

A very special International Mandela Day: the first one of remembrance



More and more research shows that early childhood development (ECD) is essential if we're to help people escape the poverty trap – a view shared by Nelson Mandela. We're so grateful that you share our determination to keep supporting ECD – and in keeping with this theme, this winter, we transformed the Clock Tower precinct of Cape Town's famous Waterfront into a "pop-up" ECD centre!

We put a bright converted shipping-container classroom and kitchen on display, in partnership with the Desmond and Leah Tutu Legacy Foundation and the Macquarie Group.

On the first International Mandela Day since the great man passed in December last year, we welcomed the children of the Masande Educare Centre in Khayelitsha – the final destination of the converted containers. They were overjoyed when Archbishop Tutu and

his daughter Rev Mpho Tutu arrived with a trolley full of toys and books, and then proceeded to read Niki Daly's beautiful book, *The Herdboy*. Then came some painting and a hearty lunch for the children – all those present could contribute their thumbprints to a portrait of Nelson Mandela! The event was covered by local and international media, including the team from the popular local SABC 1 TV show *Top Billing*. It really gave us all a boost.

Bright Stars get Top Billing

This year, the production team for the SABC1 TV show *Top Billing* spent their 67 minutes of service on Mandela Day having fun with the children at the newly launched Little Bright Stars Educare Centre in Heideveld, Cape Town. Staff and children alike enjoyed their moment in the "spotlight", and cupcakes and face painting guaranteed that the party was a hit!



Braille boon: a container library especially for partially sighted children

The Athlone School for the Blind was established to provide education and residential care for blind and visually impaired children from disadvantaged communities, and has a proud history spanning 87 years. Today it has 405 learners and 45 teachers – and now it has a new, fantastic double-container media/Braille library! It will serve as a much-needed multimedia room, with the very latest in audiovisual aids.

The new library opened on 16 May, with a moving speech by the Deputy Principal, Theodore Klink, who thanked Breadline Africa for the transformation now possible for the children of this school. There's a special Irish connection here – the donation of the container was made possible by Mrs Mary Ryan of Rathclooney, Tulla, Co. Clare, Ireland, who asked that her funds “be spent on the special needs of children”. African eyes are smiling back at you, Ireland!



Tim Smith and Theodore Klink open the new multimedia centre at the Athlone School for the Blind.



A learner settles in to enjoy the new facilities offered by the library.

Reportbacks

Pearls of wisdom!

Remember the little children of Mother Pearl Educare Centre, who were housed in the cold, concrete-floored change-rooms of the local rugby club? Thanks to you we've converted two containers into a shiny new classroom and toilet block, and will be opening them very soon. Watch this space!



Winter food parcels

The grandmothers of Kalkfontein are relieved and delighted to get their warming winter parcels – blankets and a bag of food – thanks to your generosity!



Breadline Africa celebrates Women's Day

We know that women are often the backbone of community work, so on 7 August 2014, we held our annual Women's Day lunch to thank one hundred incredibly special and hard-working women, from the poorest areas of Cape Town, for all that they've done for the vulnerable in their communities, and for us, over the last twenty-one years. Throngs of traditionally dressed women joined us at Malibongwe Restaurant in Khayelitsha for a buffet lunch. The inspiring keynote speaker was Andrea Dondolo, an award-winning South African actress, cultural activist, writer and storyteller.



Bursting into song for Africa in London

On 17 March 2014, Louise Seligman, Breadline Africa Chairperson, joined with the Rhodes University Trust UK and Amazwi Omzansi Africa, to stage a delightful evening – “A Night at the Opera” – featuring opera favourites and traditional African songs performed by the very talented young South African baritone, Njabulo Madlala. The concert took place at the historic and beautiful Leighton House in Kensington, London, formerly the home and studio of the famous Victorian painter Lord Leighton. The evening sold out in a few days.

Inspired by the success of this event and by Njabulo's own remarkable story, the three charities decided to stage a second much larger “Night at the Opera” Gala Concert on Tuesday 4th November at Cadogan Hall in Chelsea, London. Njabulo and other talented singers, together with South African pianists, Ben Schoeman and Terence Marais, will delight you with favourite opera highlights. For more information and to book your tickets, go to www.breadlineafrica.org.uk/a-night-at-the-opera or ring Wendy Hill at the Breadline Africa office 01473 259048.

Mandela Libraries – thanks to you, they



The 36th Mandela Day library is a gem! We're delighted to welcome the Gemological Institute of America (GIA) to the ranks of our sponsors. Along with Soul Buddyz, they helped us launch the 36th Mandela Day Library at the Moime Primary School in Limpopo Province, benefiting 300 fortunate learners. Tsepiso Makwela, MTN Woman of the Year 2012, donated R50 000 worth of books from her MTN prize money – thank you so much!



The 37th Mandela Day library is also a partnership with GIA – fulfilling the wish of a recently deceased GIA director to work with our partner, Room to Read. The 800 pupils at Limpopo's Refentse Primary School are crammed 100 to a classroom, but their new library will give them more space. Their work with Room to Read is already acknowledged by secondary schools in the area. Thanks to Yase Godlo and Alta Brown of the Nelson Mandela Foundation for the invaluable support they provided.



Our 38th Mandela Day library opened at the Gobandlovu Primary School in Esikhawini, KwaZulu-Natal, near Richards Bay. Mrs Manyati, the principal, is a noted community pioneer and leader in the community, and mentors 1 052 children! Wipro Technologies have sponsored computers as well as a R130 000 refurbishment of the school's computer centre. Like Mrs Manyathi, we're almost speechless with gratitude.



Library number 39 is something really special. Architects of Justice turned containers into the most beautiful building, a SEED (Schools Extended Education Design) library sponsored by SHOUTSA, ad agency BBDO and the MAL Foundation at Eisleben Road Primary School in Mitchells Plain, Cape Town. This amazing structure, already packed with 2 250 books, will serve 955 children. We've had great support here – 567 Cape Talk broadcasted part of the launch, and Yase Godlo from the Nelson Mandela Centre of Memory was present, as was former Minister of Finance, Trevor Manuel.



The big four-oh! Our 40th Mandela Day library is the first one to be sponsored by Via Afrika Publishers, who believe that a library should also be a digital centre of learning, with internet access. Itemeleng Primary in the Free State is the first of three schools that will have not only a library, but online curriculum support and 15 tablet computers loaded with ebooks! This will really give rural children a leap forward into the 21st century. We're also grateful to the department of education and the Soul Buddyz group for their support – and so are the enthusiastic staff and nearly 900 children.

just keep rolling off the assembly line!

And number 41 planted yet more seeds! Local musicians and SHOUTSA founders Danny K and Kabelo joined us for the launch of our SEED library at Somelulwazi Primary School in Soweto's Freedom Park. "Storytelling and reading are an integral part of growing up, it has been an honour to play our part in the Mandela Day library initiative – literacy is a human right. We promote education not incarceration – by giving our youth a chance to liberate their imaginations, we can stop crime before it has a chance to start," said Danny K. Thanks again to our loyal partners: the Nelson Mandela Centre of Memory, BBDO SA and the MAL Foundation.



The 42nd Mandela Library has a motto: "Grow in spite of poverty". That's the message of hope from the 460 learners, 40 staff and principal of Bongane Primary Farm School, which serves the KwaZenzele settlement in Gauteng. The school's new container library was sponsored by 46664 Bangles, Charities Unlimited, and launched with 800 books, courtesy of Rotary International in Bedfordview. The very moving launch, attended by 46664 representatives and Angela Teague of Soul Buddyz, included poetry, information about recycling and traditional dancing.



The response to the 43rd Mandela Library? "We've never seen a library before!" That's what some of the 147 children at Thabantsho Primary told us. They live in Senwabarwani Village, in North West Province near the Botswana border. Few learners here can speak English. But Via Afrika Publishers have once again gone the extra mile – providing children with internet access, a computer-based curriculum and 400 ebooks on 15 tablet computers. Via Afrika will be visiting school librarian Mrs Matsie every month for the next six months to provide training and support.



Number 44 is the third of the special digital libraries sponsored by Via Afrika Publishers. Sohlazane Primary School, an exceptionally poor school in the heart of rural Mpumalanga, now also has a library with internet access, 15 tablet computers, ebooks and an interactive online curriculum that opens up the world for these isolated children. And on top of this, the school is a base for adult learners keen on getting school certificates and improving their lives. This new library is likely to transform the entire community! Thanks to Room to Read, who partnered on this project, and the inspiring principal, Mrs Luphoko, for her leadership.



Library number 45 was opened at Alfonso Arries Primary School, in the Eastern Cape town of Uitenhage, on 19 July 2014 – just a day after Madiba's birthday. Mrs Mkencele, the principal, faces the challenge of growing enrolment – there are about 120 pupils per classroom! Volkswagen Community Trust decided to get hands-on – not only did they sponsor the library, they cleaned classrooms, planted trees and handed out sports kits. Ongoing support for the library and staff will be provided by two NGOs that support literacy and reading – Praesa and Nal 'iBali.



And now for Number 46! Yet another SEED library, thanks to the tireless Danny K and Kabelo of SHOUT SA, and fantastic partners BBDO SA, the MAL Foundation and Architects of Justice. This one, bursting with 2 500 books, was launched at the Pondo Combined School in Limpopo province, one of poorest in the country. This will give the 1 469 children at this school a fantastic head start. Thanks to all for their determination to instil a culture of reading, and to Ms Baloyi, District Circuit Manager, for her inspiring speech.



Celebrating Frances Greathead



Speaking of birthdays, we marked a very special one when Frances – one of our first trustees, and the first Chairperson of the Breadline Africa Board – celebrated her 95th birthday party at her home in Norfolk on 13 June 2014!

What a milestone, and what a privilege to share it with you, Frances. Your dedication and commitment to the poor here in Africa are a constant inspiration to us all.



Donor news and events

Miles into milestones

Geert Schep, brother of Marijke, one of our trustees in the Netherlands, completed the 500 km London to Paris cycle race in aid of Breadline Africa, raising £1785 – 23% over his target of £1450. Thank you so much, Geert! We hope to see you for the next Argus Cycle Tour here in Cape Town.

Cycling for Zoleka Educare Centre

This year, Breadline Africa had 50 riders in the world-famous Argus Cycle Tour! Our trusty team members were pushing the pedals to provide converted container classrooms, a kitchen and an ablution block for Zoleka Educare Centre, a pre-school presently housed in a shack in Philippi. It serves 80 to 100 children from the Kosovo informal settlement – the poorest of the poor in this area – but it regularly gets flooded in winter, and the toddlers desperately need secure, dry premises.



Our heroes! Jonathan Franks with Abram Pheello Motaung. Jonathan's sponsorship made it possible for Pheello to achieve his dream of riding in his first Argus – congratulations!



Donor visits

Clio and Tony Tomazos and their children from London had a wonderful visit to Zukolwethu Educare Centre in Khayelitsha. Come back anytime!

Breadline Africa online drop in anytime!

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. "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, 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.

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

A message for our American friends

Good news for our many friends in the United States of America – you now have your very 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 – hard to imagine life without it! You probably know you can donate to Breadline Africa online, but you might have questions or concerns about how this works.

Please 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.

Don't forget: £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!

Edna's column



Dear Friends

What a wonderful twenty-first birthday celebration year it's been so far! We take great pleasure in sharing some of our highlights with you in this newsletter, and hope you enjoy them.

Thank you for all the good wishes you've sent us. Some of your responses have been so creative – one loyal supporter sent us a handmade key with this message: "I am sending the key of the door to Breadline Africa to open the door to its continued success." That is what I love about you – it's gestures like this that make us feel like a big family.

Speaking of the Breadline Africa family, I must once again wish one of our founder members, Frances Greathead, hearty congratulations. She celebrated her 95th birthday this year, in her home town of Oxborough, Norfolk. It's been wonderful to work with her for twenty-one rich years!

It was especially moving to commemorate the first International Mandela Day since the passing of our beloved Madiba with the Desmond and Leah Tutu Foundation. You'll have read about this beautiful event above – many children were better off as a result!

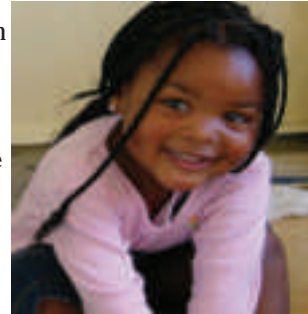
I cannot thank you enough for your continued support of our container programme – as you can see, we've been able to place many (46 and counting!) Mandela container libraries at schools that badly need support. And we've been able to provide many poor preschools in poverty-stricken areas with solid, decent structures. But we always need more containers – the need just keeps growing, and any contribution you can make to my "container piggybank" would be so very much appreciated.

It's always very special and meaningful when someone leaves Breadline Africa a bequest. Thank you so much for giving and remembering those in need in this way. If this is something you

might be thinking about, or if you'd like to honour a loved one this way, please write to me with any queries you might have. We'll treat them with discretion and the greatest of respect.

As a wonderful example of what can be done thanks to your contributions and special bequests, the Little Bright Stars Educare centre in Heideveld, Western Cape, opened the doors of its brand-new centre in July. The centre now has two new container classrooms, a kitchen and a toilet for girls and boys. The principal, Grace Witbooi, welcomed everyone and thanked them for having braved the cold weather to attend the official launch.

It seems impossible (as the rain lashes down outside) to think ahead to our summer plans – our Christmas food parcel appeal, and our seaside party project – but they'll be on us before we know it! Because we've been running our seaside parties for 14 years, I'd love to tell you the story of one little girl who's been a "regular":
Liyema Ntlama.



Liyema was born in 2000, and her grandmother Cynthia Ntlama is the principal of Makhaza Educare Centre – which benefitted from a living legacy donated by Mrs Frances Gaye from the UK.

Liyema has been coming along on our seaside outings for years, and still talks about her first unforgettable trip. Now a beautiful teenager, she's volunteered to come and dance for the children at the seaside party! Here she is with her friends, in traditional dance outfits.



It's stories like these – and the sheer enjoyment that children experience on these trips – that make all the hard days worthwhile. Thanks so much for your great hearts that make it possible for us to keep going in these difficult times.

With love and gratitude,

Edna



Community Organisation Award
2013 Winners

Helping people help themselves

Tony Smyth (Chairperson), Lord Clifford of Chudleigh, Alex Chisholm, Sir Robert Dunbar, Ben Elwes, Tony Goodfellow, Frances Greathead, Peter Hickman, Louise Seligman, Pippa Smyth
UK Charity No. 1075525 · GAYE Reg No. 000185302 · Company No. 3524187

Breadline Africa International Board

Louise Seligman (Chairperson), Eric Antmore, Alex Chisholm, Sir Robert Dunbar, Louisa Edwards, Ben Elwes, Renée Hopster, Henkrikus Kleizen, Marijke Schep, Pippa Smyth, Tony Smyth, Noo Wallis

Breadline Africa United Kingdom · 29 Lower Brook Street · Ipswich · Suffolk · IP4 1AQ · Telephone: 01473-259 048 · Fax: 01473-259 355 · Email: info@breadlineafrica.org.uk

Visit our website at www.breadlineafrica.org.uk

N523/NL/UK