

INTRODUCTION

The last couple of months have been very busy for Kidlinks, with Africa Alive, the Kidlinks Bicycling, Bed and Breakfast, Africa Fest and a work trip to South Africa! Thank you to everyone who helped to make these events so successful!

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 3 – Sustainable Living Day

November 21 – Kidlinks South African Wine Tasting

Highlight:

Sustainable Living Day

Saturday, October 3rd Noon-Dusk

Hosted by Avant Gardening & Landscaping
to benefit Kidlinks World

Location: 3055 Siggelkow Road, McFarland

Attendees will be able to talk with a number of businesses and non-profits who are working to promote sustainability and healthy living, as well as attend seminars for more in-depth information. There will be live music by **Lynette and Some Chairs**, **The Stellanovas** and **The Kristy Larson Honky Tonk Band**. Children can enjoy **hay rides, pumpkin carving, face painting, a treasure hunt** and more! Fresco will be catering the event, along with beer from Capital Brewery and wine from African Routes. The cost is \$15 per car or \$8 per adult, \$5 per child; with **all proceeds being donated to Kidlinks World, Inc.**

If you'd like to volunteer on Saturday, please contact Cristianne, cawtravels@yahoo.com, 608-658-1772.

The tentative schedule for the Sustainable Living Day

Noon	Kidlinks Slideshow
1:00	Lynette and Some Chairs
1:00	Seminar – DIY Micro Greens (Myrtle Wilhite)
2:00	Seminar – High Performance Natural Homes for the Midwest Climate (Lou Host Jablonski)
2:30	Hay Ride
3:00	Kristy Larson and The Honky Tonk Bank
3:00	Seminar – Vermiculture (Myrtle Wilhite)
4:00	Seminar - Urban Farming (Robert Pierce)
5:00	The Stellanovas
5:00	Seminar – Second Rain (Scott Gear)
6:00	Hay Ride
6:00	Seminar – Gardening Green (Liza Lightfoot)
6:30	Bonfire

COME JOIN US
FOR GREAT, AUTUMN FUN!

REPORT ON RECENT EVENTS

A huge thank you to everyone who volunteered at Africa Alive, Africa Fest and Kidlinks Bicycling, Bed and Breakfast! Africa Alive 2009 was our most successful fundraiser to date, raising almost \$3,000 over last year's Africa Alive! We hope for continued success with Africa Alive 2010, which will take place August 7!

We had a fantastic group of riders, good weather and lots of fun at the Kidlinks Bicycling, Bed and Breakfast, with one rider stating, "This was the best ride I've ever done!"

You can visit the website for updates and photos from each of these events, www.kidlinksworld.org.

NEWS FROM SOUTH AFRICA

Liza Lightfoot just returned from SA, here's her story...

Dave Watts and I have just returned from the fourth work trip to South Africa. This year, nine students from CalPoly in San Luis Obispo, California accompanied Dave and I to work on the projects and to gain additional credit towards their undergraduate Landscape Architecture degrees. We started our South African adventure in the small town of Kei Mouth on the Eastern Cape Coast.

This is our fourth visit to the Cwili Primary and Siyazakha High Schools to help with maintenance of the play ground and food garden that we installed three and four years ago. We saw clear signs that the food garden we helped to develop is a growing concept. The best story that we witnessed is that a group of local residents started volunteering at the school garden. When they saw the results, they decided to develop their own food garden for profit. They have now earned enough to buy a tractor and to build a small house for a caretaker. The principals at the schools complimented Kidlinks by saying, over and over, that this success by the residents was directly borne out of our support and development of the food garden at the Cwili schools. Our work at the school this time was not based around one project, but rather, multiple small projects such as fixing the piping to the rainwater tanks, building a sand box in the playground and preparing some new vegetable beds in the food garden, among other things.

Our next project was in Soweto at Ikageng, finishing the memorial garden we had started last year. The garden had been expertly manicured by Paul, our resident gardener, at Ikageng. The patio stone we purchased last year was used for the pathways and we installed a shade structure in the court yard of the learning center and crèche.

In our time at Ikageng, we also identified our next project for 2010. Ikageng has a 10-acre parcel of prime, agricultural land which we would like to develop into an agricultural learning center for the orphans that Ikageng

supports, at the same time growing vegetables to support the families.

We then went to Alexandra Township to visit one of our newer projects, the Sigiya Sonke Dance Group, which is run by Jack and Beauty Letsoela and maintained in partnership with the Gumboots Foundation in South Africa. The dance group practices in a renovated warehouse, which has a lease with an option to buy and is part of a greater vision by the Gumboots Foundation. Plans are in motion to purchase the building and develop a large community center, which will support orphan families and provide educational opportunities and extracurricular activities for the children, in addition to the dance group and learning center which are already housed there.

Our job on this trip to Sigiya Sonka was to develop the land across the street from the warehouse into a food garden. When we first visited the 120' x 120' site for the Sigiya Sonke food garden we all left feeling overwhelmed by what we saw—an empty lot filled with decades of trash, rubble, and broken glass. In only four days, we were able to transform this garbage heap into a beautiful, urban garden. First, we hired a bobcat and operator for the task of clearing away all the rubbish. Then,



the site had to be graded and terraced so that the garden did not wash away in the torrential spring rains. Bed preparation and adding compost was the next big challenge. The challenge of water was never-ending. Luckily, an adjacent neighbor who was thrilled with the work we were doing agreed to donate the water from his building. That day, he hired a plumber to install a faucet on the side of his building so we could rig up a permanent hose to the garden. Problem solved! Security in Alexandra Township is always an issue, so installing fencing and housing for a caretaker was critical to the long-term success of the garden. This was contracted to outside businesses that completed their projects very

efficiently. We hired a man in his 30s named Elphus to become our garden caretaker. Our work in Alex generated much interest, including visits from the police (who on the last day were friendly and supportive) to passers by and most importantly, a visit by the City Councillor of the area, who would like to form an ongoing partnership with Kidlinks and Gumboots to build more food gardens in Alex. As thanks to our team, Jack and Beauty arranged a dance performance at the studio for us. The dance troupe has advanced tremendously. The performance was riveting and really inspiring. As a



recently added Kidlinks project, we have much to be proud of with Sigiya Sonke, the dance group,

the learning center and now, the community garden.

To read Liza's more detailed account of the trip, please visit our website and click on "What's New".

Special thanks to those who volunteered their time to come to South Africa and make these projects such a success: Liza Lightfoot, Dave Watts, the students from CalPoly in San Lius Obispo, Bill Hoyt and Paula Srite. And once again, thank you to our donors and volunteers for the tremendous impact we are having on the lives so many children.

For more information about upcoming work trips to South Africa, please contact: Liza Lightfoot, 22 Corry Street, Madison, WI 53704 or 608-209-3398.

HOLIDAY IDEAS

If you're looking for unique gifts for this holiday season, Kidlinks may be able to help. Here are some ideas:

Give the gift of a donation – You can make a donation to Kidlinks in a person's name and that person will receive a beautiful, handmade card with a photo of some of the

children we're helping in South Africa. The card will state who made the donation and how that donation is making a difference in the lives of the children.

Holiday cards – Kidlinks has lovely holiday cards, which are sold in packs of 10 for \$12. The cards are non-denominational, with photos of the children on the front and a warm message written on the inside. You'll find more details on our website soon.

South African crafts – Liza just brought back some stunning crafts from her recent visit! All of the crafts will be available at our upcoming events, but you can also find them at Prairie Café, 6720 Frank Lloyd Wright Ave, Middleton.

South African wine – Join us for the South African Wine Tasting on November 21st, where you can sample a number of delicious wines and purchase them by the bottle or the case. So, you'll not only get some great wines for the holidays, but you'll be supporting Kidlinks at the same time!

Kidlinks T-shirts and tote bags – Our colourful T-shirts and totes feature artwork by 6 years old, Khumo.

WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

- Attend an event planning social
- Volunteer at an event and/or help spread the word
- Make a donation
- Find sponsors and donors for upcoming events

There are many ways to get involved and make a difference, so please contact us if you're interested in learning more and/or if you have new ideas.

CONTACT DETAILS

www.kidlinksworld.org

contact@kidlinksworld.org

608-658-1171

PO Box 628283, Middleton, WI 53562

If you would like to make a donation, you can mail a check or visit our website and click on 'Give'.