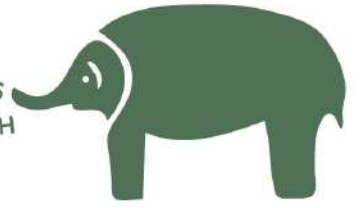




**LUBUTO**  
LIBRARY PARTNERS

CELEBRATING **15 YEARS**  
SERVING AFRICAN CHILDREN & YOUTH



**2020**

a year of  
**reflection, rediscovery, refinement**

## message from the president

2020 marked Lubuto's 15th anniversary, an exciting milestone that recognizes just how important Lubuto Libraries are to the communities they serve. Like everyone, our original plan for an in-person celebration had to go virtual, and mastering a new format led us to take a deep dive into our digital archives to tell the story of Lubuto.

This event capped off a year that was very challenging, but also vital in distilling what is most important to Lubuto's services to young people. 2020 gave us the opportunity to reflect on Lubuto's origin and roots, rediscover our purpose, and refine our offerings for 2021 and beyond.

Covid-19 devastated communities in Zambia and forced Lubuto Libraries to close, and most in-person programs to halt.

What the children missed most may surprise you. They not only missed favorite books, or computer access. They were most eager to talk with our staff, to share their concerns, and to get advice and support from their very caring and empathetic mentors at the library. Those important mentoring relationships, which grow from reading and the arts, are a lifeline to the children. Mentoring, in the rich and varied forms it takes in Lubuto Libraries, has surfaced—we believe—as our most enduring impact and offering to children. That, and the embrace of an accepting and joyful community!



Jane Kinney Meyers  
Founder & President



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# shining light on libraries at unesco

UNESCO invited Jane to address the topic of how education contributes to peace at their Paris headquarters celebration of the International Day of Education on January 24, 2020. Her presentation highlighted the critical role Lubuto Libraries—and good public libraries worldwide—play in creating peaceful societies.

“It turns out that self-confidence and self-esteem can be fostered and that courage, heroism and creativity follow,” Jane shared with the UNESCO audience. “You might ask what is the nexus between learning, peace and libraries? Our experience shows that the nexus is an institution that welcomes the whole community, meets individuals at their own level, recognizes their humanity, and supports their desire to learn and grow.”



## ...and usaid



Lubuto Libraries' sign language storytime was featured as USAID Zambia's Twitter banner

## celebrating 15 years



We celebrated our 15th anniversary virtually on October 10, 2020 with an evening of films and staff appearances to tell the story of Lubuto's inspiration and beginnings, the delivery and coordination of specialized children's programming, and our vision for the future.

A highlight of the event was telling the stories of our caring and talented library staff. Brendah, Kenny and Enesto started off as children whose lives were centered at the Fountain of Hope Drop-in Centre for street children and, eventually, its Lubuto Library.

With Lubuto from inception, they became inspiring and beloved leaders drawing hundreds of young people to their library. Every day, they serve as exemplars of dedication and caring that makes the world a better place.

The event's Emcee, Lubuto Advisory Board member Clare Hart, and our Board of Directors, took this opportunity to show why Lubuto's staff is, and has always been, central to our vision and model.

## a big start to 2020

2020 began with the Lubuto Model Library having its usual average of 2,500 visits per week. Many children came to the library every chance they got.

In February, Lusaka Global Shapers conducted outreach at the Lubuto Model Library about emotional intelligence, in response to political unrest in Lusaka and surrounding areas. Discussions focused on how anger and fear can lead to subconscious actions and behaviors that can have negative consequences. Their take-home message is that it's okay to feel upset, worried, and sad, but it's important to not hurt yourself, others, or property.

In March, the library held an event celebrating Pippi Longstocking's 75th birthday, in partnership with the Embassy of Sweden. Nominated for the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award for the 12th time in 2020, we were happy to celebrate the beloved character in the usual Lubuto fashion: art, films, drama and puppet shows, with hundreds of children.



# ...and then came covid

As with everywhere else in the world, Covid-19 took communities in Zambia by surprise and brought the country to a standstill. Going from 2,500 visits per week to a sudden shutdown of the library buildings, followed several weeks later by needing to close outdoor spaces in the urban libraries, shocked library staff as much as the children and their communities.

Lubuto library staff knew they had to act quickly to teach frightened children how to be safe.





The Lubuto Model Library initially offered outdoor programs focused on Covid-19 safety.

For example, Kenny's drama program engaged small groups of children to teach their peers coronavirus safety through songs and dance.



Enesto gave children an outlet to express their feelings and share information about the pandemic through art, greatly lifting their spirits.

But eventually in person programs had to stop at the Model Library due to worsening pandemic conditions.

## meanwhile at nabukuyu & mthunzi...

Some programs at the Nabukuyu and Mthunzi libraries were able to run throughout most of the pandemic outdoors. These libraries have larger open spaces and are located in less dense areas than the Model Library.

With Esnart at the helm, the rural Nabukuyu Library continued to operate the Girls Leading Our World mentoring program, which aims to prevent early marriage. The group covered such topics as Covid-19, sexual and reproductive health, HIV prevention, transactional sex and empowerment. The library was also able to continue teaching skills such as tailoring, agriculture and hairdressing in outdoor spaces.

Martha and Mary eventually resumed safe, socially distanced programs at the peri-urban Mthunzi Library, such as interactive storytimes in the talking circle and outdoors.





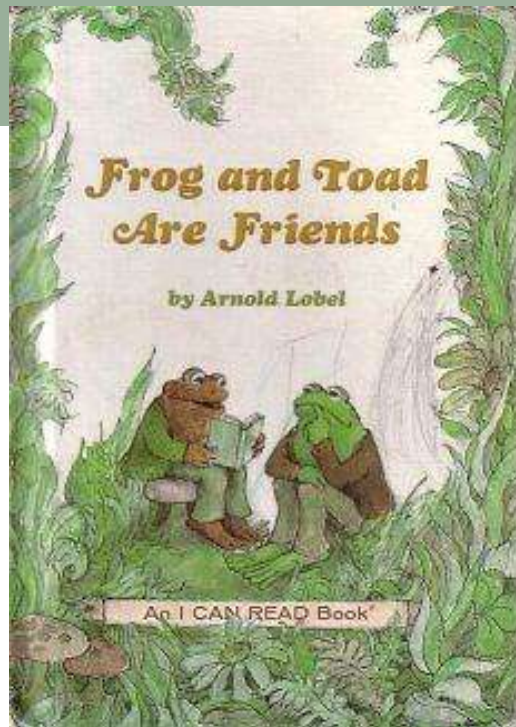
# distanced programming

While libraries were closed—or with in-person programs operating at a very limited capacity—we connected with the children wherever and whenever possible.

Library staff conducted mentoring and other programs through SMS messages, Whatsapp groups, and phone calls.

Besa sent stories to young mothers' cell phones for them to share with their children—favorites such as Frog and Toad.

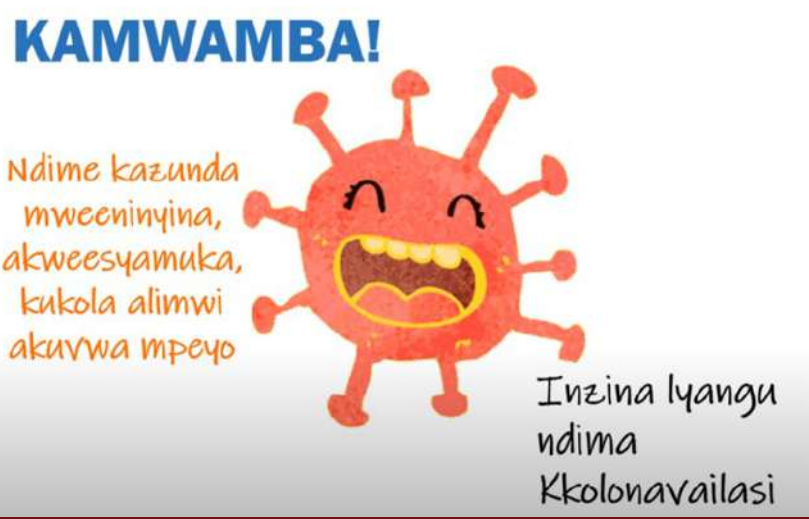
Staff also distributed posters around communities to provide public health information and guidelines.





We worked quickly to expand access to our digital resources and to develop new ones.

Existing Lubuto resources like the online portal, library catalog, literacy lessons, and Zambia Heritage Library were shared more visibly and widely than ever.



Additionally, we created new Covid-related virtual resources and introduced other inclusive learning tools—such as Zambian sign language instructional videos—to our website and YouTube channel.

Library staff translated My Name is Coronavirus into Chitonga in Nabukuyu—and later into Chinyanja in Lusaka—and turned the book into an accessible video for children.

# moving forward

We did not let time during the pandemic go to waste.

Construction was able to continue throughout the pandemic. The Mumuni Choma Library was mostly completed in 2020, and will open to the public once it is safe to do so. Construction on the Lubuto Comboni Library in Lusaka also commenced.

Lubuto staff continued to work during the pandemic, often from home. They were provided with Internet, safe transportation, masks, and the most up-to-date public health information throughout.

With the libraries empty, our staff took full advantage of the opportunity to focus on collections and systems management, which is actually best done without patrons present. They were able to inventory, update the library catalog and train new staff.





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Rita Ormsby (Eileen Rourke)  
Sally Sinn (Pat Bosma; Bill Sinn)  
Pamela Tripp-Melby (Alexandra Fanum)  
Wake Forest Women's Club (Margaret Anderson)

**and a heartfelt thanks to all other 2020 donors!**

# financials

## statement of financial position

### assets

Cash .....	\$408,249
Furniture and equipment.....	\$74,310
Vehicles .....	\$110,310
Accumulated depreciation .....	(\$74,389)
<b>Total Assets.....</b>	<b>\$518,480</b>

### liabilities

Loan payable .....	\$9,128
Accounts payable & accrued expenses.....	\$5,514
Refundable advance .....	\$62,628
<b>Total Liabilities .....</b>	<b>\$77,270</b>

### net assets

Without donor restrictions .....	\$258,054
With donor restrictions .....	\$183,156
<b>Total net assets .....</b>	<b>\$441,210</b>

**Total Liabilities and Net Assets..... \$518,480**

## statement of activities

### support and revenues

Grants and contributions.....	\$397,251
Government grants .....	\$210,393
Contributed services .....	\$131,121
Other revenue.....	\$8,437
Interest income.....	\$461
<b>Total Support and Revenues.....</b>	<b>\$747,663</b>

### expenses

Program services .....	\$568,016
General and administrative.....	\$36,838
Fundraising.....	\$12,602
<b>Total Expenses .....</b>	<b>\$617,456</b>

### other

Exchange rate loss .....

(\$14,146)

**Change in Net Assets..... \$116,061**

### expense breakdown:

**Program services: 92%**  
 General & administrative: 6%  
 Fundraising: 2%

Financial statements audited by:

GRF CPAs & Advisors



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