

# The Link

Connecting you to the children we support

## INTRODUCTION

As 2009 draws to a close, Kidlinks looks back over the year with great pride and joy at the accomplishments the organization has made, the growth we have seen, the successful fundraisers we have had and most importantly, the children's lives we have touched. To each and every one of you, from the bottom of our hearts, thank you for making 2009 a successful year! We look forward to continuing making a difference in 2010! From all of us at Kidlinks, we wish you and your family a very happy holiday season.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- January 13 – Kidlinks planning session (details below)
- January 28 – Kidlinks Education Night (details below)
- February – Kidlinks booth at the Garden Expo



Highlight:

### South African Wine Tasting

**Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

The annual South African Wine Tasting capped off our successful fundraising events of 2009! Thank you to all who attended, we had our best turn-out yet! There were ten fantastic wines to taste and all of those wines can be



Full house at the wine tasting

purchased at any Barriques location. We would like to send a big thank you to Heila Huddleston of African Routes Imports and to Finn Berge of

Barriques for making this event such a huge success. We greatly appreciate your support!

## A LOOK BACK AT 2009 AND A LOOK AHEAD TO 2010

### 2009

This has been an amazing year for Kidlinks. We have seen our biggest and most successful fundraisers. We have built another thriving food garden, this one in Alexandra. The food garden in Kei Mouth has grown phenomenally and has become income generating for the school. We had a fantastic



Innocent

work trip to South Africa with another group of hard-working, committed supporters. We welcomed Dawn Casper onto the board as our new treasurer. We have seen the children benefit from the learning center we built at the



Joseph and Tatu

Sigiya Sonke Dance Project. We have watched the children enjoy the Ikageng memorial garden we created. And we have seen children, like Mandla and Bongani, succeeding in school and in life. In 2009, because of your support, Kidlinks'



Phatismo

projects have reached over 3,000 children in need; these photos show just a few of the children you have helped.

### 2010

We look ahead to 2010 with great excitement and with great commitment. We are looking to build our largest food garden yet, with over 50 acres to secure and cultivate. We are hoping to launch a new program that

will provide a more direct connection between our donors and our children. We are planning to build more relationships with local schools in order to provide opportunities for service learning and to help local youth become global citizens. We will also be launching our Hope Dinners, which is a unique way that every person can make a difference: you invite your friends for dinner, you cook a meal and Kidlinks will come to your home to share the great work that is being done and the children's lives



Sifiso

that are being impacted. If you would like to host a Hope Dinner in 2010, please contact us. And of course, we are going to continue working hard to grow each of



Thembi and Mandi

our fundraisers to increase the level of funds we raise and to increase global awareness and understanding. Every dollar we raise is so important and is doing so much good for children in South Africa. Kidlinks **IS** making a difference, these smiling faces show it! And we're planning to make an even greater difference in 2010! We hope each of you will join us!



Portia

## NEWS FROM SOUTH AFRICA

The food garden that was built at the Sigiya Sonke Dance Project by Kidlinks volunteers just a few months ago, has enjoyed its first harvest! The garden is flourishing, feeding the children at the dance project and their families. In just a short time, this project has



First harvest at the garden

made a very definite impact! Thank you to everyone who helped raise the funds for this garden and to all of the volunteers who built it! But of course, our support does not



Mothers and Grandmothers from the Sigiya Sonke Dance Project

end here, we will continue to support this garden to ensure that it is maintained and nourished, so there will be more updates to come.

## LAST MINUTE GIFTS AND HOLIDAY CARDS

If you need belated holiday gifts or if you're looking for gifts in the New Year, remember, Kidlinks has a large selection of South African crafts which are on display at Prairie Café on Frank Lloyd Wright Avenue in Middleton. There are also Kidlinks T-shirts and tote bags, which we would be happy to send to you, so please contact us if you're interested.

And if you're like me and send out your holiday cards in January, don't forget, Kidlinks can help. Kidlinks has lovely holiday cards, which are sold in packs of 10 for \$10. The cards are non-denominational, with photos of the children on the front and a warm message written on the inside.

## WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

We are extremely proud to be able to say that Kidlinks has been growing at a steady pace and while our growth is fantastic, we have reached a point where we need more help to continue this growth. Many of you have mentioned that you would like to be more involved with Kidlinks, so we would like to do whatever we can to encourage your participation. There are many ways to be involved and not all of those ways mean that you have to attend a meeting or volunteer the day of an

event, even though those are the needs you might hear about the most. We also need people to help us expand our local education/awareness efforts, to give presentations to local groups, churches and schools, to write grants and funding proposals, to make decorations for an event, to help with the craft inventory and more. We also need help getting some new ideas off the ground, as we've looked into things like having a Kidlinks facebook page, putting together a fashion show as a new fundraiser and pursuing the idea of having an online auction. The ideas and the potential are endless, but we need your help! So, if you are interested to become more involved in some aspect of Kidlinks, please contact us; we'd love to hear from you.

We also recognize that there are many of you who may have questions about Kidlinks or would like to know more about the organization, so we'd like to invite everyone to attend our Kidlinks Education Night, Thursday, January 28<sup>th</sup> at 6pm at Stroud, Willink & Howard, which is located on the Capitol Loop, on the third floor of the Anchor Bank building, at the corner of W Main Street and S Hamilton Street. The Education Night will include an overview of Kidlinks as an organization, discussion about the children that Kidlinks supports, time for questions and answers and light refreshments. We invite everyone to attend; we promise an informative and inspiring evening! Specifically, if you are interested to help with Kidlinks local education/awareness efforts, we strongly urge you to attend this event. If you have any questions, or have trouble finding the location on the 28<sup>th</sup>, please call me at 608-658-1772.

Some other ideas for ways you can make a big difference for Kidlinks:

- Attend an event planning social - The next one will be held on January 13<sup>th</sup> at 6pm at Liza's house, 22 Corry St. This is a relaxed, social, brainstorming session for ways to improve and grow Kidlinks.
- Host a Dinner to Inspire
- Volunteer at an event and/or help spread the word
- Make a donation and/or give the gift of a donation

- Find sponsors and donors for upcoming events
- Donate your clothes or house wares to Collector's Corner on University Avenue (next to Middleton Cycle and Fitness) and put your donation under Kidlinks, K125

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](http://www.kidlinksworld.org)

[contact@kidlinksworld.org](mailto: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'.



Sigiya Sonke Dancers

**Happy  
New Year!**