

## Waves of joy – thanks to you!

It's always fun preparing the spring newsletter for you, as we get to report on a favourite event in the Breadline Africa calendar – our annual seaside party!

This year we took over a thousand children from the dusty, scorching-hot Saron and Tulbagh valley, an area of great rural poverty, out for a day of splashing in the waves, a brand-new T-shirt and plenty of sunscreen for protection, colouring-in activities and that all-important and rare treat – a good square meal. For many of these isolated rural children, it was not only their first visit to the sea, it was the first time they had ever taken a bus trip!

It was a privilege to give these little ones – so constricted by grinding poverty – a rare day out, and to bask in their smiles and squeals of joy. We hope you enjoy the pictures as much as we do!



# Bright start to a brighter future



We had another wonderful day at Parkdene Primary School in Kraaifontein, on the outskirts of Cape Town. The dedicated teachers here asked us if we could help with stationery packs to get their little charges, mostly from very poor homes, off to a flying start as they began their first year of school.

Here at Breadline Africa, we are very aware of the importance of solid early learning experiences as a basis for a better life. So we were thrilled that thanks to your support, we were able to give these children that little bit of extra help. And their delight was the cherry on top!

## Comfort and joy – Christmas food parcels



Look what a lot you gave!

Christmas came a little early for the elderly and hungry of Gouda, a small rural town an hour outside Cape Town. Many families here rely on seasonal labour on the farms, and really feel the pinch during the quiet times. The Christmas hampers you so generously donated were welcomed with great joy and sometimes even tears of relief – some of the elderly folk were so relieved to know where their next meal was coming from.

## A container full of healing

We were especially thrilled to hand over a special container, fitted out as a physiotherapy and treatment room, to the Joy Educare Centre for Children with Multiple Disabilities, which provides a safe haven for very poor children with intellectual and physical disabilities. Thank you so much for supporting this project – it was very close to our hearts!



Edna hand-in-hand with Joyce Payne, principal of Joy Educare.

# Africa Calling – and you answered!



The dramatic Shaka Zulu restaurant in London hosted this glamorous event on 19 November last year in support of three African charities: Breadline Africa, the HelWel Trust and the Rhodes University Trust – for the first time. It was the brainchild of Louise Seligman of Breadline Africa and Claire Brisby of HelWel, who welcomed almost four hundred guests, many dressed in African outfits. It was a wonderful evening, with an exciting auction that included trips to South Africa, paintings, rare bottles of wine and even a trip in a light aircraft piloted by a Breadline Africa trustee! Our grateful thanks to our sponsors and all who attended for making this occasion such a success. For more information please visit [www.breadlineafrica.org.uk/africa-calling-event](http://www.breadlineafrica.org.uk/africa-calling-event)



With a dramatic roll of drums, Louise Seligman welcomes guests to a night of African Magic.

## Breadline Africa gets “behind” World Toilet Day



We know it’s an earthy topic, but decent sanitation is a major challenge in poor communities. Lack of hygienic toilet facilities is a major cause of the diarrhoea that needlessly kills so many children in developing countries. So we were proud to support World Toilet Day on 19 November 2012. We’ve provided container toilet and ablution facilities for many, but this was a great day to return to Khulanathi Educare Centre in the informal settlement of Phillippi, where, thanks to you, the tiny children at this nursery-school now have brand-new flushing toilets and washbasins to clean their hands.



Director Tim Smith with some of the proud new graduates. Congratulations to all!

## We’re so proud of our new Cans4Skills graduates!

Our Cans4Skills programme goes from strength to strength, and the graduation ceremony is always a great way to end off Breadline Africa’s year. Last year December, no less than sixty-seven unemployed men and women graduated with basic skills after a four-month course in Mechanical Engineering, guaranteeing themselves a shot at a decent and dignified future.

We partnered with the government and the City Mission Education Services agency, and, of course, yourselves: thanks to you, Breadline Africa was able to supply funding for the training, as well as tools, overalls and equipment for the students. Best of all, fifty of these students have bursaries to continue their training at a local technical college, and their future looks bright.

# More Mandela container libraries



**1. Library number sixteen** was opened at Parkdene Primary School – having worked with the dedicated teachers here (their smallest learners received the stationery packs you so generously sponsored), we knew how much this school out on the forgotten and impoverished northern edge of Cape Town needed a library. Thanks to you, they now have one! Support came from 46664 Fashion.

**2. Doctors, nurses, teachers, lawyers...** that's what the children of Lulekane Primary School in Limpopo Province dream of becoming, according to a song they sing. Now that they have the 17th Mandela Day library – thanks to support from Public Investment Corporation, Room to Read, AVUSA Education and Pick 'n Pay – those dreams are a little more real.

**3. Books, glorious books!** There was much rejoicing when the 18th Mandela Day library was opened at Mandlamasha School in a small village in the KwaZulu-Natal midlands. This time, support came from 46664 Fashion, as well as an enthusiastic community and a dedicated principal.

**4. Number nineteen...** opened at the Mitchell Heights Primary School in Mitchell's Plain on the Cape Flats. This container library was sponsored by the Indian Tata Steel Limited Company, with senior executive, Somdeb Banerjee attending.

**5. And that makes it twenty!** The next container library was opened at MC Weiler Primary School in Alexandra, Gauteng. This time, support came from JP Morgan Chase Bank, whose CEO, John Coulter, led the songs of celebration!

**6. Twenty-one today! Twenty-one today!** That's what we were singing as we opened the 21st Mandela Day Library at Kebinelang Middle School in Manthe village, in the remote North West Province, with support from Standard Bank. We were so impressed by the enthusiasm of the four active Soul Buddyz readings clubs at this tiny school.

**7. "Amandla" means "power",** so all power to Amandla Primary School in the mining district of Witbank in Mpumalanga province, which received the 22nd Mandela library in December last year. One of the mining companies, Liketh Investment, has adopted the school and sponsored the library, while Cii Broadcasting led a book drive. The passionate principal, representing a committed community, was thrilled to open the library up to staff, pupils and parents.

**8. And they keep coming!** 2013 got off to a great start for Linge Junior Secondary school in Nyanga, Western Cape, as the 23rd Mandela Day container library was opened there with much celebration and jubilation. This library was sponsored by Irish Distillers, a Dublin-based company.

Representatives of the company's head office were attending a conference in Cape Town, and visited Robben Island to learn more about Nelson Mandela, the Island's most famous former prisoner. On this symbolic spot, they presented a cheque for the library to Breadline Africa Director Tim Smith, and Frank Meintjies of the Nelson Mandela Centre of Memory.

## Libraries need librarians – so we stepped in to provide training

In many cases, the enthusiastic teachers in charge of the new Mandela Day libraries have no library experience. To make sure the libraries are well managed, and help with the important work of supporting education and literacy efforts, 22 teachers were given special training. This will help them to assess the literacy levels of the children using the libraries, and make sure that the libraries are properly maintained and effectively used.



## It's raining books – from the air!

We're always looking for more books to fill all our libraries, so we were delighted when Air Traffic Control and Navigation services collected books at their offices throughout the country, especially for the Mandela Day libraries project. Here are Tim Smith, Frank Meintjies (of the Nelson Mandela Centre for Memory) and the CEO of ATNS (Air Traffic and Navigation Systems), Patrick Dlamini, at the handover.

# Advisory member visits projects

Breadline Africa RSA Advisory Committee member Karen Morris went walkabout with Edna to see some of the innovative projects Breadline Africa is supporting. First was a trip to Zenzele Training and Development Centre in the sprawling township of Khayelitsha, which runs a welding training programme for unemployed youngsters.

Next we visited Founder Educare Centre and Imbasa Educare Centre, both in Khayelitsha, where Breadline Africa has provided classrooms. These are safe havens for small children during the day while their parents work.

Finally, we visited Khuti's Special Needs Centre, a place of protection that operates round the clock, looking after the most vulnerable of all – very poor children with special needs. The BLA container here is our first one to have solar-powered lighting! This is what Karen had to say afterwards: "You have shown me that your relationship with your projects is true empowerment, true upliftment and a sense of partnership!"



Edna and Frances Greathead, one of our longest-standing trustees, welcome Karen Morris to the Breadline Africa adventure!



# Donor News



David and Carole Aspinall, from Reading, UK, brought a huge parcel of lovely handknitted jumpers from St Michael's Church. Thank you!



Long-time loyal supporter Linda Dolan came by to drop off these exquisite blankets – some she knitted herself, and some were crocheted by the Jacobs Well Craft Group. Thank you for your labour of love!



Carol and Kevin Nash from the Western Province Cricket Club (Bowls Section), brought much-needed food for us to give to those in need at our annual Christmas event.



Mick and Jenny Tebbutt from Leicester, UK, paid a special visit to Imbasa Educare in Khayelitsha.



Matthew Webster and his daughter Hanna from Cheshire, UK, visited Khulanathi Educare Centre in Phillipi.

# Breadline Africa has its very own Iron Man!

Peter Mills, a triathlete based in Bermuda, was inspired by his wife – a long-time supporter of Breadline Africa – to encourage his friends to contribute to a pool, guessing his finishing time in a triathlon. Next he persuaded them to donate their winnings to us, along with a handsome personal donation. We're so grateful and touched, especially as Peter intends doing this again soon.

## Our Knitting Assembly for Breadline Africa

"I am governor of a primary school in North London called Pakeman. At our Knitting Assembly day we celebrate the children's work and I explained to the children how sheep shearers get the wool from sheep's backs, how it is spun and dyed and then knitted. I also showed them photos of containers stacked in a port and on a ship and then a lovely photo of you and delighted learners in front of a converted container. I explained how Breadline Africa works and that the children always need blankets. My little helpers here are holding the finished products up, while I asked any of the children who had helped with knitting to stand up. I would estimate about 60 had been part of their production, so it was a great group effort."

A big thank you to Nicky Manby and all the children who knitted these lovely squares.



## Donating online made easy AND secure

The Internet – now part of our daily lives! You can even donate to Breadline Africa online, but you might have questions or concerns 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 gladly 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 always the most practical way for you to keep in touch. But you can always find us online!

• To receive our latest "tweets", follow @breadlineafrica – that way you'll be instantly in touch with our updates, news and competitions.

• You can find us on Facebook – go to [www.facebook.com/breadlineafrica](http://www.facebook.com/breadlineafrica). "Friend" us and "like" our page – then drop in any time to see what we're up to!

• Breadline Africa is on YouTube too: for video clips showing what we do daily, log on to [www.youtube.com/user/breadlineafrica](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 [www.flickr.com/photos/breadlineafrica](http://www.flickr.com/photos/breadlineafrica).

• And finally: don't forget our fresh, recently revamped website [www.breadlineafrica.org.uk](http://www.breadlineafrica.org.uk) – here you can sign up for our email newsletter, or you can read our blog at [www.breadlineafrica.org/blog](http://www.breadlineafrica.org/blog).

# Edna's column

*Dear Friends*

A brand new year, with brand new challenges. We had many highlights in 2012, and I would like to share those special moments with you. I hope you enjoy reading about them here.

We still have amazing and moving memories from our seaside outings. Even in these tough economic times, you reached out and touched many little hearts, enabling us to give over a thousand poor children a day of magic.

I'd also like to thank you and your family for sharing a Christmas food parcel with needy families here in Africa. These hampers make such a huge difference, especially at a time of year that is very difficult for the very poor. Watch out for our winter food parcel appeal, where we will once again be relying on your compassion for those most in need.

Meanwhile, we have been extremely busy converting containers into much-needed libraries, for both rural and urban schools. This is also spreading the word about our wonderful container concept.

If you have joined our team of Container Champions, thank you so much for your generous response. We have so many needy projects on our waiting list, and your loyal support helps us to plan ahead, and convert our old rusted shipping containers into useful, instant solutions to urgent problems. As you know, I can never have enough in my container "piggybank", and no donation is too small – so if you can spare something, I would be very grateful.

Many of our containers are funded by legacies, and these are always very special projects that hold a great deal of meaning, both for us, and for the families involved. To all of you who have remembered Breadline Africa in your wills, a very sincere thank you – we appreciate this more than you can ever know.

If this is something you've been considering, or if you have any questions about leaving a bequest, please feel free to write to me or send me an email. Of course, your enquiries will be kept strictly confidential.



I am always amazed and delighted by your creative fundraising efforts, which are so important in helping us to accomplish more in challenging circumstances.

The beautiful, warm knitted jumpers and blankets that you send for little children in need have become a chain from the North to the South. Many of you have started knitting groups, and your wonderful parcels have made us famous at our local post office!



I would also like to thank you for your lovely handwritten cards, letters and calendars. I especially love hearing a little bit about your life stories, and how you enjoy your grandchildren.

It's also good to see so many of you using technology, sending emails and commenting on our Facebook page! Every encouraging word helps, and I truly appreciate your kindness and support.

I look forward to your support this year, trusting that you will help me to open many new doors for those less fortunate than ourselves.

Together I know we can make a difference.

With much love and grateful thanks,

*Edna*

## Remember: £1 = £1.25 at no extra 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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