



GENERATION JOY

Kids helping Kids

www.generationjoy.org

October 2009

Board Members

Curtis Betzler

Ellen Betzler

Caroline Brown

Linda Guard

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Joe Osborne

Jamie Peters

Barb Steeves

Jenna Velozo

Save the Date

2nd Annual GenJoy
Auction

Saturday, May 1st 2010

Pickering Barn,

Issaquah WA

DONATE ONLINE



Welcome to Generation Joy.

Welcome to the first Generation Joy Foundation email newsletter. This quarterly publication is designed to provide GenJoy supporters with the latest news and updates about the work we are doing locally and abroad. So stay informed, get connected, and grow with us as we continue to provide educational resources through "Kids Helping Kids."

Because of the contributions of the students in our neighborhood schools, and the support of generous donors like you, over 1200 students will walk to school in shoes that would have continued to gather dust under a bed in this community. Ten-



Beautiful smiles made each day a joy!

thousand books, brimming with new stories and ideas, will engage the minds of South Africa's youth. Twenty-thousand pencils and pens, most of which would have eventually become purse or glove box clutter, will equip these learners with another tool

with which to express themselves. And 2500 of those future leaders will outline their dreams for their community and our world in the pages of a new spiral notebook that someone like you provided.



Excited learners show off their pencils and soft toys

Thanks to BLMS: Where it all began

This is where our story began; with a simple humanitarian drive at BLMS to support learners in South Africa. Over the past 5 years, efforts have continued to expand to include many other schools in the district. Last year, Skyline HS and Challenger, Clark, and Endeavor Elementary Schools joined in the fun and

challenge of collecting and donating items to make a difference in the lives of children in South Africa while students in BLOCK (i.e., Beaver Lake Outreach Community Kids) continued to prepare and deliver inspiring presentations to their peers at local schools. Wherever we visit students listen, ask

great questions, and seem to grasp the importance of filling the backpack of another child halfway around the world. While GenJoy looks forward to continued success and widening its reach and impact, we remain focused on the mission we set out with on day one: Kids Helping Kids.



African dancer entertains at the auction

News from the Auction

It seems such a long time since that lovely sunny evening when we welcomed nearly 200 people to celebrate GenJoy's Inaugural Silent Auction. On May 30th we hosted our first fundraiser to celebrate and support the work we do in the community, at home and in South Africa. The tables were filled with generous donations for the silent auction, the African dancers made a splash of color in the park, and thousands of photos painted a visual story of GenJoy's work

thus far. Thanks to your enthusiastic support we raised nearly \$11,000 to continue our vital work.

Save the date and plan on joining us again for our 2nd annual event:

When: Saturday, May 1st, 2010

Where: Pickering Barn in Issaquah

If you'd like to help by volunteering to be on a committee,

or by donating an item or a service for our silent auction contact

Linda Guard
ldguard@comcast.net

We look forward to seeing you there!

"I must walk to school about 15 miles each way.....but now I have a bike given to me by the students at Beaver Lake"

Baobab Fund

The Baobab Fund supports promising students in South Africa who show special dedication and great potential for a bright future. Scholarships are awarded to students with excellent attendance records and good marks, and demonstrate strong work ethic. In other words, those who are already committed to improving their futures. Because of your generosity at our auction in May, the Baobab Fund now sits at \$2500 that will financially assist several of these students.

In preparation for selecting candidates, we wanted to know a little about the life of an average student in the Himeville area. The following conversation took place with 15-year old Bonga who attends Enhlanhleni Secondary School.

GenJoy: "What is your family and home like?"

Bonga: "I rent a room in a mud shack close to school and pay \$7 rent per month. I must prepare all my own meals. My mother, brother, grandfather,

his wife and their two children live in a separate house. We live in Himeville in the low cost housing."

GenJoy: "What is your school day like?"

Bonga: "I study 7 subjects; math, physics, geography, biology, life orientation, isiZulu, English and library time. I have all different teachers. Some are better than others and seem more knowledgeable and prepared. We eat school lunch every day provided by the government, it is served outside. All the kids eat the same; beans, rice and samp. I must walk to school about 15 miles each way. I can take a taxi for 240 Rand per month. But now I have a bike given to me by the students at Beaver Lake."

GenJoy: "Who are your friends and how do you spend your free time?"

Bonga: "I have many friends at school and at Dancing Pencils and Drama Club. I go to Dancing Pencils on Tuesday and Thursday and Drama Group on Monday and Wednesday. I have

many chores such as laundry. I go down to the river to wash my clothes. We have running water but the river is free, so it saves money. I must clean and rake around the house, pick up trash, also help my younger brother but he is getting old enough to watch himself. I also like to work on the computer and I like to write poems in Zulu."

GenJoy: "What happens if you need school supplies? Or if you have a cold/you're sick? How do you celebrate your Birthday??"

Bonga: "When I need school supplies I see Mr. Horn. A school uniform costs between 250 - 350 Rand. If I am sick I stay home and must take care of myself. I cannot be sick so I am strong. I do not celebrate my birthday."

To learn more about supporting a child through the Baobab Fund contact Joe Osborne at

joe.osborne@peopletopeople.com



Bonga receives a GenJoy shirt and tote bag

Travel Team Gets the Goods into Schools

The six person travel team (Curtis Betzler, Jenna Velozo, Meredith and Joe Osborne, Kathy Rice and Linda Guard) departed from Seattle on July 10th and landed in Johannesburg 24 hours later. After spending a few days acclimating to the new time zone in Pretoria and the Pilanesberg Game Reserve, they headed to the rural towns of Underberg and Himeville in the KwaZulu-Natal Province of South Africa. The team visited and placed school supplies in the hands of more than 6000

students in 32 schools, traveling a total of 1,650 miles to reach some of the most remote schools in the area.

GenJoy is accepting applications from student/parent teams who are interested in traveling to South Africa in the summer of 2010. For more information contact Curtis Betzler at

curtis@genjoy.org



Meredith and Kathy distribute armloads of soft toys at a crèche

“We reveled in the smiles and sheer joy in the faces of the children..”



Excerpts from Jenna’s Travel Journal

This morning was brisk and beautiful. The first day of school is typically low attendance, due to fees being due. Pierre says parents will often keep their kids home until the end of the month so they can afford to pay. Today was amazing...we hit six schools - the three from yesterday plus three more. One of the schools we had only been to after school finished for the day last year (we left soccer balls with them then), one is a beautiful school way out on a hillside (that being said, all of the schools are way out...this was just WAY way out), and the other is a school with a sweet girl who has been in a wheelchair for over seven years. At this school we were able to change out her old, small chair for a lighter, more comfortable one. It was an amazing sight to behold...everyone was so excited and she was smiling so sweetly. “Cheese!!!” seemed to be the quote of day two, as pictures were being taken and the group was much more light-hearted, we reveled in

the smiles and sheer joy in the faces of the children...they were excited for supplies and soft toys and clearly proud of their culture as they demonstrated traditional dances and songs. As much pleasure as they took in receiving, it was but a reflection of the excitement I remember seeing on the faces of Beaver Lake students as they boxed up donated items. I am reminded daily here of the vast differences between my students and the students they are reaching out to. Sometimes I wonder if they realize how real the poverty is in South Africa; if they know what a huge impact a pencil really can have. I know Harper, Toby & Elysse (last year’s student travelers) have a fairly strong grasp on it, having been here themselves...but slideshows and speeches sometimes seem so inadequate when trying to portray how far their actions reach. We don’t even know the end result, yet...the ripples from their actions in the spring could have effects

through the next decade. Who knows how one small act of kindness and giving can change one person’s life...and how their life might affect others?”

“Today we visited four schools...I would say the theme for today would be BIG...today’s schools were enormous and we burned through supplies like no tomorrow. Amazing to see the kids receiving - and SO happy about pencils! They compare how many they got with their friends around them; find everyone gets five, and start saying, “Five, five!” Like I’ve given them gold and they can’t believe they get so much.”



New wheelchair for a dedicated learner



Bicycles are precious to children of this community

Dancing Pencils

Low attendance and, consequently, poor academic performance, are key issues in many South African schools. Dancing Pencils is an after school program much like you would find at our local schools that is having great success in keeping learners in school while boosting attendance and achievement. The program was created by our South African non-profit partner, Vukuzakhe Projects. The students who participate in this in-

centive-based program receive help with their homework, work on literacy skills, and participate in drama and creative writing. Participants are provided special incentives for their commitment to extra studies after a long day at school and chores at home. These promising students are the recipients of special incentives such as a bike, a pair of shoes, a new pair of pants, or other items that can have a remarkable impact, provided by GenJoy.

Visit the Vukuzakhe website at www.vukuzakhe.co.za to learn more about the crucial role the organization plays in the well being of its community

Generation Joy

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How to make a Donation

The end of the year is quickly approaching... Donate to Generation Joy by December 31st and deduct your contribution on this year's tax return. Generation Joy Foundation is a recognized 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. As you consider participating in giving campaigns through your work or community, we encourage you to designate all or part of your gift to Generation Joy and promote the cause of "kids helping kids". Don't forget to maximize your giving by using your company's matching funds program. We thank you in advance for your generosity!

[Donate here](#) Or for more information go to www.generationjoy.org

