”

Recognition for Lubuto’s unique and impactful model is growing. We wish to share the joy of directly and genuinely helping Africa’s vulnerable youth with all of our supporters in this holiday season! We hope that all who wish to support real education and our vision of real change will join with our efforts in the years to come.

Donations of OLPCs Pouring In

We successfully introduced 10 One Laptop Per Child (OLPC) laptops in February 2009, and they have been in almost constant use ever since.

Now, working on our second library, we aim to provide as many of the laptops as we can get, so we put out a call for OLPC donations of the laptops here in the U.S.

The people who work with our libraries are adept in training, and we can assure donors that the laptops will be heavily used and appreciated for as long as they last by some of the most vulnerable children on the planet. Since the call went out several weeks ago, we have already received 10 donated laptops and promises of more to come.

Our beautiful 2008 Annual Report is now available in print and as a pdf. We would be happy to send a hard copy on request. A supply of printed copies are now also at our office in Zambia, so please email us at info@Lubuto.org if you want to get a hard copy in Zambia.

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