

Mushroom farming helps climate change!

Mushroom farming helps climate change! So far we have received a generous response to our mushroom farming container project. Thank you so much for your support! I am happy to write that Kosie will be receiving our very first set of mushroom farm containers very soon.

As you know, African farmers living in poverty bear the brunt of the

environmental crisis. Without water, it is becoming even more difficult to make a living. This is why we want to help poor farmers, like Kosie Cyster.

Unlikely as it may sound, helping a poor farmer switch to mushroom farming is a practical way to help protect the earth from climate changes. That is because mushroom farming uses very little water. And as more and more of southern

Africa turns to desert because of global warming, it's becoming very important that we are mindful of the impact of our every action.

I can't wait to see Kosie reap his rewards, and pass on his knowledge to future generations.



Curious containers ...

Transforming a container into a mushroom farm is one of the more unusual tasks we've undertaken. But that's why we love containers – they are so versatile. They are also longlasting and secure – offering us lots of opportunities to respond instantly and creatively to urgent problems.

They make a real difference in situations of extreme poverty, where people are

challenged to do a lot with a little. But containers are often hard to obtain.

This is why we are launching an urgent appeal to help us build up a stock of containers to use for our life-changing projects.

Without funds to buy containers we may miss an opportunity to help a community in dire need.

We'd like to be able to buy containers as soon as we hear they are available.

Please, donate £12 to our Container Fund by completing the enclosed form and returning it to us in the envelope provided. Alternatively you can give a donation online by visiting www.breadlineafrica.org.za.

Journey of the bead

to you ...

Thank you for your support for the inspiring sculpture project started by Zimbabwean refugee Phinias Chirubvu. The container "classroom" is nearly ready. The young South African artists that Phinias is teaching are overjoyed, because having a secure place to work from will make an enormous difference to their ability to earn a living from their craft.

We hope you liked the handmade bead that Phinias and his group sent you. They were gathered from all over southern Africa – a small miracle in themselves. And they show so clearly that

determination and energy can solve any problem!

When we asked Phinias and his group to make these beads, they started immediately. Phinias also saw this as an opportunity to set off for Zimbabwe to ask more struggling artists to join his group. By doing so he was able to spread his message of hope even further.

Here are just some of the people involved ▶



Thank you for helping children in need ... you gave ...

A warm bowl of food!

What can be more satisfying than knowing that you gave a bowlful of warm food to a starving child this winter? Because you cared enough to help, we were able to deliver parcels of nourishing vegetables and other staple foods to Wallacedene shanty town. Thank you so much for helping to feed these hungry and abandoned children. And thanks too for the loving messages that came with your gifts.



And space to play!



It's so important for children in shanty towns to get the best possible start in life ... and have a happy and safe place to play and learn while their parents are at work. That's why I'm so happy that you chose to support Ncumeka Jacobs' container pre-school in Brown's Farm. The airy double container classroom already has windows, doors and insulation installed, and has been painted in fresh bright colours. Soon it will be driven up the road between the shacks, to Ncumeka's door. And I'll be there, on your behalf, to see how the children enjoy the first sight of their new classroom!

Giving something in return for your donations

I was given this special gift on my visit to Bitter Water and wanted to share it with you.

It's a sculpture of a typical Karoo donkey cart, still being used for transport in these rural areas, made from scrap metal. It was made by Pellie Justus.



Pellie is just one of the people in the desperately poor township of Bitter Water who try bravely to support their families, without a job. He is prepared to work hard to make a living, and can turn his hand to many things, welding being one of them.

We hope that our container kitchen will give this community the urgent practical support they need as they struggle to free themselves from the clutches of poverty.

Thank you for your support for this forgotten community of the Karoo.

The beauty of a bequest is in the unknown ...

A very special thank you to all our supporters who have remembered us in their will. Although they may never have visited the projects that they have so wholeheartedly supported here in Africa, their memory will live on in the hearts of many.

It is never too late to say thank you ... we are very grateful and it is a great honour to receive such a lasting legacy. In this lies the beauty of the unknown.

I salute you all and thank you

so much from the bottom of my heart. May God bless you for sowing such a beautiful seed. Thank you.

If you would like more information on leaving a bequest to Breadline Africa, please email me on edna@breadlineafrica.org.za or write to me at Breadline Africa, Unit 4 Howard Studios, Sheldon Way, Pinelands 7405, Cape Town, South Africa. Please be assured that all correspondence will be treated in the strictest confidence.



Peking to Paris race - what a journey!

A BIG thank you to Mark and Jocelyn Seligman who raised £46,229 for Breadline Africa projects. Twenty five nationalities took part in the race, with many people raising money for good causes. Mark wrote the following account of his 35-day adventure:

We made it! Out of 134 starters, we and 103 other cars arrived in the Place Vendome in Paris. We won a bronze medal and believe we were the most reliable car in the Rally - we certainly covered all 10,000 miles under our own steam without recourse to car transporters, trains, ferries or garages.

reach Moscow and St. Petersburg, which was beautiful. The Baltic States showed us all that is good about the European Union.

Poland was welcoming, Germany pretty but wet, and so we arrived in Paris.

A great trip. Jos and I are still talking, the Bentley remains in fine fettle, and we have raised £46,229 to date for Breadline Africa, which is fantastic and will be used to fund projects in South Africa which Louise and I are visiting in October.

Thank you very much for your support.

*Yours ever,
Mark*

Mongolia was tough. Jos and I spent three nights alone in the desert after I contracted a violent fever on our first night (magically cured by strong antibiotics). We suffered a sandstorm that stripped the paint from the headlamps, got stuck in a river once and in sand dunes twice (there were no roads for 1200 miles). We even, by mistake, crossed a snowy mountain in 1st gear in the dark in order to make it in time to the Russian border camp. Only 67 cars managed to get to this camp - the rest caught up later.

Although we suffered three robberies in Mongolia (including all the car's papers), Russia was safe for us, with even the corrupt traffic police leaving us in peace, albeit they kept us nine hours at the border.

It was a long slog though, particularly through Siberia, and we were pleased to



Make every £1 you donate worth £1.28!

Did you know that your donation to Breadline Africa will go even further (28% further, to be exact!) if you sign a Gift Aid Declaration? This Declaration allows us to reclaim the tax on your donation but costs you nothing! And in doing so

it liberates funds for our work with the poor. We include the relevant form on all reply slips, but you can also contact Wendy Hill at telephone number 01473-259 048 for more information.



Edna's Column

Dear Friends,
Greetings from me here
at the tip of Africa.

I have been following the debate on climate change with great interest. It's certainly a hot topic right now – in more ways than one. Scientists blame continuing globalisation and humanity's hunger for goods for the rising global warming.

For this reason we have launched ourselves into the mushroom business and I'm very excited to see the results. You can read about our progress under 'Mushroom farming helps climate change!'

Sometimes the world's problems seem overwhelming – but we have to forge ahead by uplifting the poor



around us. We have to stay focused on what we can actually change – and with wonderful supporters and friends like yourself we can only do better as time goes by.

If you would like to help more farmers and other poor communities in southern Africa please do consider giving to our Container Fund. For more information on how to donate please see 'Curious Containers' on the front page.

I have to share some exciting news with you. Our Cans4Skills project was nominated for the "Dynamisante Woman Award", a competition held by one of the foremost South African magazines. This project was selected as the runner-up from amongst many worthy causes. I was so proud of this achievement and I would like to thank you all for your wonderful support to the Cans4Skills project.



Please accept my heartfelt thanks for all the lovely letters I receive. Also for those wonderful knitted garments and blankets, and all the toys, books and pencils that arrive safely at our office. To all those supporters who visited our shores – I hope you had a memorable time with us and we hope to see you again real soon.

Please send me an email at edna@breadlineafrica.org.za – I would love to hear from you.

Edna

Edna Titus
Project Officer

Donor Gallery



Mr & Mrs Roger Gregory
visiting our Cans4Skills project



Delise and Chris Elgood
from Cranbrook



Sheila Maull from Symington



Colin and Linda Campbell
from Sheffield



Left: James, Carmen & Maria Stuart
from Plata de Espania, with
parents Franke and Charles Stuart
from Devon



Joan Hotton from Carlisle

Nora, Edna and
Shirley Morrish
from Leeds



Mr Mike
Gateway
from Kent



Anne Sutton from
Greenfields presenting
Edna with blankets knitted
by her daughter.

