

The Link

Connecting you to the children we support

INTRODUCTION

Happy autumn to everyone! Kidlinks has had a great year so far, but there is still time to make 2010 our most successful year to date and we would like your help. We ask that all of you keep Kidlinks in mind as we enter the holiday season; consider making a holiday donation or consider giving the gift of a donation to a loved one for the holidays. And please keep in mind that we always need volunteers, people to help plan events, generate new fundraising ideas, write grants, etc.

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 11 – South African wine tasting at Barriques

October – December - Holiday cards for sale



Highlight:

Annual South African Wine Tasting

December 11, 2010 • 4 – 7 pm



Location: Barriques, 1901 Cayuga Street, Middleton

The Kidlinks annual South African Wine Tasting is one of our favorite events, as it brings us together on a cold, winter's evening to celebrate the accomplishments of the past year and to enjoy all of the wonderful people who support Kidlinks!

Again this year, we are thrilled to be hosted by Barriques in Middleton and African Routes Imports. There is a \$10

tasting fee for the event, which includes the tasting of at least 10 wines and appetizers. All of the wines will be available for purchase at the event and Barriques will donate a portion of the sales to Kidlinks. And remember, you can do your holiday shopping at the event as well, as there will be South African crafts, cards, totes and T-shirts for sale. Mark your calendars and spread the word; this is an event you don't want to miss!



NEWS FROM SOUTH AFRICA

Liza Lightfoot just got back from a visit to South Africa, where she spent some time with our partners. Here is some news from her visit...

I am thrilled to report that while on my trip to SA in August and September, Ikageng was awarded a grant to start a food garden project from 'Food and Trees For Africa.' (FTFA) www.trees.co.za

The project will be developed on an old vegetable farm about 25 Kilometers from Ikageng's offices. This project has been in the works for over a year and is finally coming to fruition. The Kidlinks board recently voted to add additional funds to get the project off the ground. This food garden will fortify the food packages to approximately 1300 orphans, many of whom are in families headed by children as young as 12. The success of this project depends on our ongoing support and our ability to fund future expansion in the garden, in partnership with FTFA.

My visit to the Alexandra Township projects, namely Sigiya Sonke Dance Project, Ratang Bana and Leratong; was brief but meaningful. A large brick commercial building across from the food garden that

Kidlinks built in 2009 will soon be purchased by the Gumboots Foundation (who we collaborate with) and will be developed as a community center in Alex. Final details are being taken care of before the property is transferred to the Gumboots Foundation. The plan is for Ratang Bana to finally move to larger and less costly offices in the building and for the property to be developed so that the community has a place to go for resources that they ordinarily could not afford.

Leratong is doing well, thanks to our continued support and the continued support from a Canadian donor and from Gumboots UK.

I visited the Simelane Family (Ratang Bana) who are doing really well and were really happy to have contact from Kidlinks. They are well taken care of by their house mother.

I also visited a family of five children with no parents. Their 21-year-old cousin was taking care of them in a shack with no electricity and no heat, other than their hot plate. They rely on the goodwill of their community for food and clothing. Winters can be brutal in South Africa if you have no heat. Their house has two inch cracks in the walls from a very aggressive tree growing close by. They are concerned for their safety in a thunderstorm. There is no money for food, much less the enormous cost of removing the tree and repairing their house. These stories are very common in the communities in which we work. This family needs our help. Kidlinks is seeking donations to assist these children. We ask that you please consider this family when you make your giving choices this year.

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

As some of you know, we have formed the Education and Outreach working group to expand Kidlinks' reach and impact in the Madison area. This includes speaking at schools, presenting to community groups, booking presentations, working on fundraising and projects with students, working with teachers, etc. We have some really motivated people in this group and a lot of great

ideas, so if you would like to be involved with this group, please contact Cristianne, cawtravels@yahoo.com or 608-658-1772.

HOLIDAY GIFT IDEAS

Although it's only October, it's not too early to start thinking about your holiday shopping. Kidlinks has a number of gorgeous South African crafts for sale in all price ranges, from little beaded Christmas trees to exquisite kaross embroideries. And Liza just brought back a number of lovely new items from her trip, including some adorable handmade dolls and stuffed toys. Most of the items are on display at the Prairie Café on Frank Lloyd Wright Avenue in Middleton, so stop in and check them out, so you can check holiday shopping off your list!

WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

- Attend the South African Wine Tasting with some friends
- Buy wine at the South African Wine Tasting
- Help plan an event
- Volunteer at an event and/or help spread the word
- Make a donation
- Give the gift of a donation for the holidays
- Buy South African crafts

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

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