

Making a splash!

Thank you so much for making our annual seaside party the biggest ever! With your help, we were able to take 1063 children – yes, that’s an unbelievable one thousand and sixty-three children, all jumping out their skins with excitement – for an unforgettable day of sun, sea and sand. These children are so deprived that this was not only their first visit to the beach, but for many, their first ride on a bus! I wish you could have seen their joy at the tiniest things that you and I take for granted.

We’re incredibly grateful to you for helping us to make this special outing possible. As I’m sure you can imagine, it was quite something transporting all those youngsters... giving them a good lunch and a special gift... dressing them in their brand-new

Breadline Africa T-shirts and dabbing on buckets of sunscreen... then supervising games and making sure they were safe as they paddled and splashed in the water... But we were equal to the challenge, and it was a magical day that the children will never forget!

I was told about one little boy who not only went to bed that night wearing his new T-shirt – he insisted on wearing it to school the next day! Many teachers and parents have expressed their gratitude to us for bringing this little bit of happiness to their children, especially during the holiday season, a bleak time of year for the poor.

We couldn’t have done it without the support of our local municipalities



(who supplied carers for children with special needs) and our friends, supporters and volunteers here in Cape Town, who turned out in record numbers. **But most of all, we couldn’t have done it without YOU.** Your generosity in reaching out to these desperately deprived children, in spite of a world-wide recession, really touched us all. We hope these special photos of a magical day make you proud and pleased – a heartfelt thank-you from all of us.



What a beautiful sight -- and you made all this happiness possible!

Containers: we continue to turn trash to treasure

As you know, we work as a partner alongside many worthy projects that help poor people to help themselves. You're familiar with our appeals to relieve the distress of the extremely poor and helpless.

But we're best known for our "instant solutions" to the urgent needs of poverty – our fabulous "convertible" containers, which we transform into nursery-schools, libraries, classrooms, ablution blocks, sports facilities, clinics, soup kitchens, veterinary clinics – the list of uses we find for them is endless!

With your help, we're able to find and buy second-hand shipping containers, which have come to rest on our shores after a life of travelling the waves. Then we let our team of

workers loose to convert these big metal boxes into whatever is needed most. Out come the metalworkers, the painters, the plumbers, the electricians – and the transformation begins.

This process is a really wonderful solution to the needs of poor communities because it's fast – we can transform a container in a much shorter space of time than it would take to build a new clinic or classroom, for instance. It's much cheaper, too! Then there's the security they offer – it's just about impossible to damage these tough waterproof containers, or to break into them, and they're pretty fireproof, too.

Then there's the advantage of their portability – we simply load the

finished container onto a big lorry, and it delivers the new soup kitchen (or library, or nursery-school, or toilet block) where it's needed most!

And finally, it's a wonderfully "green" way of re-using a resource that would otherwise simply rust away in a shipyard... it gives the notion of "recycling" a whole new meaning!

Local people can see how well our containers work, and we face a huge demand for them as a result. It sometimes seems as if everyone is asking for a converted container, with each need more urgent and worthwhile than the last. We never have enough, so we would be more grateful than you can imagine for any contributions to our container piggybank...

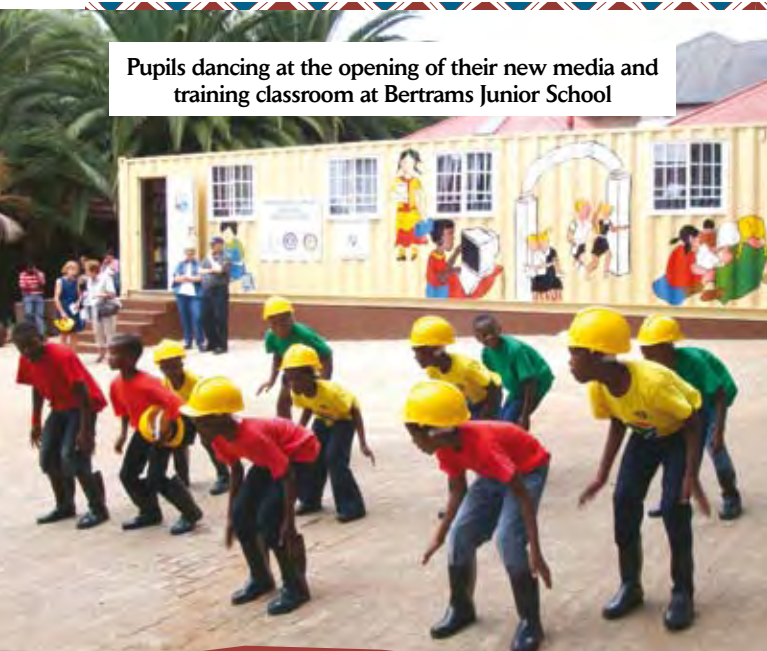
Trustee container news

Our trustees don't just talk the talk – they do the fundraising walk, too, and one of their projects last year was to raise funds for a nursery-school consisting entirely of converted containers. And so they were able to make Ulwazi's Educare Centre's dreams come true. Here's their beautiful new nursery-school, located in the bitterly poor township of Delft. The three containers – two classrooms and a hygienic new ablution block – have brought so much joy to the children. Meanwhile, the new classrooms have given the teachers renewed energy to teach in far more secure and colourful environment. Mrs Patiswa Bangani-Sanika, the principal, struggled for words when we visited her, overwhelmed that at last, the little ones in her care are able to benefit from safe, spacious classrooms.



Bright, strong and safe -- the Ulwazi Educare Centre in Delft gets a make-over, thanks to our trustees

Pupils dancing at the opening of their new media and training classroom at Bertrams Junior School



ertrams Junior School gets a new library

This school, in the inner city of Johannesburg, is in an area that now serves a huge community of refugees and other poor, marginalised people. Its classrooms are terribly overcrowded, and many of the children here cannot afford even the tiny amount levied by the state. The school badly needed a library, so they turned to the local community. Bedfordview Inner Wheel brought together several local partners and charities to supply a converted container media centre for the school, where the young folk can learn vital computer skills. Breadline Africa together with funding from Xstrata Global Mining supplied the refurbished container and we are very proud of this new partnership.

Breadline Africa on the road again!

Tim Smith (our Director) and Gail Dreyer recently took a trip to the Eastern Cape, the second largest province in South Africa and one of the poorest. Here they visited the numerous pre-schools, schools and charitable institutions and programmes that Breadline Africa helps to support. Their travels took them from makeshift schools in city townships to tiny environmental projects deep in the bush, down pot-holed roads. Here's the summary of their report:

"Our strongest impressions are that there is dire poverty in this region, with many causes – high unemployment and drought among them. Children are really suffering as a result, and are especially

vulnerable to malnutrition, abuse and neglect.

Nevertheless, everywhere we went, we found outstanding people doing heroic work – women and men, young and old, all races and creeds. They all work in small local communities, where they can be most effective. Some get no outside help at all, while some get a bit of government support or volunteers from abroad.

It was clear that Breadline Africa funds, even though these usually only make up a small part of costs, are being put to good and effective use. All the programmes we support directly benefit children, especially

in the areas of education, health and nutrition. Everyone we met expressed their deep appreciation of the help we're able to offer."



Director Tim Smith with Thabang Jakatyana and Qamfasi Ncokola from Bulungula Incubator, and Gail Dreyer

The latest reportbacks

Christmas food parcels



This year, thanks to your support, we were able to hold a special event to honour the grandmothers and grandfathers (the "gogos", as they are fondly called) who work so hard to look after the vulnerable orphaned children left in their care. We invited 100 needy grandparents and the children in their care to a delicious lunch before handing each "gogo" a big family food hamper – their Christmas gift from your family!



Container toilet block



Remember Joyce Cwayi, and her appeal for safe, hygienic toilets for the nursery school she set up in the wretchedly poor township of Lost City in Mitchell's Plain? You opened your hearts and your purses, and now we have a beautiful, strong container for the little children in her care. We're turning it into a brand-new toilet block as I write! Remember, in an area where diarrhoea is the single biggest killer of children under five, you've almost certainly saved lives....

Garden shed container

Last year, we reached out to you with a very special appeal – for our first ever container to support a garden club started by Bernie Peters, a mother who lives in crime-ridden Lavender Hill. The women of this bleak township are eagerly anticipating the arrival of their new container, which we hope to deliver soon. By "planting" this "garden shed" container, you're helping an already successful food-growing project to take off. We're all very grateful and proud.

A round of applause for our special friends and supporters!

We're constantly amazed and delighted at the many creative ways you raise funds for us through special events and activities in your life. A big thank-you for you generous and inventive ways of supporting us:



Baron and Baroness van Dedem:

We are immensely grateful for their continuing and generous support for the Makhundu Christian Centre, one of the organisations we fund in Mpumalanga. Makhundu care for over 2000 vulnerable children from eight villages in the Nkomazi area in the poor rural province of Mpumalanga. Their donation will go towards food, clothing and other necessities for children in one of the centres.

Hats off to Edd Hatfield!

Not only did he run the Hyde Park half-marathon last year, but he raised funds for Breadline Africa's container recycling project in the process. We're proud of you, and very grateful – a big thank you to all of you from Africa!

Amanda Jane Woodland – calendar girl for Breadline Africa!

Tesco Diets 2011 Calendar

Inspirational members pulling together for charity



www.tescodiets.com

The diet that delivers for charity

It seems that we have attracted our very own Christmas fairy. Tesco Diets and their special calendar featured twelve brave women who signed up to lose weight in 2010, with all the benefits going to charity. Amanda, the December "star" picked Breadline Africa! We'd like to thank her for this lovely gesture, and to congratulate her: she's lost one stone, has cleared the clutter out of her life, and is loving being a new mum at age 40! Well done!



And where would we be without our Nimble Knitters?

To all of you who keep a steady stream of beautiful hand-knitted garments arriving at our office: a BIG thank-you! You're doing a grand job keeping many babies, toddlers and small children nice and warm. A special word of appreciation to **Mr Dan Clark** for sponsoring the postage of these parcels to us – thank you for this thoughtful act of generosity. Also to **Wendy at St. Michaels**, whose beautiful handwork was kindly brought to us by **Mr and Mrs Aspinall** on their recent visit; and **Mr and Mrs Thompson**, who also sent us the loveliest knitted garments. We really treasure these "labours of love" – thanks to every one of you who contributes this way.





**St Joseph Marist College,
Cape Town – very welcome
“gatecrashers” at our seaside party!**

We had a lovely surprise when learners from the above school arrived, bringing some sweet treats for the poor and needy children enjoying their first ever beach outing. Unfortunately, they couldn't stay – schools hadn't broken up for the holidays yet. But we were delighted to see them, and of course the little ones at the party were thrilled. Thank you so much for thinking of us!

Silva Garton of Essex, a yoga teacher, has written to tell me about the guided relaxation CD she's made. She says that even though it's a small project, she's donating 20% of her sales to us! For more details about where to get her CD, email me edna@breadlineafrica.org.za. We could all benefit from a little more relaxation! Thank you for this marvellous idea, Silva.

A heartwarming CASE history

A while back, we gave a fantastic new organization – CASE (Community Action Towards a Safer Environment) a bit of help to get going. We were delighted to get this report back from them: “CASE has really grown in leaps and bounds. It was incredibly hard in the early days and Breadline Africa was the first to provide financial support. I am eternally grateful for the fact that you understood our vision, had empathy for our needs, and provided funding for operational costs when no-one else would. Without that initial funding I'm not sure where CASE would be right now! I feel very proud to see how the people in the organization have grown and the impact they have had on their families and the broader community. Your work too is amazing and I hope that you continue to support many organizations like ours, especially those who are starting out.”

Legacies that last

Some of you have written to let me know that you have taken the step of remembering us in your wills. With a full heart, I'd like to thank you for thinking of Breadline Africa in such a special way. Your kindness will stand as a beacon of hope for many in times ahead.

Our wonderful, problem-solving containers are often funded by legacies to Breadline Africa. If you would like to leave a lasting legacy by remembering us in your will, we'll be happy to help in any way we can.

We understand that this is a delicate matter, and that you might have questions. So 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. Of course, your enquiries will be kept strictly confidential.

Our visitors gallery

As always we are delighted to welcome friends from faraway places, both to our office and to the projects that we support.



Adam and Sarah Catchpole from Ipswich, UK, with Noni Melani at Founder Educare in Khayelitsa



Stephanie O'Donnell and Anne Irvine from Ireland



Ron and Barbara Baynes of Winchester



Carole and Douglas Aspinall of Reading, UK, brought us lovely knitted goods from their local church knitting group



Charlotte Williams and Kate Lister from the UK. They visited our offices to learn more about Breadline Africa after meeting one of our trustees on the flight to Cape Town!



Meet John Fossey (far left) from Containerization Magazine and Rupert Shanks, a volunteer from the UK, shown here with Edna and Tim. Rupert spent six weeks with the Breadline Africa team here in South Africa -- you can read what he had to say about us and our projects on his blog post. You'll find it here: <http://www.breadlineafrica.org/blog/my-time-in-cape-town/>

Lisa and James Holland and their family from Australia brought us some leftover World Cup magic – they donated fantastic soccer shirts and soccer balls to the children who use our township football container. Here they are visiting the little ones at Founder Educare Centre in Khayelitsha – thanks and come again soon!



James makes a new friend, while Lisa heads outside for playtime with the children of the Founder Educare Centre in Khayelitsha



Lunch is served! James and Lisa's sons, Ben and Mathew, practise their waitering skills.



Family business: Mathew escorts his aunt Dee Johnson to a shop in Khayelitsha.

Donating online made easy: just ask us how

These days, we're all doing more and more business, including banking and shopping, via the Internet. You may have seen the information on our website, explaining that you can 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 helping us simply by clicking your mouse! Send us an email, and we'll help in any way we can.

Visit Breadline Africa any time of the day or night online!

Breadline Africa is right there with the rest of the "online" world: we're a very real organisation, as many of you who've visited us know! But for those who can't pop by our Cape Town offices, you can find out what we're doing 24/7 the following ways:

- 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>



Dear Friends

Dear Friends, With 2011 under way, we're opening brand-new doors for brand-new beginnings! With our long-lasting, movable, lockable converted containers, which provide instant infrastructure for the needy, we'll keep on bringing hope and joy to those in despair.

It's thanks to you and your loyal support and encouragement that our container project has just kept on growing. You know all about the wonderful projects we're able to help with our containers, but did you know that converting and maintaining them also provides employment? I was very moved by Sakhiwe Mbovane who came to thank me with tears in his eyes. He had been unemployed for more than eight months before we took him on to work on our containers. Now he has new skills and is proud to be supporting not only his wife and children, but his elderly rural parents. He even bought his father a drum of paint for Christmas, to paint their little hut! As you know this project is very close to my heart, and your continued support means so much to me. Remember that we never have enough containers to meet the demand, so if you are able to spare something for our "container piggybank", I'd be very, very grateful – and so would all those who'd benefit.

For many of you, I know it was an eventful festive season, with heavy snow and bitter cold in many parts of your country affecting flights, transport and services. I was shocked to hear from a snowed-under friend that her neighbourhood was without running water. But I am glad that everything has returned to normal. Thank you to everyone who wrote to me to tell me about your winter adventures, and especially for the lovely photographs – the snow may have caused disruptions, but it does look beautiful, especially to me!

I have some exciting news to share with you. I recently got a telephone call from our local TV station, asking me to come and talk about the work we do at Breadline Africa on their morning show. I was very nervous, but it was a lovely experience. You can watch the clip on our You Tube page:

<http://www.youtube.com/user/breadlineafrica>

Thank you again for all your lovely letters, and your beautiful Christmas cards. You are so kind to think of us at special times of the year. Your little gifts of knitting, haberdashery and books, which you send all the way to the tip of Africa to share with the children here, are greatly appreciated – thank you again.

May 2011 bring you many blessings of joy, hope, health and prosperity.

This comes with lots of love,

Edna

PS: I hope you all have a wonderful Easter!



Sakhiwe Mbovane hard at work turning a container into something wonderful...



This beautiful photo, from Claire and Kevin Hunt from Devon, is one of many you sent me this past winter. Lovely, but I hope you're all warmer now!

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

How you can help even more: if you are a UK income taxpayer, please don't forget 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 28% more communities can benefit at no extra cost to you!

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