

## From the children: a BIG thank-you for our seaside party!

**W**e love putting together our March newsletter, because it means reporting back on the happiest event of the year – our annual seaside party. This year, thanks to you, we took 1600 small children, mostly from grindingly poor rural regions, off for a magical day at the beach – fun and games, a good meal, and even a visit from Santa Claus and his sack of gifts!

Full story on page 2.



## We're all grown up!

2014 marks our 21st birthday! We've come a long way since our humble beginnings, and are proud to report that since 1993, with your help, we've placed more than 175 converted containers – classrooms, soup kitchens, ablution blocks, clinics, libraries and more – in many needy communities.

We're active in many community projects, but our container programme is our "trademark" – turning rusty scrap metal into shiny, strong, portable buildings that can be adapted to provide instant infrastructure for the poor. We're very proud of this programme, and we're hoping to celebrate our 21st birthday in style by providing twenty-one containers where they're needed most!

So if you'd like to give us a "birthday gift", please consider donating to our twenty-one containers project – we'd be so grateful. The need for these wonderful, versatile structures just keeps growing, and we'd love to provide more for those who need them most.

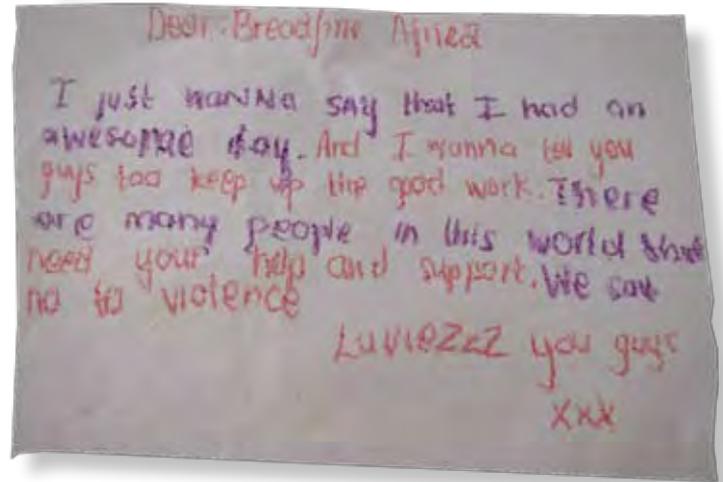


# A BIG Thank-you

This time, the children wanted to thank you themselves – here are some of the lovely drawings and letters they sent.

And here's an extract from one of the many moving letters we received: "On behalf of my church and the community of Touwsriver, we want to thank you for the blessing that you were to us. We always planned to take our children to the beach as most of them have never been there, but unfortunately we did not have the funds. God bless you for your kindness."

This was a real team effort: to these lovely words, we must add our heartfelt thanks to the many volunteers who looked after the children; Salfreds, the bus company that transported these precious little ones at a greatly reduced rate; the local comedians who donated their time to raise funds for this event; and you, of course! Isn't it wonderful what we can do when we join hands?



# Your family-to-family Christmas hampers gave relief to the elderly!

This past Christmas, you made it possible for us to help Dorothy Williams from a local community organisation hand out your family food hampers to the elderly people in Ravensmead, one of the forgotten communities outside Cape Town. Many of the recipients were frail and struggle to make ends meet. It was an honour for us to be able to support these elders on your behalf. Thank you for sharing with them.



## A practical start to a lifetime of literacy

Reading and writing are the foundations of education, but to learn these basics, children need stationery! The principals of Lorraine Primary School and Weltevrede Primary School in the tiny grape-growing district of Rawsonville, an hour north of Cape Town, were thrilled to receive stationery packs for more than 250 little learners. Look at those smiles!



## Feeding the hungry in Wellington

You may remember our appeal for a soup kitchen in the rural town of Wellington. The local Hope Outreach Project has been running for over five years, feeding more than 700 tiny children and elderly adults out of a rickety wooden shack that was both a fire and a hygiene hazard. Look at the brand-new container kitchen we were able to give them, thanks to your help!



# Toilets for tots on World Toilet Day

We're especially grateful to all of you who have supported our container toilet appeals in the last year – it's such a basic and urgent need. We celebrated World Toilet Day on 19 November by handing over a sparkling new container toilet to the Ukwanda pre-school in the huge informal settlement of Khayelitsha outside Cape Town. Principal Nokwanda Ndzamela, who cares for over a hundred children, was so desperate she'd even tried to build a toilet herself! Thank you all so much.



# Lukhanyiso Educare Centre – a beacon of co-operation

Less than two years ago, this pre-school was a leaky shack. But Nomfundo Pezi was undaunted, and determined to provide the little children of the shacklands of Crossroads with care, shelter and a food garden. She wept with joy as we celebrated the opening of the new containers that will house this project and its precious charges. Thanks to former councillor Beverley Cortje-Alcock for bringing this project to our attention, and the Willem van Dedem Foundation, who made this dream a beautiful reality.



# Mandela libraries: now an even more important memorial

On 5 December 2013, our beloved Madiba, Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela, passed away. Along with the rest of South Africa and the world, we at Breadline Africa mourned the loss of the first President of a democratic and free South Africa, one of the most inspiring human beings to walk this earth.

It made for a somber December, but there is a great deal to celebrate about his life. We know that you share our loss, and if like us, you would like to mark this moment in some way, we would greatly appreciate contributions to our Mandela library project.

As you know, we've been working with the Mandela Centre of Memory in rolling out our special Mandela libraries to the poorest and most isolated schools in our country. We're happy to report that in the past few months we've installed no less than five new libraries, with the aid of local corporate sponsorship. We hope to install another 25 libraries this year, keeping this project thriving as a living testament to the great man himself. Mr Mandela was an ardent supporter of reading and literacy projects, and believed passionately in education as the only sure route to a better life.



Next, 1 300 learners at Seroophata Primary School in the North West province received the gift of the thirty-third Mandela library. Back in 2010, Soul Buddyz, a youth upliftment programme run by Soul City, had a group at this rural school, and they applied for a library. They're now at the local high school, but were invited back for the very proud moment of seeing their initiative become a reality!



Halala (congratulations) to Mailakgang Primary School, the proud recipient of the thirty-first Mandela library. This school is situated in the North West Province in the deepest rural depths of South Africa. Many thanks to the Woolworths Trust and My School, My Village, My Planet for their support: the two organisations partnered with Food and Trees for Africa to establish food gardens that feed all 456 learners at the school. After that, along with the staff and community, they decided it was time to feed the children's minds!

The thirty-fourth Mandela library opened along with the school year at Ikaya Primary School in Kayamandi, Stellenbosch, which serves 1420 learners. Another wonderful collaboration, the Ikaya library is co-sponsored by 466/64 Bangles and the Motor Museum of nearby Franschoek. Over 1500 books were donated by Rotary International in Bedfordview and Pinelands. A regional education official, Mr Burger, spoke of the book as a tool for freedom, and students and teachers alike welcomed their brand-new library.



The thirty-second Mandela library was opened with singing, dancing and reading at Magudu Primary School in Mpumalanga, not far from the famous Kruger National Park. It's the second rural school library sponsored by the Woolworths Trust and My school, My Village, My Planet. Ceri Coxon of the Woolworths Trust asked all the learners present to promise to read at least one book a month!

Only weeks later, the thirty-fifth Mandela library opened its doors at Thuto Ke Tselu Primary School in the Frankfort area of the Free State. The library has been beautifully painted by the school's pupils, and the ceremony was attended by two Old Mutual JoBerg2c riders – Andrew Fussell and James Burgess – as well as 466/64 representative Robert Coutts, Old Mutual staff members and Soul Buddyz representative Tembi Tyuku. The children prepared and performed poetry and drama to accompany the joyous opening ceremony.

# New hope for the youth of Dimbaza

Not even a thunderstorm could dampen the celebrations last October, when we installed a classroom, kitchen and an ablution block in Zabalaza Village in Dimbaza in the Eastern Cape. The community of 400 households sang and danced at the opening

of the new children's resource centre, an important beacon of hope in this isolated rural area – the flush toilets are the first in the village! We're very grateful for your support, and also to Signales, a German-based company and co-sponsor.



## Hello America!

A reminder of the good news for our many friends in the United States of America – at last you have your own donation portal. Breadline Africa has been accepted by the American Fund for Charities, which means you can now make safe and tax-deductible donations to any of our projects. Visit <http://breadlineafrica.org/gb/uk-how-you-can-help/us-donations/> for more details.

## Donating online made easy AND secure

The Internet – what did we do before it? 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 now 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).

## 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 give us. This means we can do 25% more for poor communities – at no extra cost to you!

# Donor News



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1. Susanne Edwards and John and Pauline Williams from Bedford, Peter and Frances Sutton from Shropshire, with Nokwanda Ndzamela and Christelle Wonderlik of the Ukwanda Educare Centre in Khayelitsha.

2. Christopher and Patricia Senior from Sussex meet our wonderful container conversion team.

3. Edna with Barbara Palmer from Worcestershire.

4. Kathy Gogarty from London visits Patricia Kalazani's educare centre.

5. Tim Smith, our director, with Geoff Hyde, John Millman and Shirley Hyde, from Somerset, at the Breadline Africa offices.

6. Keith and Anne Pilkington, from Gravesend, Kent, also stopped by our offices.

7. And so did Linda Dolan, from Surrey. It was lovely to see you all!



# Edna's column

convert into classrooms. Your overwhelmingly generous responses and continued support helped our container project to flourish, as we branched out into supplying soup kitchens, clinics, ablutions blocks, libraries and much more. And here we are, still going strong – all because of you!

In the past few years, we've had to weather the storm, along with you, of a global economic crisis, a source of great concern. But thanks to you, we manage to keep going, changing the lives of people here in Africa because of your compassion.

It's great compassion that inspires some of you to remember Breadline Africa in your wills – if this is something you have been considering, and you have any questions, please drop me a line, and I will respond right away – in confidence, of course.

Thank you for the lovely handwritten letters and cards that keep arriving – and for sharing snippets of your news with me. I love hearing about your lives and joys – it makes the world feel a warmer and smaller place.

I'm especially grateful to those of you who make your monthly contribution by direct debit, which makes planning easier – and for always giving a little extra, even in tough times. Every little bit helps, and I thank you sincerely from the bottom of my heart.

With much love,

*Edna*

## Dear Friends

Late last year, we lost our beloved Madiba – Nelson Mandela – a man whose values are at the bedrock of everything we believe in at Breadline Africa. So we are emerging from a time of mourning and celebration, as we continue to take inspiration from his life. One of his favourite sayings was: "Our children are our greatest treasure. They are our future."

This is so close to our hearts, as we continue to focus on projects that support children – and give them a little joy, which is why we love our annual seaside outings so much. We are so grateful to you for helping to make these possible – did you know that thanks to you, twenty thousand little children have visited the sea over the years, often for the first time? This year, we thought we'd share some of their lovely thank-you letters with you – we hope you enjoy them.

Can you believe that this year marks our 21st birthday? It's been great fun looking back through our archives for memories to share with you. We started out in 1993, and I'm sure many of you can remember your very first letter from us. We shared our unique idea of purchasing second-hand shipping containers to



Looking back in pictures – hard work and happy memories!



Helping people help themselves

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