



# LUBUTO LIBRARY PROJECT, INC.

BRINGING KNOWLEDGE AND ENLIGHTENMENT TO AFRICA'S STREET CHILDREN

Newsletter no. 1 October 2005

## OUR MISSION

The Lubuto Library Project's mission is to create educational opportunities for children affected by HIV/AIDS in Africa. We do this by mobilizing young Americans to build and share collections of excellent books with Africa's orphans and street children, and by constructing libraries to provide those children with safe havens for learning and enrichment.

## NEWS

**WE'RE OFFICIAL: INCORPORATED, A 501 (C) (3), AND AN OFFICIAL NGO IN ZAMBIA!  
INAUGURAL FUNDRAISER DATE SET FOR NOVEMBER 28  
THE COMING YEAR: WHAT IT MEANS FOR LUBUTO**

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Since the Lubuto Project's purpose, through its various activities, is to enrich the lives of children, we want people to know how and why that is important, to all children. When I read books to the street kids in Lusaka, Zambia, they delighted in the silly antics of *Curious George* and the frustrated man in *Caps for Sale*, had great fun trying to say the whole name of *Tikki Tikki Tembo*, cheered for the sympathetic protagonist of *Galimoto*, were awe-struck when they learned about the dinosaurs that roamed the earth, and loved to express themselves through music, drama and art. They are just like our children. So we asked Washington Suzuki Strings to play at the event in which we introduce our project to the broader world because we felt that this group of young musicians was wonderfully illustrative of what children can do when they are given opportunities and are supported by loving adults.

The young musicians of the Washington Suzuki Strings are blessed to have parents and dedicated teachers helping to see them succeed. The Lubuto Project will provide an opportunity to reach beyond the heartbreaking limits of an orphaned African child's world - to bring laughter, foster understanding, and create possibilities for a better life. We can share the joy that we felt in reading *Curious George* to our children with beautiful, smiling spirits that will never have this experience unless we reach out to them.

Four years ago we learned that libraries can supply the missing link between those children and the educational and social service organizations that are increasingly there to help them. We can never substitute for parents, but we can offer hope, knowledge, enrichment, pleasure and skills in safe, welcoming reading rooms, a home for the homeless and refuge from the dangerous streets. I hope you will receive great satisfaction in helping us offer this in the coming years to as many of the millions of children orphaned by AIDS as possible.

Jane Kinney Meyers, President

**WE'RE OFFICIAL!**

The Lubuto Library Project, Inc. was designated by the IRS as a 501 (c) (3) public charity on August 12, 2005! Thank you to Carol McClarnon and Sutherland Asbill and Brennan who made it possible. Our organization was incorporated in the District of Columbia in January, 2005; our thanks for that go to Jim Hammerschmidt and Paley Rothman Goldstein Rosenberg Eig & Cooper. And Lubuto's Regional Field Office in Lusaka, Zambia, was officially registered with the Government of Zambia as a nonprofit organization on September 21, 2005, the accomplishment of our Field Director, Eleni Coromvli, and directors Jim Hammerschmidt and Stuart Yikona.

## COMMITTEE PLANS INAUGURAL FUNDRAISER

Under the patronage of Her Excellency, Dr. Inonge Mbikusita-Lewanika, Ambassador of the Republic of Zambia, LLP will be holding our inaugural fundraising event at the Embassy of Zambia on Monday November 28th from 6:30 to 8:30pm. Holder of a doctorate, a Member of Parliament, and the first female leader of a major Zambian political party, Ambassador Mbikusita-Lewanika has devoted her career to protecting vulnerable African children, at Unicef and other organizations, and we look forward to her inspiring words.

This event gives us the opportunity to officially begin fundraising for our programs in support of our mission, as well as to thank our friends and supporters who have helped us get so far. Members of the LLP board will be on hand to offer information and answer questions. Refreshments will be served and special entertainment will be provided by Washington Suzuki Strings.

## What's Next?

Thanks to its friends and family, the Lubuto Project has gotten off to a great start. We have rock solid governance, tax-exempt status, an outstanding board and an African field office with an extraordinarily talented staff. Our pilot middle and high school programs here have already yielded a collection of thousands of excellent books. Over the coming year, the Lubuto Project will build on this foundation. We're aiming to construct and stock three street kids' libraries in Zambia over the next twelve months.

We will bring volunteer faculty and students from the community architecture program of the University of San Francisco to Lusaka in the summer of 2006 to build the first Lubuto Libraries. We have a pressing need to raise US\$75,000 to pay for materials and local support.

So in addition to the November inaugural fundraiser, we will continue to ask individuals and foundations for their support. You can help by asking your employer to include the Lubuto Project in their annual giving campaign, and by letting family and friends know that they can bring hope into the life of a street kid in Africa.

[WWW.LUBUTO.ORG](http://WWW.LUBUTO.ORG)

THE LUBUTO LIBRARY PROJECT IS INCORPORATED AS A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION UNDER THE LAWS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, AND IS EXEMPT FROM FEDERAL INCOME TAX AS A PUBLIC CHARITY UNDER SECTION 501 (C) (3) OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE. DONATIONS ARE TAX-DEDUCTIBLE TO THE FULLEST EXTENT OF THE LAW.