

Edna's column



Dear Friends

The big event of our winter was the excitement and eagerness to celebrate the 93rd birthday of Mr Nelson Mandela – our beloved “Madiba”, on 18 July. It was such a thrill when the Nelson Mandela Foundation invited us to join them in their big birthday challenge – placing nine container libraries in each of our nine provinces at nine local schools, each one selected on the basis of need.

Everyone worked extremely hard to have the libraries ready for the big day, with our container renovators heroically rushing to meet the deadlines. And when we turned to you for help, your responses were so wonderfully generous and kind. You made it possible for us to renovate extra containers and provide more libraries!

Of course, as you know, we can never ever have enough containers ... the demand for container classrooms, soup kitchens,

A special word of thanks to those of you who have remembered Breadline Africa in your will. This is a very moving act of kindness, and one that I sincerely appreciate. The letters I get really touch me, and (with the permission of the sender), I'd like to share the following extract from one I received recently:

“You must think me very keen to receive praise for my small offering. Please believe me if I've told you more than

ablution blocks and now libraries continues to grow. I would be so grateful for any contribution, no matter how small, to our container collection!

I know that I can rely on your support, but I am always moved and grateful for your lovely responses.

I've also really enjoyed getting involved in the Mandela Mondays campaign, along with the rest of the Breadline Africa team. It's such a good feeling to get away from my busy desk and to go out and visit the people who we try to support, to chat and do something practical together.

Thank you so much for your continued support for all our campaigns and for your lovely letters. They really bring a smile to my face, especially when I get lovely compliments such as this:

“Thank you for the newsletter. I really enjoyed reading about the wonderful things being achieved by BLA and the communities they work in. It is a joy to see the lovely smiles on the children's faces on the day out at the seaside.”

“I support many charities but I genuinely look forward to anything from Breadline Africa. I just want to praise you for your continued work amongst the poor.”

It is special friends like you who inspire us to do so much more. If you are ever in Cape Town, please feel free to come and visit.

With lots of love and many thanks,

Edna

once that I've left a small amount in my Will, it's only because there's a box to tick and I can never remember whether I've given a previous tick. Better to tick twice than not at all. Some charities say that it helps with their forward planning, though I can't imagine that my small offering will change the face of Africa! If I ever tell you again, please forgive me and blame old age. It's always a joy to hear of your work and see photos of the children.”

Don't forget: £1 = £1.25 at no cost to you!

How you can help us even more: if you are a British taxpayer, please remember to fill in and sign your Gift Aid Declaration, which allows us to claim 25% back on the donations you have already given us. This means we can do 25% more for poor communities – at no extra cost to you!

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Helping people help themselves

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Visit our website at www.breadlineafrica.org

N514/NL/UK

Our Mandela Day dream becomes a reality!



Tsakane Primary School,
Gauteng East

We are extremely proud to report that Breadline Africa's Mandela Day plans to put container libraries into the poorest schools in our nine provinces have been a wild success! In partnership with the Nelson Mandela Foundation, we celebrated the great man's birthday this year by converting containers into much-needed libraries and media centres.

by YOUR responses! Thanks to you, children in the most remote and impoverished parts of the country are now reading brand-new colourful books, written in their home languages... using computers... consulting dictionaries... experiencing a whole new world.



Little Legends Foundation,
Gauteng

This has been an especially magical experience of working with many wonderful contributors. Local businesses, publishers and community organizers have flocked to help us stock and furnish the container libraries... the idea has caught on around the country, so that we've been able to provide more libraries than we first planned... and of course, we've been overwhelmed

This has really been both a local and a global effort. You've reached out to show your admiration of Mr Nelson Mandela and your appreciation of the sacrifices he has made. You've joined hands with us in one of biggest and most exciting projects we've ever undertaken. It's been an honour to work with the Mandela Foundation, and a bit of the "Madiba magic" has rubbed off on us all – we hope you feel it too. Thank you for taking this wonderful project to your hearts!

We have another five container libraries to open! Read about them at www.breadlineafrica.org/blog/



Aha Setjhaba Primary School,
Free State



Hilcrest Primary School,
Western Cape



Benjamin Primary,
Mpumalanga



JM Mosiane Primary School,
North West



Mazong Primary School,
Kwa Zulu Natal



Sesalong Primary School,
Limpopo

Mandela Monday – more Mandela magic!

As some of you know, the idea for everyone to spend 67 minutes – one minute for each year Mr Mandela spent serving his country – doing some sort of community service on 18 July, Mandela Day, has caught on around the world.

But the Mandela Foundation wanted to take this call to service further – and has come up with the brilliant idea of “Mandela Monday”, which was formally launched on 1 June 2011.

Their challenge to us all: “Each Monday, give a small amount of your time, wherever you can, to spreading the message that change is in your hands.” Here at Breadline Africa, we believe the ultimate goal is to spend at least five minutes every single day in hands-on community service, so we accepted the Mandela Monday challenge with joy.

Every Monday, we leave our desks, our ringing phones, our computers and our inboxes, and head off into the “real world”, rolling up our sleeves and getting stuck into something practical: feeding hungry children, reading stories at nursery-schools, handing out blankets and scarves against the chill.

So far, this project has been a heart-warming success. We pack bags full of much-needed necessities: bread, butter, jam and peanut butter for sandwiches – or the beautiful blankets, jumpers, little hats and mittens that our tireless “Nimble Knitters” keep providing. We get such pleasure from handing these out to small children who need warmth and comfort, we feel almost as much benefit as they do!

Thank you once again to all our knitters – you inspire us, and Mondays will never be quite as blue again.

For more news and ideas about Mandela Monday, visit this link: <http://www.southafrica.info/mandela/mondays.htm>. You might want to start a project of your own – please keep us posted.



That warm and fuzzy feeling: we help with lunch and hand out the beautiful blankets that YOU knitted!



More on Mandela Day: it's raining books!



And there's more! The Nelson Mandela Foundation, together with Breadline Africa, launched a book drive alongside the exciting container library project. We knew that what makes a library isn't just the physical structure, but the books. And what better way to get everybody involved?

The schools chosen to benefit from the libraries have very little in the way of resources, and we wanted to do something about that.

In an appeal to the public to donate books, our Director Tim Smith said: “Literacy and the right to education are human right. We are delighted to be working with the Nelson Mandela Foundation on this project and we encourage everyone to get involved in whatever capacity they can offer. We hope to expand this programme

in the future – this will be entirely dependent on public support and finance.”

“Every school should have access to a library and every child should be able to read, write and be given the means to learn; sadly this is not the case in many schools across the country. The library container initiative needs the support of the general public and corporates. We encourage everyone to get involved and help in some way on Mandela Day. We need books that are new or in excellent condition; most importantly, they need to be age-specific for six to ten year olds.”

We had a wonderful response here in Cape Town at our drop-off point, but children will always need books, so let us know if you have any bright ideas for getting more.

A proud day for Cans4Skills



Smiles all round as our graduates receive their smart new toolboxes, thanks to our donors

On 9 June this year, excited families, nervously smiling candidates and some very proud Breadline Africa staff attended a very special occasion: the graduation ceremony for twenty-five students who attended our **Cans4Skills** programme in the Boland area. There were lumps in a lot of throats as the certificates were handed out to thirteen newly skilled bricklayers and twelve brand-new plumbers. They also each received a fully kitted-out toolbox to help them launch their new careers – thanks to your generosity.

In these times of unemployment and need for skilled artisans, this project throws a lifeline to those desperate for a chance to support their families and improve their communities. It's hard to describe just how priceless the gift is that YOU have given these people – the ability to put food on the family table.

Meet some of the graduates! This is what they have to say:



Trevor Baxter (bricklaying)

"I now have a job because of this course! I walked straight into a job as soon as I had finished."



Johein Majavie (bricklaying)

"I found this an ideal opportunity to train to get work so that in the future I can help create work for others too."



Colin Anthony (bricklaying)

"I can now apply my trade more successfully because I can read plans. The course gave me more insight. Every day the lecturer showed he believed in my ability."



Edwin Jerome Wilson (bricklaying)

"I did the course to provide for a better education for my children. I found everything I learnt very useful."



Jaque Thompson (plumbing)

"The course built my character, self-belief and independence. There are two work opportunities in the pipeline."

Winter food parcels



The staff and children of Phillipi Children's Centre were overwhelmed by your generous food parcels! You can see from their faces that these little ones have had desperately hard lives. It was wonderful to be able to offer them a bit of warmth, good food and comfort, thanks to you!

A very pressing need – and we're meeting it!

Do you remember the shocking plight of the children at Khulanathi Educare Centre, who had absolutely no toilet facilities at all – and who had no choice but to use unhygienic buckets or to urinate on waste ground outside their tiny classroom?

Thanks to your generous responses, their new ablution block – which will offer them safety, privacy and dignity, as well as potentially life-saving hygiene – is almost complete. We can't wait to deliver it!



Hunger – the cruellest pain

Who can forget the moving sights we saw at the Blue Downs soup kitchen, where volunteers from the local community hand out a daily meal to hundreds of desperately hungry people, including tiny children and frail elder folk?

You responded magnificently to our appeal for a double container – thanks to you, these good

people will soon have a proper kitchen for preparing food, and the more vulnerable and weak folk will have a place to shelter and rest as they eat.

We're almost finished, and look forward to sending you pictures of the bigger, better soup kitchen soon.



Just around the corner! Breadline Africa intends making it a very happy summer...

It's already time to start planning our famous annual seaside party – the day that Breadline Africa, along with a team of volunteers and local community workers, take as many desperately poor children as possible on an outing to the sea and a grand beach party.

It's become a trademark activity for Breadline Africa, and all year round, when we visit the townships, little hands tug at us, wanting to ask about the seaside party... Last year, we took a record number of children – over a thousand! But there's no

turning back now – this year, we're planning to give 1500 children a day of fun and good food they'll never forget. Of course we'll need your help! We'll keep you posted, so remember to watch out for more news...

And while our thoughts turn to summer, that means thinking even further ahead to the holiday season, and our pressing need for Christmas food parcels, to help those who are wretchedly poor and vulnerable manage a "festive" season that would otherwise be miserable. Once again, we'll be letting you know our plans very soon.



Trustee container news

Our hard-working trustees have done it again! A few months ago, Khuti's Special Needs Centre, a safe house in the sprawling township of Khayelitsha, approached us for help. This brave project, run by visionary local community workers, provides a safe space and pre-school education for children and orphans with special needs and physical challenges.

Our trustees sprang into action. With your help, they've provided not one, but FOUR converted containers: sleeping quarters; a

bathroom block; a sickbay and treatment room; and a kitchen and laundry to keep the little ones warm, clean and fed.

You can imagine what an incredible difference this will make to the most vulnerable of all: very poor children with special needs. Patience Njajula and Khutala Mtyali, the experienced and courageous women who run the safe house, are beside themselves with joy and gratitude. A huge thank you from us all to our wonderful trustees, sponsors and donors.

Khutala and Patience show off the new premises to Jo Callahan of BLA's Irish Advisory Committee



Breadline Africa visits the Eastern Cape, birthplace of Nelson Mandela

Breadline Africa representatives Gail Dreyer and Vaun Cornell recently visited the Eastern Cape, birthplace of South Africa's most famous citizen – Mr Nelson Mandela. On their three-day trip to this impoverished province, they visited pre-schools and nursery-schools, and saw how educare teachers are trained to take good care of their small charges. Here's their report:

"Our trip to the Eastern Cape started out rather dramatically. A freak storm hit East London just before we were due to land. It was unsafe to land in those conditions, so we flew to a nearby airport to wait out the storm.

But the weather didn't dampen our spirits – and a warm welcome awaited us at our first stop, the Loaves and Fishes Network office in downtown East London. After a tour of their feeding programme, we were keen to get on the road and meet the wonderful women who feed, care for and clothe about 12 000 children.

Dodging potholes and storm debris, we first visited the sprawling urban townships of Mdantsane and Vergenoeg. It was wonderful to see brightly painted educare centres with flourishing vegetable gardens that help feed the children. Mopping up was underway, with bedding and toys drying outside in the wintry sun. It was heart-wrenching to see the damage caused by the flooding to precious resources like books and bedding.

A real highlight was our visit to Lingeletu Educare, recently voted the top educare facility in the Eastern Cape. This is truly a shining example of what can be achieved when working hand-in-hand with dedicated volunteers and communities. We were also lucky enough to watch educare teachers in training, and meet more of these amazing women.

After three busy days, it was time to head home. Back in the office, there was an email from one of our hosts that really made the trip worthwhile:

"Thanks for giving us an opportunity to be ourselves and share our experiences with you. You gave us the energy to continue to do this work. It is lovely to meet with people who understand the extent of poverty in our country and the challenges. Without encouragement, recognition from people like you, we would've quit!"



Sunshine after rain: it's scenes like these that inspire us all



National Soup Day – Breadline Africa dishes up



On 26 May, when the last autumn leaves had fallen, and winter was starting to bite, we celebrated our National Soup Day here at Breadline Africa. We cooked up the most delicious vat of soup, and handed it out at Prestwich Primary School, which is right on our doorstep. Here, the majority of the 720-plus pupils are poor

or refugees, and hunger is a perennial problem. As you go into your northern hemisphere winter, perhaps you'd like to start a Soup Day project of your own? To inspire you, we're giving you this delicious local recipe to try! We hope you and your family enjoy it...

Traditional South African Butternut Soup

Ingredients

1 large or 2 medium butternuts, peeled, de-seeded and cut into chunks
2 medium onions, peeled and chopped
2 teaspoons fresh minced ginger
2 Tbs (30 ml) sunflower (or similar) oil
2 tsps (10ml) medium curry powder
generous pinch each of ground nutmeg and ground cinnamon
4 cups (1 litre) good quality vegetable or chicken stock; for a really authentic taste of South Africa, use 3 cups of stock and 1 cup of strong black redbush ("rooibos") tea
Salt and pepper to taste.

- In a large saucepan, fry the chopped onions in the oil.
- Once they begin changing colour, add the ginger and curry powder and fry for another minute, stirring continuously.
- Now add all other ingredients and simmer with the lid on for 30 minutes or until the butternut pieces are soft.
- Blend or puree; add extra hot water or stock if the soup is too thick.
- Serve hot, garnished with a swirl of plain yoghurt or sour cream.

If you don't like spicy food, leave out the curry powder and use only half the amount of ginger. Instead, just before blending, add the juice and grated rind of one orange for a fresh and very South African flavour.

Donor visits



Father and son Luke and Hugh Wakeling, from Wokingham, UK, visit the Utwazi Educare Centre



Mr and Mrs Haisman from London dropped in on us at our Cape Town offices



Louise Redvers, a Joburg-based BBC journalist and her cousin Jane Streather pay the Kalkfontein container soup kitchen a visit

Somewhere in Africa – a container with your name on it?

Many of our containers – which provide practical solutions to urgent problems – are funded by legacies to Breadline Africa. If this is something you've given some thought to, and you would like to leave a lasting legacy here in Africa by remembering us in your will, we'll be happy to help. We understand that this is a delicate matter, and that you might have questions for us. We've drawn up a brochure that we

hope will answer any questions you might have about the practical, legal and financial details of drawing up a will that involves a bequest.

If you'd like us to send you a copy of this brochure, or if you have any questions, please feel free to write to me or send me an email. Your enquiries will of course be kept strictly confidential.



Donating online made easy AND secure

The Internet – how did we manage without it? You can even donate to Breadline Africa online, but you might have questions or worries about how to go about it. Just ask us for our “how to donate AND be safe” instructions if you're interested in donating this way. It really is as simple as clicking your mouse, and it's completely secure! Send us an email, and we'll answer any questions you might have.

Breadline Africa is open 24/7 – online!

We love it when you visit our offices here in Cape Town, but we know it's not a practical way for you to keep in touch with our plans and projects. But you can always reach us online!

- To receive our latest tweets, please go to www.twitter.com and search for Breadline Africa. Sign up and you will be able to follow @breadlineafrica - that way you will be instantly in touch with our updates and news.
- You can find us on Facebook – go to www.facebook.com/breadlineafrica. “Friend” us and “like” our page – then drop in any time to see what we are up to!
- Breadline Africa is on YouTube too: for video clips showing what we do daily, log on to “<http://www.youtube.com/user/breadlineafrica>” and then click on the “subscribe” button.
- If you'd like to see photos of what we do, log on to “<http://www.flickr.com/photos/breadlineafrica/>”
- Last but not least: don't forget our website “<http://www.breadlineafrica.org>” – here you can sign up for our email newsletter, or you can visit our blog at <http://www.breadlineafrica.org/blog>

