



Lubuto Library Project

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



Lubuto Library Project Newsletter No. 15 — May 2010

Danny Glover raises support for Lubuto Libraries



Our well-attended evening with Danny Glover at the Zambian Embassy on April 15 was a great success. Mr. Glover joined Lubuto's Mulenga Kapwepwe in reading Martin's Big Words, followed by a showing of our new film Our Time to Bring Change. Emcee Anne Caputo, president of the Special Libraries Association, and Smithsonian's James Early introduced our distinguished guests, who were also honored by our host, Zambian Ambassador Mbikusita-Lewanika.

Danny Glover had flown in early that morning to join Mulenga in presenting the book and film to a group of school children at a newly-opened branch of the D.C. Public Library, one of several scheduled to open in underserved areas of Washington and underscoring Lubuto Libraries' high-quality cultural and educational services reaching Africa's most vulnerable children and youth.

Danny Glover on Lubuto's performing arts program shown in the film: "It is so extraordinary... the role that theater plays in ordinary people's lives.... how it in some sense reinforces their sense of themselves and re-establishes a different confidence in them. Not unlike my own experiences in acting when I was young, it sets something in motion.... a way to organize the emotional life within you. To watch these young people engaging in that and claiming it for themselves is very special. And I am going to Zambia, and the next time you come back for our next benefit, you'll see me there."



Mulenga Kapwepwe on Lubuto's preservation of Zambian stories: "I've been totally inspired by what librarians can do.... One of the big visions for us at

Lubuto is also to get these stories back to the children. They are beautiful stories, very well written: they can be sung, they can be told, they can be narrated, they can be shared. That is part of Lubuto, and we really are very much about quality....because we think every child deserves the best."

Gates/eFL.net grant to Lubuto

Lubuto was one of 12 groups chosen from nearly 350 applicants worldwide to be awarded a grant from the eFL.net Public Library Innovation Initiative, funded by the Gates Foundation to encourage innovation in public libraries.

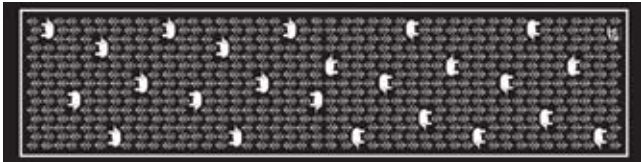


Our project addresses the critical need that the educational system cannot meet for a means to teach all Zambian children to read in their original language. Lubuto libraries reach out-of-school children and can help them toward reading by read-aloud and storytelling programs, but tools for reading teaching in Zambian languages are not available.



Youth who have been using the One Laptop Per Child XO laptops in Lubuto libraries and experienced Zambian reading teachers will together be trained in the OLPC application Etoys and create early reading programs in Zambian languages. The programs will then be made available on laptops in the libraries and via the Lubuto.org website to inspire the creation of similar programs in other African countries and languages.

*Purchase a beautiful scarf
to help Lubuto!*



J & J Designs San Francisco has created for us lovely scarves incorporating the traditional tree and elephant symbols that decorate the first Lubuto Library. Available in green, red, brown and black/white, the oblong silk scarves are available for US\$60 including tax. Please contact us at info@lubuto.org if you would like to purchase one (or more).

*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

New Lubuto People

Two Lubuto friends have joined our Advisory Board: **Dr. Jonathan Brackarsh**, child psychologist, international OVC consultant and author, Harare, Zimbabwe

Dr. Scott D. Taylor, Associate Professor & Director, African Studies Program, Georgetown University, Washington, DC

And we are so grateful to have two great volunteers heading to Zambia to move our program forward:

Recent Sarah Lawrence graduate **Jennifer Campbell** is contributing 10 months as Lubuto's Program Development Director in Lusaka.

Youth librarian **Julie Allen** will work with the collection of the Fountain of Hope Lubuto Library for several weeks later in the summer.

Anne Sinclair visits Lubuto Library

Well-respected French television journalist Anne Sinclair and a delegation of officials from Zambia's Ministry of Education visited the first Lubuto Library in March to speak with the children and learn about Lubuto's innovative programs. The wife of IMF Managing Director Dominique Strauss-Hahn, Ms. Sinclair presented Lubuto with a gift of ZMK23,000,000 (approx. US\$5,000) to further our work.

Ms. Sinclair characterized the library's programs in her blog (here in translation) as "How to give dreams to those who cannot escape

Martin Luther King was the figure and the theme of the week, and illustrated books with his famous quotes inspired drawings, paintings and skits were performed by the children for their visitors with spirit and pride. I admire those who devote their lives to [serving these children] with passion and enthusiasm. I don't know how they maintain a certain joie de vivre alongside all the misery of the world."



*Professor Mary Wagner to be Fulbright
scholar at the University of Zambia*

Lubuto is a national partner of Zambia's Ministry of Education in building excellent libraries to increase the literacy rate of children in Zambia. One of our activities to that end has been our work with the University of Zambia's Department of Library Studies to create the capacity among the library profession in Zambia to serve children and youth, resulting in their request to the U.S. Embassy for a Fulbright Scholar to teach



children's literature and library services. Dr. Denise Agosto assisted in recruiting a fine applicant, Dr. Mary Wagner, and we are thrilled to announce that she has been selected to teach at UNZA in the coming year. I call went out several weeks ago, we have already received 10 donated laptops and promises of more to come.