

CAN YOU HELP?

The words below are those of Ms. Pat Dean Rotarian and Executive Director of Operation Upgrade in Durban, South Africa. Pinky Lebajoa is the District Literacy Coordinator and she lives in and operates the Emseni Community Center.



“Pinky and I have been coping with a fire disaster in KwaNibela which destroyed over 100 homesteads, 48 of them being the homes of literacy learners. It happened on 14 Sept when the temperature reached 45c and there were high winds. People describe seeing burning branches blown 500m to land on thatched huts. There were 2 deaths. People lost everything – money, food, clothes, documents, books and the very roofs over their heads. Many came to Emseni, where Pinky is struggling to feed them.”

“I asked Rotary to help – there has been a District donation of 1000 blankets and 200 T-shirts. The municipality has put up some tents – and given some to Pinky to distribute – and we made them give us transport for the blanket roll-out.

Thank you all for taking the KwaNibela fire disaster so seriously. I am glad that Rotary in District 7950 is ready to help. If I make a wish-list for help, I would ask for contributions to a target of R1000 per family to help with food and clothing. This challenge makes a total of R100000 – about US\$14370 at today's rates.

We do hope you are able to find some funds to assist – Pinky is truly desperate about this and the KwaNibela people are now completely desperate.’

Yours in hope, Pat”

Linda Tracey Clifton accompanied Dr. Frances Jeffries to this area in 2008 and interviewed the women in KwaNibela who had learned to read through the “KwaNibela Project”. In 2009, Paulette Boudrot (Weymouth Club) visited Operation Upgrade and learned of the need for the KwaNibela learning model to be replicated in KwaJobe. As a result, in 2009-2010 District 7950 partnered with District 9270 and worked together to obtain a Rotary International Matching Grant to assist with the Adult Literacy program in these areas. Now, these women and their families have been seriously impacted by this fire. In 2010, Fran Jeffries and Tedi Hornung (Attleboro Club) visited the area also. Our district now has a connection with these folks and we know what these homes looked like before this disaster: simple structures, but they were shelter and home, and now they are gone!

We are now asking Rotary District 7950 to help once again. We would like to ask each Rotary Club in District 7950 to help. 1,000 Rand on today's market is a total of approximately \$146.00 U.S. That money would be enough to provide the necessary food and clothing to help a family get back on their feet. Could we raise \$14,000 as challenged? Your club or individual Rotarians can **“Sponsor a Family” for only \$150.00**, but certainly, any donation would be welcomed.

Checks should be **made payable to the Attleboro Rotary Charities Foundation and KwaNibela Fire noted on the memo line.** This is a 501C-3 organization and receipts for donations over \$250.00 will be provided. Donated funds will then be forwarded to Rotary in KwaZulu Natal South Africa for distribution to Operation UpGrade, District 9270 in Durban, South Africa. Please mail your checks to **Tedi Hornung of the Attleboro Rotary Club; P.O. Box 635; Attleboro, MA 02703.** Please note that the final collection date is November 15, 2010.

The families of Rotary CAN accomplish miracles. Together we CAN make a difference.

For the District 7950 Literacy Resources Committee:

Paulette Boudrot, Weymouth Club Tedi Hornung, Attleboro Club