

UKUFUNDA

[Literacy]

FOR ALL PROJECT

INTRODUCTION:

The Rotary Club of Bellville spent many months in the preparation and co-ordination of a project to improve literacy among children, mainly during the first three school years. Three schools in the Tygerberg area will be identified to benefit from this project.

Michael Gordon, the 2006-2007 Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar from the Rotary Club of Bellville, initiated this project as a way to "Give Back" to Rotary for his experience studying abroad and a way to combat illiteracy in South Africa. The Rotary Club of Las Vegas in the Rotary District 5300 hosted Michael as Ambassadorial Scholar. He involved himself with his host club's activities and projects and also visited many other Rotary clubs. He is a true ambassador for South Africa, earned the respect of everybody he came into contact with and was honoured with two of Rotary's top awards for community service. His host club also sponsored him for a further scholarship at the University of Las Vegas.

In co-operation with the Bellville and Las Vegas clubs a Matching Grant program was initiated and an amount of **\$54 000.00** [approximately **R415 000.00**] was collected. This is the total sum of contributions from clubs in District 5300; \$1000.00 from Bellville Club; \$1000.00 from District 9530 [Western Cape, Namibia and Angola] and \$23 000.00 from the Rotary International Foundation Trust.

THE PROJECT

Educational Challenges:

- South Africa has a 61% literacy rate for children.
- Children begin school with multiple languages and books are in English or Afrikaans.
- Books are poorly translated with generic stories and poor illustrations.
- Books have no relevance to South African Culture and Values.
- Children are disadvantaged from the onset.

The Project:

The project is called **UKUFUNDA for ALL** and it focuses on:

- Identifying needy schools in our area.
- Funding.
- Supply of books that are Afro-centric and available in all of South Africa's 11 official languages.
- Facilitate pre product training seminar, arrange the training seminar, brand and deliver books.
- Monitor and mentor the project.

Solution:

- South African Teachers have developed a "Literacy for all" program.
- The program consists of a series of identical books in all official languages so children can compare their language with the language the teacher is trying to teach.
- Books are provided from grades 1 through 3, cultural in nature and well illustrated.
- Books meet and exceed the Literacy Learning Program requirements as outlined in the National Curriculum.
- Pilot programs are already in place with results showing a 67% increase in literacy within 18 months.

The Books

The books are unique and a first for South Africa. All previous foundation phase books are Euro-centric and written in English or Afrikaans, with no or little relevance to our South African culture and values. There have been attempts to translate English books into an African language but not into all 11 official languages.

- The Kagiso books are accepted and approved by all Provincial Education Departments.
- Winner of the South African Translators Institute Award.

There are
14 Grade 1 books plus a work book
8 Grade 2 Books
6 Grade 3 Books



Some of the teachers with Past President Johan Spies, the project leader and Michael Gordon



Michael Gordon with one of the learners



Some of the learners enjoying their new books