

## Passing a Torch in Ubuntu's US Office

People respond strangely when Elizabeth Radin and Nomatola Mangqase introduce themselves as sisters. The confused parties try to formulate a politically correct way to ask the White American and the Black South African exactly what they mean. The riddle-like answer is that this particular sisterhood is not derived from a biological connection but rather from Ubuntu — the African philosophy of universal family and the development organization for which the young women have both worked.

Elizabeth recalls joining the Ubuntu team in a whirlwind in 2002: "I was interested in working in development in Africa, I met Jake Lief for coffee after seeing Ubuntu's online job posting, and three weeks later I was living in Kwa Magxaki township and working in Ubuntu's South African office, then a single room in Zwide's O. R. Tambo Community Center." In the two years since, Elizabeth has worked primarily in Ubuntu's US fundraising office planning events, developing publications and growing Ubuntu's network of friends and supporters. She also spent several months in South Africa conducting the research and development phase of a new component to Ubuntu's health program. Reflecting on her experience, she states, "As proud as I am of what Ubuntu does — providing health and education resources to tens of thousands of South Africans — I am even more deeply inspired by how we do it. By operating on a grassroots level, ensuring sustainability in each program and always, always, working hand in hand

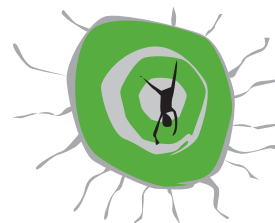
with community stakeholders, we have been able to reach a large number of people in a deep and meaningful manner conducive to lasting change. While remaining geographically focused, Ubuntu is setting a tremendous example of effective development methods to the world community." While she remains a committed friend of Ubuntu, Elizabeth will leave her job this Fall to pursue a Masters in Public Policy and International Development as a Kennedy Fellow at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government.

This July, in anticipation of Elizabeth's departure, Nomatola Mangqase became the first South African to join Ubuntu's New York fundraising team. Nomatola will offer Ubuntu's American supporters a unique and powerful first-hand perspective on the South African communities their generosity benefits. A native of New Brighton township, Nomatola embodies the dream of the New South Africa. She speaks first hand of overcoming the poverty, violence and injustice of Apartheid. At the age of 26, she is a bright, articulate, accomplished, compassionate professional — a testament to the power of opportunity and the potential of township youth. While her sharp communication and management skills will be a tremendous asset to Ubuntu, her personal investment is the most powerful. As she puts it, "I'm so proud and so moved when I see children going to libraries, computer centers and health classes — opportunities I never dreamed of when I was growing up in the townships."

New York, NY 10004 USA

32 Broadway, Suite 414

UBUNTU



# UBUNTU

## UPDATE

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### Join Ubuntu Education Fund and honor World Aids Day on December 1

Ubuntu is teaming up with schools, clubs, neighborhoods and businesses around the world to host **Bake For Health sales on World Aids Day.**

On Wednesday, December 1, 2004, set up a table to sell cookies and save lives! With sugar, flour and a little Betty Crocker, we can bake our way to a healthier world.

- 100% of proceeds benefit Ubuntu Education Fund's AIDS initiative.
- 70% of people infected with HIV live in sub-Saharan Africa, but this region makes up just 10% of the world population.
- 1 person in 4 is HIV positive in the communities where Ubuntu works.
- Ubuntu's AIDS Initiative reaches 40,000 South Africans with life saving information, guidance and support.
- For every \$250 raised, Ubuntu will reach 1,000 children with life-saving services.

Register Today at  
[www.ubuntufund.org](http://www.ubuntufund.org)

## Candlelight Memorial: Remembering those who died of AIDS

With the lights turned off in the community hall in KwaDwesi Township, the glow from thousands of candles transforms the room into a sea of contemplative, glowing faces. The candlelight vigil has become an annual Ubuntu event attended by thousands of local residents from the townships that Ubuntu serves. These community members have many loved ones they wish to remember. Thousands of residents come for healing, closure and to learn more about how to prevent the spread of HIV.



Children perform a at Candlelight Memorial.

Ubuntu health educators give each a candle to commemorate their loved ones in an elegant but heart-wrenching ceremony. "In communities where one person in four is HIV

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## Ubuntu Opens New York City Office

Ubuntu Education Fund moved its USA fundraising operations to a beautiful 2,000 square foot space in the heart of Manhattan's Financial District. This change was spurred by the tremendous growth of Ubuntu's programs in South Africa and the increased demand on the USA office. The new office, located on Broadway, one block from the New York Stock Exchange, will put Ubuntu much closer to our New York-based friends and supporters.

We are extremely grateful to Ubuntu Board Member Tom Jaffe and The Jaffe Group for donating our Hoboken office for the past three years. This generosity enabled Ubuntu to raise the funds necessary to reach over 40,000 children in the townships of Port Elizabeth.

**We encourage all friends of Ubuntu to visit our offices:**

United States Office  
32 Broadway, Suite 414  
New York, NY 10004 USA  
Phone: (646) 827-1190

South African Office  
5 Qe Qe Street  
Zwive Township  
Port Elizabeth, South Africa  
Phone: (041) 459-0627

## Strength in Numbers: Ubuntu Creates Support Group for HIV Positive Women

Singing resonates throughout the Ubuntu office. Zukiswa Ngam follows the melody until she finds her peers in the Health Center on Ubuntu's premises. As she joins their song, a look of relief crosses her face. She is among those who share her struggle as an HIV positive woman. As Zukiswa sings, she reflects on how much her life has changed recently. Only a month earlier, Zukiswa had been living on a diet that included eating dirt to compensate for the nutrients she could not afford. Today, through the help of Ubuntu's new support group for HIV positive women, Zukiswa has a network of friends and a source of information on how to live healthily in spite of the disease. "I felt completely powerless as an HIV positive single mother raising four children. Ubuntu's support group has allowed me to get help from women in my same situation. Ubuntu counselors have taught me how to eat a healthy diet, even on a budget."

In the townships of Port Elizabeth, where 25% of the population is HIV positive, community members are deeply affected by the virus. Through the women's support group, Zukiswa and other women do not have to face this virus without proper education and group support. As with Ubuntu's HIV positive support group for children, the women's group meets consistently to provide a network of support as well as to



Community women attend a women's support group meeting.

develop skills that will help them lead healthy lifestyles. "There are so many HIV positive women in our communities who need our support on a regular basis. To have a group of peers that they can talk to, get support from and who understand the challenges each face is something truly unique in our communities" states Thembakazi Mytwaru, Coordinator of Ubuntu's *Mpilo-Lwazi* Health Initiative. The women's support group is a new component of Ubuntu's dynamic health initiative that reaches 24,000 children and 13,000 adults.

### Candlelight Memorial ... continued from page 1

positive, Candlelight Memorial is a day of great importance to remember those who have been touched by AIDS. It is also an opportunity for Ubuntu to educate while we memorialize those who have passed away," explains Mzwandile Sokapase, manager of Ubuntu's *Mpilo-Lwazi* Health Initiative.

Young children who have lost mothers and fathers sing songs of remembrance while community leaders demand that myths and stigmas be erased in order to save the next generation. The candlelight ceremony ends on a somber and touching note. An Ubuntu health educator who has lost two family members to AIDS articulates, "The most beautiful part of the candlelight ceremony was the bond formed among us all. We were given the opportunity to write our loved one's name and age at death on a stone and link it to other stones to form a huge AIDS ribbon. For our communities to come together and honor those we knew and loved together in this way is truly extraordinary."

## Building on Ubuntu's Computer Centers Through Small Businesses

Born and raised in KwaZakhele Township, Nomze Smai has been a teacher at Ben-Nyati Primary School for over 20 years. Until she was 50,



Children use Ben Nyati computer center to make holiday cards.

Ms. Smai had never touched a computer. In 2003, Ubuntu built a state-of-the-art computer center at her school. In order to generate the revenues necessary to maintain and upgrade the center, Ben Nyati Primary School needs to open a small business.

In January 2004 Ubuntu formed a partnership with Comsec, a South African organization dedicated to small business development and began training teachers from Ben Nyati Primary School in business skills. The teachers of Ben Nyati will open KwaZakhele's first ever media center to offer services such as copying, faxing, resume typing, printing as well as computer training for local adults.

Ms. Smai explained, "There is a genuine need in the townships for media centers that will allow our communities access to resources nearby."

Today township community members only have access to these resources if they make long expensive journeys to the nearby cities. "Under Apartheid these communities were not allowed to operate businesses. Cultivating small business within the townships will provide people with resources they lack and help to promote a culture of entrepreneurship."

## Ubuntu Holds Second Annual Career Week

"Students from local schools came to learn about different career fields, everything from applying for a scholarship to making it in the business world. We had knowledgeable professionals share their personal experiences with the learners. These professionals all grew up in the townships and attended the same schools that the students attend. After an inspiring and informative presentation, the learners were given opportunities to ask questions and really gain insight into each profession. When I was growing up, we did not have role models and we did not think we had choices. I want these kids to see a world of opportunity."

- Qondakele Sompondo, Project Manager, Siyafunda Library Initiative



Ubuntu held its second annual Career Week. An extension of Ubuntu's Siyafunda Library Initiative, Career Week is making career and college guidance both available and accessible to township students.

"You have opportunities that your parents didn't have. I walk through the schools and see children using Microsoft Word and reading literature instead of sitting on the floor with no books. Take advantage of the resources that Ubuntu is providing. Create your own future."

~ Sizwe Mona,  
Career Guidance Officer,  
University of Port Elizabeth

"We are facing a health crisis in our country. But with a proper education, you can be part of the solution. You can be tomorrow's doctors and researchers."

~ Dr. Yandiswa Mpofo, General Practitioner, Nelson Mandela Metropole

"No one in my family has ever gone to university. I thought I would not have the option either because there is no money for me to go. However, I learned that because I have worked hard, there are scholarships available. Using Ubuntu's Career Center, I can find out how to take advantage of these opportunities"

~ Sitandwa Xola, Learner, KwaZakhele High School

"I grew up in a house made of tin, just like many of you. I grew up without the advantages of wealth and security. Today we have new opportunities. Education is the key to our growth as a country."

~ Andisiwe Matiwane, Trainer, Comsec Small Business Development

"I've seen terrible unemployment and poverty my whole life. But I am excited to see our children finally starting to gain the information that enables them to participate in today's business world."

~ Witty Mahlakhlaka, Teacher, Emfundweni Primary School