

September 2009

NEWS



2 Somerset Road · Green Point · Cape Town · South Africa 8001 PO Box 6 · Green Point · Cape Town · South Africa 8051

It's all about YOU!

We never forget that you – **and only you** – make every single thing we do possible. So this newsletter is our special tribute to YOU, celebrating your efforts to reach out across the miles and lend a hand to those most in need.

We love getting feedback from you, as this inspires us and helps keep us on track. And what we hear from YOU, our friend and supporter, is that **you choose to help Breadline Africa's projects because of our practical approach and concrete solutions to problems of poverty.** We supply instant infrastructure through our wonderful programme of converting disused shipping containers into clinics, nursery schools, soup kitchens,

veterinary clinics, ablution blocks and education and job-training centres.

You also tell us that you appreciate our special focus on children and women in need – a central part of our mission, and one that touches all our hearts.

Well, we want to extend a warm welcome to you, as our special friends, to visit us here in Cape Town and see the projects we have running in the poverty-stricken corners of this city. **We'd love to show you our fantastic "can do" containers, and the immediate impact they have in improving people's lives!**

You get to see **exactly what your kind gifts are doing**, and

even to meet and chat with the people whose lives you've touched. We've included a donor gallery showing some of our wonderful supporters doing exactly that – as you'll see on pp. 2 and 5.

So come on down to the southern tip of Africa and get hands on with us! We can't wait to show you round. We know how much it means if you can see not only how you're helping needy families, but spreading hope and dignity into communities that need it most. We'd really like to see you, and so would they...

... and that leads us to an important news flash...

We've moved!

We're now in a beautiful new office in the heart of Cape Town (with a view of the mountain!), and we're looking forward to giving you a tour.

If you're a football fan, maybe you're coming out for the 2010 Soccer World Cup? If you are visiting, please come and see us – we're literally just down the road from the brand-new soccer stadium in Green Point, Cape Town. We're so excited about the tournament, and like the rest of the city and the

country, we're hanging out the flags and putting out the welcome mat. We'd love to give you, our special friend and supporter, an extra warm welcome!

You'll find us at 2 Somerset Road, Green Point, Cape Town, South Africa, telephone number +27 21 418 0322 and fax number +27 21 418 6406. But our web address and e-mail stay the same: www.breadlineafrica.org and info@breadlineafrica.org.za



Here I am giving Tim Smith, the Director of Breadline Africa RSA, a hug. He's a bit camera-shy, but I convinced him to appear with me in this newsletter so you could get a look at him!

Donor gallery

Love is a woolly feeling...



Here at the Breadline Africa office, we know that love comes in many colours. It also comes with stripes, bows, bobbles and Fair Isle patterns, thanks to the wonderful work done by **Hazel Edginton** from Uttoxeter in Staffordshire, who co-ordinates an entire network of nimble knitters who regularly send us the most gorgeous woollies for babies and small children. **Doris Oakes** and her Methodist Church ladies in Uttoxeter are among those who make these adorable jumpers, hats and blankets.

And the knitting chain keeps growing! **Marjorie Haddon**, a friend who plays golf with Doris, went on holiday to Florida and met a group who like to knit for charity. They were very eager to help Breadline Africa, so Marjorie has sent them patterns. Meanwhile, **Eileen Jenkinson** of Cheshire plays the part of a fairy godmother when she sews knitted squares into blankets, taking great care to make the most beautiful and colourful patterns.

Just look at the joy on this visit to one of the nursery schools we support, when we handed over these soft blankets and warm woollies to the tiny tots who are most at risk during our cold, wet winters. Seeing these babies and toddlers bundled up nice and warm just melts our hearts. It's such a sweet sight, we have to share it with you.



We were delighted to get a visit from **Nicky Manby**, who came along with us to distribute the latest bag of these beautiful knitted goods. We took them to needy children at one of our container nursery-schools run by compassionate women from the local community. Here Nicky enjoys the glorious sight of little ones wrapped up as snug as bugs in rugs. The teachers are smiling almost as broadly as she is!



Soup's up

I received a lovely note from **Sheila** and **Ken Holmes**, telling me how much they enjoyed the bean and lamb soup, made from my very own recipe and shared with all our Breadline Africa friends. A handy hint from the Holmes: if you can't find red speckled sugar beans, try borlotti beans – they work just as well! If you would like a copy of this recipe please write to me or send me an email, edna@breadlineafrica.org.za.



Frances Greathead celebrating her 90th birthday.

Celebrating a special event?

Why not share your cake with us?

Frances Greathead, one of our founding members, recently celebrated her 90th birthday at Oxburgh Hall, the family home, now under the care of the National Trust. And the best gift of all? Instead of presents, Frances asked that donations be given to her favourite charity Breadline Africa, to go towards poverty relief in Africa.

Frances is not the only one of our faithful supporters still going strong in her nineties! I'm sending special love and thanks to **Margaret Kingston**, who turned 91 on Easter Sunday, as well as **Mr Lucy**, who kindly sent us a donation for the 90th birthday of his very dear friend, **Mrs Ivy Thornton**.

Many more of you have sent us gifts to mark special birthdays, anniversaries and other milestones, and I want to thank every one of you for this lovely gesture. We're hoping you'll inspire others to ask for donations instead of presents! If you have any requests or ideas about how you would like us to spend your special celebration gift, please let me know.

Angels of mercy now have a brand-new soup kitchen

Do you remember the warm-hearted grannies from Gugulethu who needed secure premises for the soup kitchen they were running for hungry children in their neighbourhood?

I'm delighted to report that their refurbished and fully equipped Breadline Africa container is up and running, and feeding more than 200 children every day. Brrr – especially welcome during this very cold winter we're having.



And a new education centre is on its way, too

We're pleased to report that the hard-working, dedicated women of Mothers Unite are close to seeing their dream of an education centre to support the work they already do fulfilled, thanks to your generous donations.



John Nicholson with some of the children from his neighbourhood.

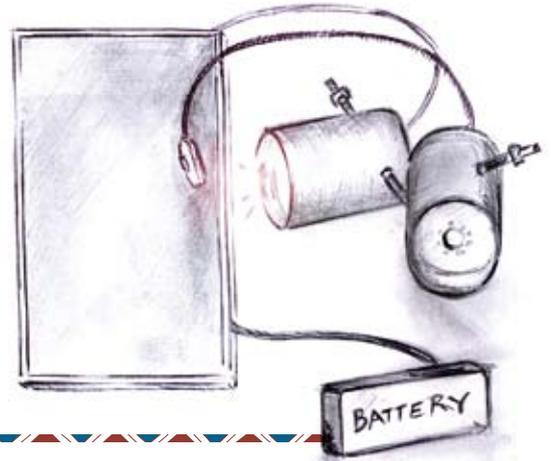
Christmas is coming early for the children of Lavender Hill

We're making excellent progress with the Breadline Africa container library for the children on Lavender Hill, an extremely impoverished Cape township battling against unemployment and poverty-related crime. Your container full of books and educational toys will soon be lowered onto the piece of land John Nicholson has donated to the project.

Please remember the rooibos tea farmers of Niewoudtville...

You may remember that I recently asked for contributions towards solar panels to light up the pitch-black nights of small farmers in the barren northwestern Cape. Supporting this cause will help protect not only their unique way of life, but the fragile environment in these remote parts.

There's still time to donate, so help us to store sunshine for these deserving people!



A hamper of food, with a personal touch!

Many thanks to all of you who donated to our winter food parcels appeal, a great need in these tight times. You know how we encourage those of you kind enough to contribute to write a special note from your family to a hungry family out here in Africa. Well, we're delighted when sometimes the touch is even more personal!



Smiles all round as Mike and Jane Lambert hand over a hearty food hamper to Mrs Adams and her family, of the Happy Valley settlement near Cape Town. If any of you would like to deliver a food parcel in person, and meet the family you're supporting this way, I'd be only too happy to arrange this.

Clickety-click: Make us money as you use your mouse!

Did you know that you can donate to us as you shop at your favourite websites, and it won't cost you a penny? We're extremely grateful to Amazon and eBay, who have agreed to donate a percentage of the sale price of any products bought through these links to Breadline Africa! Effortless giving as you purchase – now, isn't that a brilliant idea, especially in a recession? So do please visit: Amazon.co.uk: <http://astore.amazon.co.uk/wwwbreadlinea-21>
eBay: http://donations.ebay.co.uk/charity/charity.jsp?NP_ID=17153
Special thanks to **Steve Bond**, who wrote to tell us how he now shops online AND benefits Breadline Africa's projects.



How Guru Ram Kaur was inspired by a project in Lesotho



Meet one of our supporters **Guru Ram Kaur**, a Kundalini Yoga teacher in the UK. She explains why she felt she had to support our Lesotho soup kitchen appeal: "Why am I passionate about Pastor Thomas? Well, it's about feeding the children and his dedication to doing this. There are many selfless souls doing other wonderful work, but I felt truly inspired to fund the soup kitchen project – imagining hungry children being nourished both physically and spiritually through the love and care given. Pastor Thomas, for some reason I cannot explain, immediately found a special place in my heart."

Thank-you – you have a place in our heart, too. And here's a picture showing the opening ceremony of our soup kitchen in Lesotho, built in the lovely local sandstone using community labour.



Marilyn's feet do the talking!

Here's a donor with a big heart – **Marilyn Jamieson**, at the start of Race for Life 2008, which raised money for Cancer Research UK. Over four thousand women took part in the 5 km event, held at Cheltenham racecourse. Let me share Marilyn's kind words about Breadline Africa: "I am pleased and proud to be part of such a kind and practical organisation." We're proud of you too, Marilyn!

Hands across the ocean: how our supporters connect us to our very own neighbours!

Lyrrie and Rob Vickers from Southwell in the UK are loyal Breadline Africa supporters, and often visit their family near Cape Town. One of their good friends here is Paul Barkley, a member of the nearby Sea Point Rotary Club. They too are very involved in projects to help the needy, and were wondering whether a container might be a good idea for a community centre, instead of building on land that has been donated. The Vickers immediately put Paul in contact with me, and thanks to their help, we have now formed a great new joint venture in which we'll help with their project.



If you have any friends or relatives living here in South Africa, do tell them about Breadline Africa, so that together we can build new friendships and partnerships. Just like you, they are most welcome to join me on a project visit to needy areas and to meet the people we work with.

An evening at the pictures...

Shirley and Fred Cocking held a rather unusual fund-raising event for Breadline Africa – Fred, a movie buff, held a film evening for their friends, and the result was a very welcome cheque for us! Thank-you both so much – all we can add is "Play it again, Fred!" We hope others will be inspired to "round up the usual suspects"!

Edna's column



Dear Friends

We're all worried about the worldwide recession, with news of big firms and banks closing down, and people losing their jobs as a result. Please know that I do care – it hasn't been easy for me sitting down here at the tip of Africa and wondering how our friends in the UK have been affected. I've had many letters and emails telling me how these tough times have affected you, and sometimes restricted your giving. But what amazes me is that in these difficult times, your friendship and support keeps shining through. Thank you so much for sharing with us.

As I've said before, one of the nicest things about my job is the sense that I have friends all over the world. I love hearing from you, and getting your cards, e-mails, phone-calls and even visits. I hold your friendship in very high regard, and really appreciate it when you share news with me about your family, your health, and your special celebrations.

But I also love being the one to get in touch, and one of my great pleasures is keeping up with my Happy Birthday Book. So if you'd like, please let me know about your birthdays and other special occasions, like weddings, births and anniversaries. It gives me such a sense of connection choosing cards for you, and maybe even making a call when you reach a significant milestone!

You are always in my thoughts and prayers,

Edna



One of our Cans4skills containers.

PS. Your feedback tells us that our containers are especially popular as useful, cheap, sturdy and versatile instant solutions to the very real need for clinics and classrooms in very poor communities. I can never have enough containers, so if you would like to top up my special container fund, I would be thrilled! See the handy reply slip enclosed for details.

Where there's a will...

We always feel particularly honoured when someone is kind enough to remember Breadline Africa in their will. These bequests touch us deeply, and we take our responsibilities to those who make this beautiful gesture very

seriously. Our special gratitude goes out to everyone who has helped us this way: we have been able to benefit many needy people and put some wonderful projects in place through the bequests of our friends.

If you'd like more information on making a bequest, please don't hesitate to contact me, or to ask for our helpful brochure that gives advice on planning a will. Rest assured that any queries will be held in the strictest confidence.

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