



Stevenage – Kadoma Link Association

Summer 2008 Newsletter

www.skla.org

Welcome to the Summer 2008 Edition of the SKLA newsletter. If you are wondering if you missed the Winter & Spring editions – you didn't! Due to the work load this year within the SKLA we have not had time to produce these newsletters. Hopefully, this edition will give you a full update on all that has been going on!

Zimbabwe Celebration Day – 19th April 2008



On Saturday 19th April, the SKLA 'Celebrated Zimbabwe' with almost one hundred people! Authentic Zimbabwean food was provided by members of AFM Church, Godwill Masiwa read some of his own poems, Tendai brought some of his sculptures and demonstrated some of his techniques and Thabani, with his friend Darren, performed contemporary songs. The youth group Cornerstone provided their non-alcoholic cocktail bar. Everyone got involved - special mention should go to the banner for Stevenage and Kadoma made by local children, some of whose families are from Zimbabwe.

With all the challenges facing our friends in Kadoma, the wonderful warmth and excitement of the Celebration Day made even more impact. Indeed through the food, music, poetry, art and sheer pleasure in each other's company, the indomitable spirit of the Zimbabwean people shone through.



Stevenage Day – 8th June 2008

A big thank you to everyone who came and supported us at Stevenage Day! It was a very successful day for the Link – raising awareness of the situation in Kadoma and also raising money for project work.

The tombola stall, crochet, home made preserves & plants were all there and also our display stands with photos from Kadoma.

The AFM church were also at the event using their wonderful singing talents to share the vibrancy of Zimbabwe with Stevenage people.



Shipment Update



The SKLA have been collecting donations for a shipment to send to Kadoma. Following a wonderful response to our request for items we now have over 1200kg in storage. Items include: school books, sewing machines, wheelchairs, dried food stuffs, stationery, medical goods, toiletries, bikes, clothing and much more!

The photo shows our storage with approximately half the items in it.

We are hoping to get the first 400kg of donations out to Kadoma within the next month via a charity called Hope for Children, with further shipments planned via Air Zimbabwe and Hope For Children in the future - we'll keep you posted on progress!

Stevenage Schools Fundraising For Kadoma



Nobel School is partnered with Rimuka I High School. After watching the DVD from Jan Addison's last visit to Kadoma, Year 9 at Nobel decided to raise money for Kadoma. They had a non-uniform day, collected 5 pence pieces and had a week when people were encouraged to "feel good" about themselves. The total raised was £1300. It is the most the SKLA has received from any school in a single donation, so many congratulations to Year 9 at Nobel who agreed the money should be put towards Kadoma school-fees.

Fairlands Primary School have also been carrying out some great fundraising and have sent us £114 that the School Council raised for Kadoma - thank you Fairlands!

Cornerstone Trip to Kadoma - August 2007

(a report from Nicola Hughes, SKLA Vice-Chair)

The updates below on the Old People's Home, Aromatherapy Centre & School Fees Beneficiary Letter conclude the report from the Cornerstone trip to Kadoma in August 2007.

Old People's Home



The 'new' Old People's home is really thriving. It currently houses 11 men (the only woman passed away last year) but can house up to 15 people.

As you can see from the photo on the left - the kitchen is in excellent order and several things have been provided by big companies such as the Dairy Board, a soap

provider and Blue Ribbon. These things include a new cooker, new cupboards and a fridge/freezer.

During the visit to the Old People's Home we were able to give them rice, pasta & toiletries that we had taken with us. The lady on the right does the cooking for the gentlemen and was very pleased with our gift!



Aromatherapy Centre



The aromatherapy centre is one of the longest running SKLA projects. It was started by Joyce Ransley (former SKLA Secretary) and the tree pictured to the left was planted 10 years ago in commemoration of her life. The 3 ladies in front of the tree are the current aromatherapists.

The Head Aromatherapist took me to see the Rimuka clinic and the herb garden in the grounds of the Rimuka Maternity Hospital and was able to give me an update on the status of the project.

The aromatherapy project is a great success and run very efficiently.

The most used aromatherapy oils are tea tree, lavender, lemon, geranium, black pepper and ylang ylang. The herb garden supplements the oils that are sent via the SKLA. The herbs are mixed with Vaseline and/or body lotions and used mainly to alleviate skin conditions.

The herb garden is progressing well but water is a problem. They have a bore hole but electricity is required for it to pump. As the electricity seemed to be unavailable during most of the day it made it difficult to pump at the right time! A water tank had been secured which should alleviate this problem.

The pictures below show the bottles of dried herbs and the herb garden itself.



School Fees Beneficiary Letter

The following are extracts from a letter written to the SKLA from a young lady called Chipo Maposa. Chipo is a member of Sungano and also a beneficiary of the primary **and** secondary school fees projects. Chipo gave this letter to Cornerstone to pass on to the Link.

An appreciation of what the Stevenage-Kadoma Link has done for my life



In 1987 a baby girl was born and her parents named her Chipo (meaning gift from the Lord). When the girl was 8 years old and in Grade 2 the father and sole bread winner died. Who knew that the child will finish her primary education, let alone sitting for the A-Level examinations? For the past 8 years the girl has been sponsored by the Stevenage-Kadoma Link – that girl is me, Chipo (I'm in the centre of the photo on the left).

I want to thank you guys for the support and help that you gave me. I did my A-Levels last year and passed very well. Thank God, I secured a place at the University of Zimbabwe and I will be studying Law.

In addition to this, in 2005, I became involved in Sungano activities and I was elected the Chairperson of the group. Well...what a coincidence!

Thank you my brothers and sisters for helping me. I don't know that I will be where I am today. I hope your love will continue for ever and ever.

Annual General Meeting



Our Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday 18th September 2008 at 7.30pm in Daneshill House, Danestrete, Stevenage.

Evening will include: Chair's Annual Report, Financial Report, Election of Officers, Entertainment & Refreshments - everyone is welcome to attend!

NB. If you wish to be removed from the Newsletter mailing list or would rather download it from the SKLA website (www.skla.org), please let me know either by mail (Nicola Hughes, 3 Chouler Gardens, Stevenage, Herts SG1 4TB) or via email Nicolahughes30@hotmail.com.