



# LUBUTO LIBRARY PROJECT, INC.

BRINGING KNOWLEDGE AND ENLIGHTENMENT TO AFRICA'S STREET CHILDREN

Newsletter no. 2, May 2006

## 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

### WORK ON THE FIRST LUBUTO LIBRARY BEGINS!

*Kids Just Like You* — A LUBUTO FILM PREMIERES AT EDMUND BURKE SCHOOL  
LUBUTO SYSTEMS IN PLACE AND TAKING OFF

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

So much has happened with the Lubuto Project since the November 2005 inaugural, which was a resounding success! ★ With the completion of our accounting system, and the finalization of the financial audit for 2005, all of the elements for **sustainable governance are now in place**. ★ With this, fundraising and grant-seeking activities are in full swing, and broad-based **support for Lubuto is growing in the U.S. and internationally**. We have forged many new partnerships, including becoming a Reading Promotion Partner of the Library of Congress' Center for the Book. This month, Politics & Prose bookstore is conducting a book drive for Lubuto, giving a 20% discount on books purchased for our libraries. ★ In Zambia, **work on the first library is about to begin** – but not a moment too soon. Our friends and colleagues there tell us that the number of street children continues to grow, and that survival on the streets grows harder each day.

The many talented and creative professionals involved with Lubuto – librarians, teachers, architects, authors and others, both here and in Africa – are breaking new ground to create rich and diverse environments for vulnerable children in Africa. Our libraries will include programming in the arts, drama and traditional indigenous culture, as well as making available excellent book collections from the U.S.

Your support of these libraries gives children something no other type of donation program can. If you send, say, a collection of 5,000 books to serve 500 children, you are not giving 10 books to each child, but 5,000 to each, every day and for many years to come. We look forward to the day – very soon – when street children will first find a 'home' in Lubuto Libraries.

Jane Kinney Meyers, President

## BUILDING THE FIRST LUBUTO LIBRARY BEGINS!

Next month, **work will begin on the first Lubuto library.** As building starts, a dozen community architecture students from the University of San Francisco, led by Prof. Seth Wachtel, will arrive in Lusaka, Zambia to learn how to create comfortable, welcoming and inspiring spaces; build buildings using patterns from the indigenous architectural tradition; and connect libraries with the existing space of the hosting centre and the children it supports. These students have been studying the conditions of the street children of Zambia during the past school year and have become sensitive to the children's need for "a home to read in." During the past months we have been working to raise the funds needed for construction materials, and we're now within \$15,000 of our goal. A challenge grant was offered to match donations resulting from various email appeals, so even small donations will make a big difference in making the first Lubuto Library a reality. Please consider helping us with this pioneering effort.

### LUBUTO FILM PREMIERE

On Tuesday, May 23, at 7:30pm, the Edmund Burke School will host the premiere of a short film made to support the educational programs of the Lubuto Library Project, *Kids Just Like You*. The brief film is narrated by the incomparable Julian Bond, and features scenes of street kids in Zambia along with students from Burke and Green Acres School. Starbucks will provide coffee and dessert. We hope all who see it, particularly the young people, will recognize their connection to children in Africa who want and need all of the same things, especially an education that brings hope for a good future.

### WHAT'S NEXT?

As the first Lubuto Library is built, we will post photos and film of the progress and of its use when it opens to the street kids at our first host site, the Fountain of Hope in Lusaka, Zambia. Meanwhile, we will continue to identify host organizations for future libraries and work as quickly as we can to make libraries available to more and more vulnerable children.

On this end, we will continue to collect, select and organize books to stock these first libraries. We hope to bring this year's very successful pilot with Edmund Burke School's Lubuto Club to many area schools next year. Meanwhile we are working nonstop to obtain financial support for all of these programs, and hope that you will continue to spread the word about this innovative way to bring hope for a brighter future to street kids, orphans and other vulnerable African children.

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