

# GO WELL\*

## The Newsletter of The Dr. Bettye Bouey-Yates Educational Foundation

July 2009

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### **HONORARY MEMBER**

His Excellency Welile Nhlapo  
Ambassador of South Africa

### **WHAT'S HAPPENING AT CHRISTIANENBURG PUBLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL?**

#### PROMOTING LITERACY

At Christianenburg the Foundation is helping to make education a reality for the children in South Africa by promoting literacy. Kofi Annan says, "Literacy unlocks the door to learning throughout life. It is essential to development and health . . ." It is towards this end that in 2006 the Foundation created a library that is thriving due to enthusiastic learners, determined teachers, and a dynamic librarian.

Mary McCloud Bethune said, "The whole world opened to me when I learned to read." In September 2008 the school celebrated the importance of reading with a Readathon. The school received donations of magazines and newspapers and learners read magazines, newspapers, and books every day — everywhere. They debated, told stories and read poems and their creative writings to honorable guests, parents, Education Department representatives, public librarians, principals, and community leaders. Some well deserved learners were awarded certificates for library excellence. The Board of Directors sent a letter congratulating the school for developing the Readathon and included a Maya Angelou poem, "Words," and a poem, "To You" by Langston Hughes. Both poems were read at the Readathon.

It has been said, "It is not what is poured into a student but what is planted." At Christianenburg seeds of lifelong literacy are being planted every day. We have been assured that the Readathon will remain a regular feature on the school's calendar.

#### MAKING IT BETTER WITH CONCERTINA PARTITIONS

To eliminate distractions and provide an atmosphere more conducive to learning, the Foundation installed colored concertina doors to create three separate classrooms. Now the educators are saying: "My learners

*(What's Happening: Continued on page 3)*

\* *Go Well* is an expression of encouragement and endearment used commonly by South Africans. It is the wish of the Foundation that all go well as they go through life.

## MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT

The Foundation continues to make excellent progress in enriching the educational experience of the students at the Christianenburg Public Primary School. Factors contributing to these successes are the loyalty of Foundation members, the support of our contributors and friends, and the work of members of the Board of Directors.

Our Board of Directors has undergone some recent changes. We are delighted to announce that His Excellency Welile Nhlapo, Ambassador of South Africa is an Honorary Member of our Board of Directors. And we welcome three new Board members, Mr. Errol Jennings, Mrs. Claudia Simmons, and Mrs. Patricia Sluby. Two members resigned. Mrs. Evelyn Parker and Mr. Roland Brack served on the Board for many years. Mr. Brack remains a very active Foundation members; he continues to serve as Chairman of the Nominating Committee and a member of the Publication and Fund Raising Committees.

The recent update of our bylaws encourages Foundation members to have key roles in the organizational structure. We ask all who have an interest in our mission and who are not already participating in our successes to join the Foundation, become active and/or make a contribution. The Foundation has no paid staff and the Board of Directors welcomes the ideas and assistance of others, particularly those with computer, public relations, grant writing, and fund raising knowledge and skills. Much has been done for the students at Christianenburg and much remains to be done. We are now considering expanding our assistance to other schools in the Clernaville area. Together we can make a difference. Join us.

We wish to extend a special thank you to the Board and Foundation members who crafted the revision to the bylaws, developed the long range plan, maintained effective communication with the school and coordinated projects, developed the newsletter, and communicated with our donors, new members, and prospective members. And, we thank the 2009 South African Adventure travelers who carried calculators and art supplies to the school. All members of the Foundation are delighted with our wonderful logo designed by *Tianna Garland*, a student at the School of International Studies at Meadowbrook, Norfolk, VA. This has been a very good year.

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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The fall Board of Directors meeting will be held on Saturday, October 3, 2009, at the Reception Room of the Rittenhouse, 6101—16th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20011, from 10 am to 3:30 pm. All Foundation members are encouraged to attend. RSVP by September 15, 2009 via e-mail to [samjwm@verizon.net](mailto:samjwm@verizon.net) or call

*(What's Happening Continued from page 1)*

and I can now deliver our true potential . . . Our pride as teachers has now been restored . My kids are excited. I don't have to move my furniture around everyday. We have a new sense of Territory. You have been wonderful to us. . . We are proud that we have elders in America who provide for our future. . . Congratulations to the Foundation. You are our Guardian Angels. . . God Bless the Foundation!"

### BOOKS, WONDERFUL BOOKS!

The Board of Directors believes that books are keys to the world. In November 2008, we provided grades one through three with reading anthologies in their native tongue, Zulu. These readers are being used interchangeably with the Education Department books. The principal, Mrs. Nomusa Shandu, says, "We have noticed how closely reading is linked to school performance not only in the languages but across the curriculum. These readers are raising the literacy level of our junior learners substantially." A culture of learning and reading now prevails in the school. National test results have greatly improved, and some grades are getting a 100% pass rate. Parents are very excited by their children's progress and enthusiasm for learning.

The cost of books in South Africa is prohibitive and most children do not own a book. At graduation last year the Foundation gave each seventh grader a dictionary and a native tongue book to celebrate the hallmark occasion. The dictionary incorporates features and requirements recommended by teachers and the Zulu reader teaches values and coping skills. The books were awarded at a special ceremony on December 5 and were received "with great jubilation and appreciation." The knowledge and power gained by these learners are lifelong "treasures that will follow its owners everywhere" (Chinese Proverb). Beginning this year seventh graders will be given a dictionary during the school year and the librarian will teach a library skills course

### CHRISTIANENBURG JOINS THE 21st CENTURY

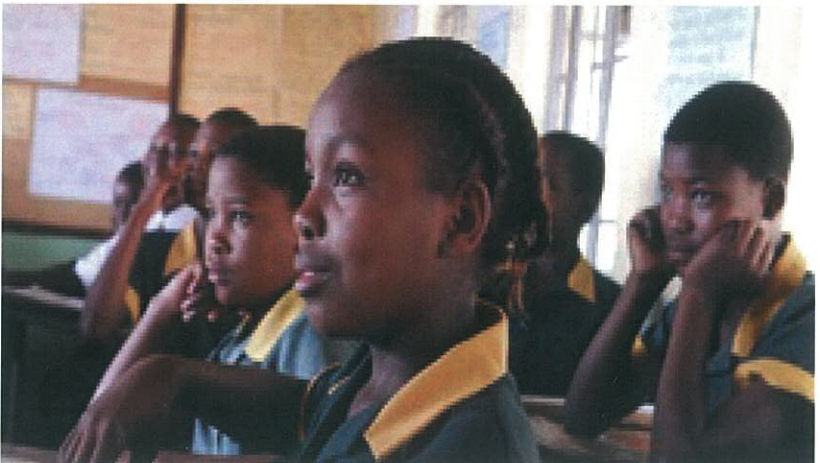
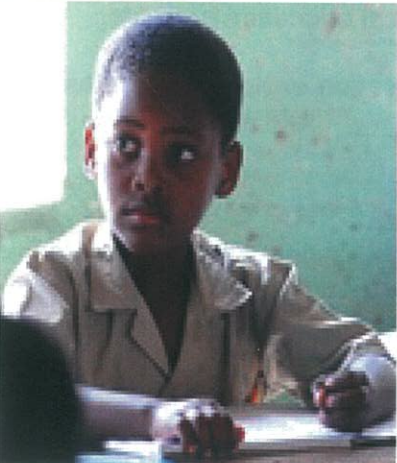
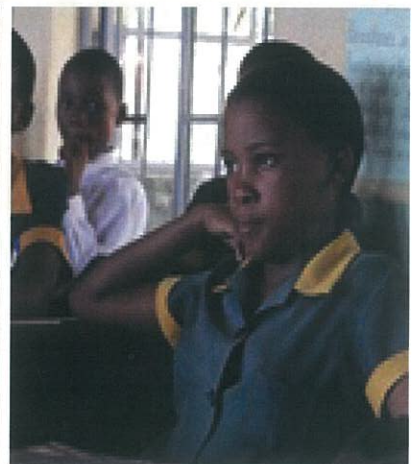
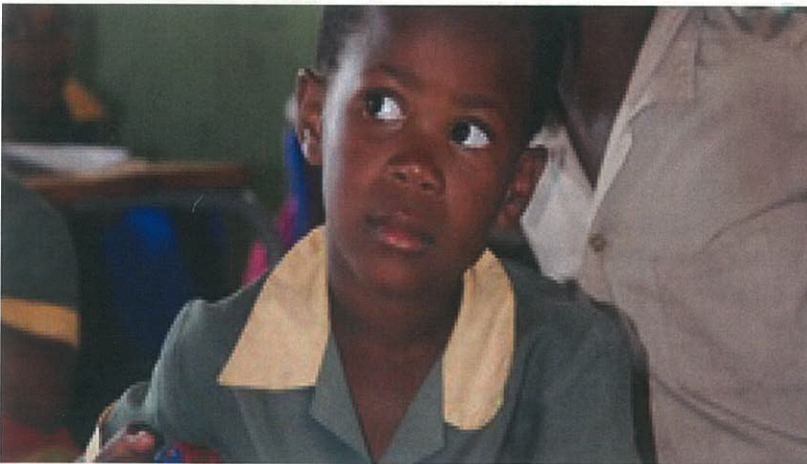
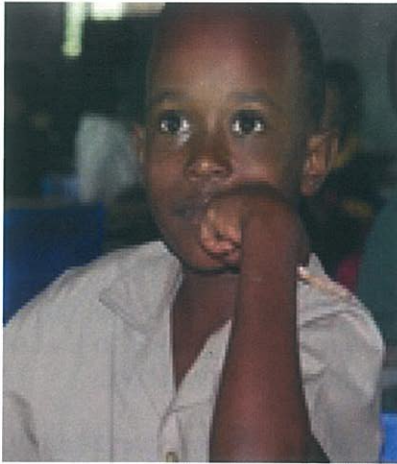
With the help of the Foundation, internet service was installed in May. The administrative clerk expressed her joy in the following way:

" . . . Words can't thank you enough for this technology. It really does it all for me—no more fax machines and paper rolls—a new paperless world. Savings on postage and time. I will be more efficient in my work now. Thank you once again." We also will enjoy the improvements in communication.

# READATHON 2008



MARCH 2009



### ***THE FOUNDATION WELCOMES THREE NEW BOARD MEMBERS***

Three persons were elected to the Foundation Board at the May Board meeting. Each new member became aware of the work of the Foundation as the result of traveling with Dr. Bettye Bouey-Yates to South Africa. The new members are **Claudia Nash Simmons** (2008 traveler), **Patricia Sluby** (1994 and 2007 traveler) and **Errol Jennings** (2005 traveler).

Mrs. Simmons has been a dedicated leader in the field of education for three decades. She has demonstrated a commitment to the work of the Foundation by attending Board meetings as a concerned member of the organization. Mrs. Simmons led a private drive to replace windows at the Christianenburg School.

Ms. Sluby created a personal project that provided books to the school library. She has broad experience as a board member with several organizations that have missions similar to that of the Bouey-Yates Foundation. Ms. Sluby hopes to work with the Foundation newsletter.

Mr. Jennings serves a docent with the Smithsonian Institution's Museum of American History. He has worked with the U.S. Internal Revenue Service for 25 years.

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### ***THE FOUNDATION: PAST AND FUTURE***

The idea of a foundation was born in 1998 when travelers on a South Africa Adventure with Dr. Bettye Bouey-Yates observed conditions that caused them to feel the need to provide meaningful assistance to the students, teachers, and staff at the Christianenburg Primary School in Clernaville, Kwa Zulu Natal. This effort was spearheaded by Board member Nan Hemphill. It was not until April 2003 that the Dr. Bettye Bouey-Yates Education Foundation was incorporated in Washington, DC, but efforts to assist the school had already begun. In addition to the projects mentioned in an aforementioned article, the Foundation has accomplished the following:

Built a sports field which immediately upgraded the physical education program,

Provided the principal and librarian with a two-week education exploration in Washington, DC and Norfolk, VA, and

Replaced all broken windows at the school.

During the current year the Foundation will assist the school in the construction of a computer center. To improve our outreach here at home, we will develop a Foundation website and brochure.

In August, the Foundation Vice President, Mrs. Margaret Jacobs, will make an on-site visit to Christianenburg to evaluate the effectiveness of the Foundation's efforts to assist the school. Board member Dr. Betty Strickland, traveling at her own expense, will conduct the evaluation with Mrs. Jacobs. During their visit the evaluators are scheduled to meet with the principal of the high school, which the primary school students will attend after graduation, and principals of four neighboring primary schools.

The evaluation report will be used to assist the Board of Directors in determining the direction of the Foundation over the next few years. The Foundation will continue to collaborate with and assist Christianenburg as it explores ways in which it might assist other schools.

**THE DR. BETTYE BOUEY-YATES EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION**

**ENRICHING THE EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE OF CHILDREN IN SOUTH AFRICA**

[ ] Enclosed is my annual membership contribution of \$25.00.  
Enclosed is my membership and an additional contribution of \_\_\_\_\_.

[ ] I would like to make a contribution of \_\_\_\_\_.

The Foundation has the following committees:

[ ] Program      [ ] Fund Raising      [ ] Membership      [ ] Bylaws

[ ] Publication              [ ] Scholarship      [ ] Public Relations

Please indicate which committee(s), if any, you would like to work with to help carry out the Foundation's mission.

If you have special interests or skills that would be beneficial to the Foundation, please specify:

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**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone No:** \_\_\_\_\_

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