

## REACH OUT TO AFRICA GRANT OPPORTUNITY #1

Dear Rotarian, Club President, District Governor, and Zone Chair:

According to RI President DK Lee, this is the year of Africa in Rotary. With that in mind, there is an international literacy project available that I believe could be of interest to many clubs and districts. This literacy project directly impacts 1000 preschool children in disadvantaged areas and townships near Cape Town and Knysna in South Africa. As you will see, the project could develop over the next few years into a tremendous opportunity for Rotary to make significant changes in the future of so many bright and eager minds who, without our help, will not have the tools to lead a productive life. Mortality for children has many faces – one of which is the painful melting away of dreams and potential.

For years the Ilitha School in the township of Khayelitsha has existed through the guardianship, time, money, and talents of the Sea Point Rotary Club in Cape Town. During the past year, the Rotary Club of Peachtree City, Georgia, and one of its Interact Clubs have joined Sea Point in this endeavor. Sea Point has provided the facility and classroom needs to date; Peachtree City and the Interact Club have funded and assisted in the Souns for literacy program, a Rotary International Literacy Resource Group (RILRG) option. Ilitha has grown to such an extent that it faces possible closure by the government if it cannot provide a facility appropriate for the growing number of preschoolers. Currently, there are 80 children in a box-car sized space.

This literacy project supports Sea Point Rotary's commitment to expand the school and supply the additional classroom materials for Ilitha's growing student population. A matching grant can supply the classroom materials but will not provide "bricks and mortar" to add the additional space. The Sea Point Rotary Club has purchased the additional land and has provided the plans for the expansion. As they did with the present structure at Ilitha, Sea Point Rotary Club will contract the work or do it themselves, lessening the expense. They are currently seeking funding for this expansion project for the Ilitha School, a substantial portion of which is included in this request.

The additional component of this literacy project is a direct result of the success demonstrated at Ilitha through the Souns for literacy program. Souns was introduced at Ilitha in 2006 and has made a profound and measurable difference in language development for these children. Other preschools are now interested in the Souns program. These schools are small and survive only by the assistance of organizations such as Rotary. South Africa has eleven official languages; but, the common denominator of these languages is the print symbol. Although there are variations, the majority of the letters have the same or very similar sound in the different languages. The Souns program arms the children with individual letter-sound knowledge at an age when research confirms they are most receptive, thus bridging their language differences and better preparing them for success in school. The Knysna Education Trust, in support of this project, has committed to train the preschool teachers in the implementation of the Souns program.

The Knysna Education Trust would like to implement the Souns program in 40 schools as soon as possible, preferably at the start of their school year in mid-January. The Sea Point, Knysna, and Peachtree City Rotary Clubs are coordinating and facilitating this part of the proposed literacy project. The beneficiary of the project is the Knysna Education Trust. They will train the teachers and distribute the Souns program materials to the 40 schools.

This is an opportunity that needs to be responded to as soon as is reasonably possible. We can apply for a matching grant for the classroom materials for Ilitha and for the Souns for literacy program materials for the 40 preschools in the Knysna Education Trust. However, that is not as remarkable as Rotary clubs and districts standing together in numbers, each giving one small portion and being a part of an international project that can build a school and directly impact the education of 1000 children. The work can begin this December if we can get your support. I am going to South Africa in December and will take language materials with me to the Knysna Education Trust. I would also like to take the news of support for the Ilitha expansion to the Sea Point Rotary Club.

I have been encouraged by Richard Hattwick, general coordinator of the RILRG, to consider the many clubs and districts that would like to be engaged in an international literacy project that they can see, hear about, and take ownership in. Please consider participating in this international literacy project. You will be kept informed through images, regular communications, and financial details. If each participating district (or club) designates \$1000 to this project, we can stand in numbers at the RI Convention in Birmingham, England, and proudly exclaim "We did it! We have directly and positively impacted the lives and dreams of 1000 children this year."

Thank you,  
Brenda Erickson, Literacy Chair, District 6900  
Rotary Club of Peachtree City  
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(770) 335-2743

# International Literacy Project in South Africa *directly* impacting 1000 Children

## Building Expansion for Ilitha

Cost supported by this project	\$13,000.00	R 100,000.00
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## Classroom and Playground Equipment for Ilitha

Items	U.S. Dollars	S.A. Rand
Tables and chairs	1,283.18	9,880.50
Teaching Equipment	1,134.74	8,737.50
Waterplay outside equipment	297.53	2,291.00
Games for learning skills	688.42	5,300.87
Teachers table furniture	442.73	3,409.00
Life skills equipment	302.40	2,328.50
Fully fitted kitchenette	2,597.40	20,000.00
Lighting Equipment	69.34	533.95
Heating Equipment	207.53	1,598.00
Music	51.95	400.00
Furniture Shelving, Pigeon Holes	1477.14	11,374.00
Cupboards	259.74	2,000.00
Delivery Costs	259.74	2,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$9,071.84</b>	<b>R 69,853.32</b>

## Souns Materials for Knysna Education Trust

Items	U.S. Dollars	S.A. Rand
40 classroom sets @ \$200 ea.	8,000.00	61,600.00
Shipping and customs included		
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$8,000.00</b>	<b>R 61,600.00</b>

**Total ZAR 231,453.32      RI Conversion rate of 7.70      Total USD 30,071.84**

As a participant in this international project, you will receive digitals, information, as well as details of income and expenditures as the project proceeds.

Please make checks payable to *Rotary District 6900 Charitable Fund*.

Be sure to include the project title on your check: *1000 children*.

(This is a Rotary District 6900 501(c)(3) account.)

Mail checks to:  
Cheryl Greenway, District Treasurer  
Rotary Club of Roswell  
935 Forrest Street, Suite C  
Roswell, GA 30075

Project Contact  
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