

Educare Update

2011

About Educare

Educare Fund is a UK-registered charity that supports the education of young women in Lesotho, southern Africa. It helps pay school fees for bright students whose family circumstances would otherwise prevent them from finishing high school.

Educare Update keeps you informed about how the young women we're supporting are getting on. It also lets you know about our fundraising activities and about how you can get involved.

School visits

Monica's visit to Lesotho in April enabled a visit to two schools. One of the schools had had a visit on a previous occasion. This

school is one of those that have produced a number of high school finishers, several of whom have gone on to graduate from university. A couple of the students from this very school are currently at university.

The second school, Matikoe High School, was

having its first visit. It was a pleasure to meet the young lady at this school, and it was gratifying to see that the teachers are very enthusiastic about the support given to the girl. This particular school appears to have a system for selecting the student to be supported such that not only the principal and the admin staff have an input, but also the other teachers who know the individual. The girl also has a mentor (one of the teachers) who makes sure that she is well supported in her academic work. This seems a very good



idea and indeed a great partnership.

One thing that the visits show is the fact that although Educare Fund is definitely making a difference to these young people's lives, there is actually lots more support needed. However, Monica felt humbled by the happiness that was evident on the faces of all the young people I saw on the visit, including the young woman currently receiving support. Their relative state of material poverty did not seem to diminish their joy of living.

The visit made quite an impact on Monica's perception of what Educare Fund is achieving.

Sister charity in Lesotho

The long road to registration of our sister organisation, Ithuteng Basetsana Educare Association (IBEA) finally came to an end. This milestone was reached during Monica's April 2010 visit to Lesotho. At this time, the process of setting up a bank account for the association was also completed. This is an especially important development for Educare Fund as this will enable us to continue to ensure that the funds sent to Lesotho to support the young women are well looked after.

The committee of IBEA includes two former members of the Exams Council of Lesotho (ECOL), the organisation that Educare worked closely with over the years. ECOL helped identify the students we support, processed the funds and obtained receipts from the schools as well as disseminating information about how Educare





wants to work with the schools. The feedback from the schools and the individual students was also collected by ECOL and passed on to Educare. Mrs Ralise and Mr Ramahapu were instrumental in ensuring that all these processes ran efficiently. For this

we remain grateful. The IBEA committee also includes Mr Khampane who is a principal at one of the schools with girls supported by Educare. He is also the chairman of the School Principals Association of Lesotho. His industry in pushing the schools to collect and send the student applications and end of year reports has been invaluable to Educare. Also worth mentioning is the kind help of Mr Mohlaba who went back and forth to the Law Office to help the registration process along. Without his persistence, IBEA might not yet have become registered. Last, but not least, another member of the IBEA committee who must be singled out for a mention is a young woman who was previously supported by Educare and went on to obtain a University degree. She is now helping IBEA in various ways. She has also indicated an intention to contribute financially in the near future.

Ithuteng Basetsana Educare Association has hit the ground running, demonstrating a humbling enthusiasm for the work of Educare Fund and with a local agenda that mirrors that of Educare Fund. IBEA will perform most of the functions that ECOL undertook in the past, but a link with ECOL will be maintained, if possible, although this organisation may now play a smaller role in Educare's activities in Lesotho. The IBEA committee has been very active since registration, managing to reach the schools principals whose students are getting support from Educare Fund and clarifying how we work.

We expect to work well with this charity and it is a great pleasure to have them as our partner charity on the ground. Here's what they say about the charity:

Celebrating the Birth of Ithuteng Basetsana

Educare Association (IBEA).

(IBEA) was motivated by Liphethiso Monica Harris, a passionate founder member of Educare Fund, a UK based charity organization that supports the education of young women in Lesotho (Southern Africa).

It took more than three years, to conceptualise and develop a constitution of IBEA that was ultimately registered on 8th April 2010 as a local, voluntary and charitable association that assists hard working young women who need support with fees in order to complete their secondary education. In the same as Educare Fund, IBEA works in partnership with parent or guardian and shares the costs of school fees in order to re-affirm family commitment and self determination in the education of their children especially a girls child who often are expected to take up family responsibility of caring for siblings or ailing parent(s) from an early age.

IBEA depends on subscriptions of its members, occasional financial donations of friends and well wishers as well as fund raising efforts. By giving partial support in school fees to its beneficiaries, IBEA reaches out to a larger number of hard working girls from the time they join the scheme to the end of their secondary education. Additional support from one-off donations and successful fund raising efforts will enable IBEA to pay examination fees for



sponsored students at the end of Junior Certificate (JC), equivalent to year 10 and the Cambridge Overseas School Certificate (COSC)



Award Ceremony

General Report of the first award ceremony for the 2010 JC and COSC Educare Fund and Ithuteng Basetsana Educare Association sponsored candidates

This first award ceremony celebrated sustained activities of Educare for more than a decade (1997-2010), establishment and active involvement of IBEA in Educare activities with

highlights on awards for 2010 sponsored candidates with outstanding performance and acknowledged achievement in JC and COSC national examinations.

Educare and Ithuteng Basetsana Educare Association wish to express their gratitude to all people who made the award ceremony a success. These were:

- Principals, Schools and Teachers for selecting hard working students for Educare sponsorship, attending meetings and providing transport for sponsored students.
- Parents/guardians for their cooperation.
- Members, friends and sponsors of Educare for sustainable funding of students during their schooling since 1997.
- A friend of Educare for designing and printing certificates for successful 2010 JC and COSC students at a moment's notice.
- Members, sponsors and friends of Ithuteng Basetsana Educare Association for their subscriptions such as Thaba Bosiu Risk Solutions.

Historical Brief

Educare Fund is a UK-based charity organization that has supported the education of young women in Lesotho for more than a decade (1997-2011). It has subsidised school fees for bright students whose family circumstances would otherwise prevent them from finishing secondary education. In recent years, it has also paid for JC and COSC O' Level examination fees for all sponsored candidates.

Educare Fund motivated the establishment of Ithuteng Basetsana Educare Association (IBEA) - a local, voluntary, charity association whose constitution was registered on the 8th April 2010. Both organisations are committed to:

- Working in partnership with needy parents and guardians in the payment of school fees in order to enable hard working girls to complete their high school education.
- Reaffirming the commitment and self-determination of needy families in the education of hard working girls who often bear the responsibility of caring for siblings and often also their parents from an early age.
- Reviving the spirit of sharing within the community especially among girls and women who are at the centre of caring in society.

The Purpose of the Award Ceremony was to celebrate:

- The sustained activities of Educare Fund for more than a decade in supporting the payment of both school and examination fees for an increasing numbers of students.
- Establishment and active involvement of Ithuteng Basetsana Educare Association (IBEA) in Educare Fund's activities in Lesotho.
- Outstanding performance of Educare sponsored students in 2010 JC and COSC National Examinations.

This first award ceremony was held on Friday, 15th April 2011 at ECoL Centre situated at Khubetsoana which is just five kilometres north of Maseru. Sponsored students were accompanied by parents/guardians and Principals of their schools or their representatives. The ceremony was hosted by Educare Fund and IBEA. The budget for the awards and certificates was met by Educare Fund while refreshments with a traditional flair were provided by IBEA, friends and sponsors. The Ceremony started with a group photo taken by Mr Patrick Bereng. After the photo session, the Master of the Ceremony, Mr Rats'iame Khampane led the group back to the hall where the Chairperson, Dr 'Malikotsi Metsing requested brief self-introduction of

participants before her welcome address. She then formerly introduced the guest of honour, Mrs Liphethiso Harris, the founder of Educare Fund and IBEA.

'Mè Liphethiso, set the pace by giving the motivation behind the Educare Fund and efforts made by members and sponsors to raise funds for hard working needy girls for more than a decade (1997-2010).

Awards of excellence and achievement were given to candidates at JC and COSC levels according to a predetermined criteria.

2010 JC Awards

Nyalane Motsamai of St Lawrence High School and Victoria Mosoeunyane of Holy Family High School obtained position 2 under an award for excellence while Robeter Boitumelo Motanteli of St Philips High School obtained position 3. Mpolokeng Senoko of Thetsane High school and 'Mathato Thakholi of Mahobong High School obtained certificates of achievement.

2010 COSC Awards

'Majobo Ratikane of Tšakholo High School obtained position 1 under an award for excellence, Lijeng Lefosa of St Stephen's High School was in position 2 while Liteboho Semoko of Masitise High School was awarded position 3.

Itumeleng Mokoma of Khethisa High School and Sylvia Monoto of Hlotse High School obtained certificates of achievement.

Vote of Thanks

Sponsored students' representative thanked Educare, the teachers and parents for making them realize that God loves them too. The parents' representative hailed Educare for being blessed with a heart and soul that felt for others and wished it a long life. The principals' representative in his turn encouraged the students to work hard in order to deserve the trust and generosity from people with open hearts who were contributing towards their education even though they did not know them as individuals.

The Senior Education Officer of Maseru District expressed his observation that Educare Fund sponsored students from nine out of the ten districts who could influence change in behaviour and become exemplary in

their communities all over Lesotho.

Members of Educare Fund and Ithuteng Basetsana Educare Association recognize 2010 award ceremony as a milestone in their cooperation with schools and parents of

sponsored students whose levels of excellence and achievements have been an inspiration to all sponsors, friends and supporters.

In 2011, five sponsored students will be sitting for JC and five for COSC examinations. We wish them well and hope that they will equal or better the record that has been set by the 2010 students.

Thank you.



London Marathon

Back in 2009 Monica managed to secure a silver bond for the 2010 Virgin Money London Marathon. The bond enabled Educare Fund to be allocated a runner's place on the 2010 London Marathon, although the place could be used any time within a five year time period. The next trick was to find an actual runner to take this place, which is where Sheila came in. Sheila's search for a runner was rewarded with Sabina and her husband Graham kindly agreeing to run for Educare Fund. They actually divided their pooled fundraising between Educare Fund and another charity, namely, the Helen Rollason Cancer Charity.



The day of the Marathon dawned bright and pleasantly warm. Sheila, Tom, John and Monica set off for the marathon route, with a plan to find a good vantage spot somewhere near the beginning of the run and then later move on to somewhere near the finish line. In between, we tried to see if we could spot our runners, although only Sheila and Tom knew them to see. When Sabina sped past, Sheila called out to her, but she was too fast for the rest of us to see her before she disappeared again.

It was a great outing and all the more so when we finally met with Sabina and Graham at the finish line. They both appeared as though they hadn't just run 26 miles at all. We, the spectators, looked more tired by comparison. Sabina's parents and her two little boys were also at the runners meeting point, as were the people from the Helen Rollason charity.

Educare Fund is very grateful to Sabina and Graham for kindly raising the magnificent sum of £2600 between them. In addition, Sabina raised a further £425 from sponsorship from her clients who had decided to put her through the most strenuous exercise routines that she, Sabina, had ever put them through.

Creo fun-run

We are pleased to announce that Creo Pharmacy Ltd have adopted Educare Fund as their chosen charity from October 2010 to October 2011. They almost instantly kicked off proceedings with a fun run where all staff dressed up in an amazing array of fancy dress costumes and ran 6 km around Felsted to raise and incredibly impressive £1,850.



Farmers' Market

Sheila's efforts to secure a stall for Educare at one of the monthly Loughton Farmers' Market events finally paid off and this year we were lucky to be offered one. The Farmers' Market organisers usually allocate a stall free of charge to one local charity each month, and Sheila had been trying to obtain one for Educare for a while without success, so when this opportunity came about, we lost no time in making use of it. The idea was to publicise Educare Fund and raise a few quid in the process. Sheila, accompanied by Tom, Monica and her cousin, Matente, set up a display of photos and other material about Educare and handed out information leaflets.

Sheila had had the brilliant idea of setting up a 'Pick-a-Duck' competition which attracted a lot of kids to the stall and of course the parents had to follow them. While the kids had a go at hooking a duck (assisted by Sheila and Jane) the parents could look at the display of photos and get a leaflet and any questions about Educare answered. Loughton children had huge fun trying to hook a duck for a small gift and Sheila and Jane were so good at helping the children that no child went away empty-handed. John was on hand to take some pictures and to go back to the house to get fleeces for Monica and Matente who had mistaken the one ray of sunshine for a full-blown summer's day, only to nearly freeze to death!

Although the main aim of the exercise was to raise awareness of Educare Fund, the 'pick-a-Duck' competition, at 50p a go, had the added benefit of helping to raise £65. Not a mean sum, at all.

Car boot sale

July was the month scheduled for the Educare Fund annual car boot sale. This year, however, many of the committee members were on their summer holidays, so it fell to Sheila to do something. Back in September 2009, the annual car boot sale event was manned by Sheila and Tom on their own as a date for all the committee to attend had not been possible to achieve. They got up early and high-tailed it to the Sewardstone Road where the event was taking place. In Sheila's own words, the day was sunny and

warm and trade was brisk. Arriving early had secured them a good spot and practically everything they had brought was sold, albeit at rock bottom prices. All the same, a grand sum of £68 was raised.

Educare website

Des Taylor is continuing to make progress on the website (www.educarefund.org), working closely with Wendy. We hope you find the website useful and informative, albeit still a work in progress.

Contact

If you'd like to join the band of Educare supporters or just find out more about Educare, contact Monica or Sheila:

Liphethiso Monica Harris
57 Staples Road, Loughton,
Essex IG10 1HR, UK
(+44/0)-20-8508-2244
khotsonghape@gmail.com

Sheila Parker
47 Staples Road
Loughton
Essex IG10 1HR
(+44/0)-20-8508-1101
sh1tompar@gmail.com

Educare is a charity

Educare Fund is registered with the UK Charity Commission (number 1115467).

You can check the details here:

[Charity Commission](#)
[Guidestar](#)

Charity website address:

www.educarefund.org

You can contribute to Educare or sponsor a student here:

virginmoneygiving.com



Seasons Greetings

Educare Fund and Ithuteng Basetsana wish all our friends and supporters a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Below you'll find letters from some of the girls supported by Educare.

Lesotho

10 February 2010

The Secretary
Edu - Care fund
57 Staples Road
Loughton Essex
W5 10, IHR UK



Dear Sir/Madam

RE: APPRECIATION FOR SCHOLARSHIP

In honour of your assistance, I run short of words to say "thank you". Those who bring Sunshine to others will have it for eternity. That is to say, Edu-Care Fund will forever be blessed for it has granted me a golden opportunity to education. Still, no words can express how very grateful I am.

I am proud to inform you that I obtained a Second class pass in my C.O.S.C examinations. What I take pride in is that I burnt the candle at both ends. I intend to persue Bachelor of Commerce (Accounting) degree at the National University of Lesotho this year.

Yours Faithfully
Neo Hlapo

Pitseng High School
P.O. Box 75
Pitseng 3

19-03-10

Manager

RE: APPLICATION FOR A HELP

I am hereby applying for a help as a student.
I write this letter to ask for a help from you.
I am asking you to help my parent to pay for my school fees.

I am a girl of ~~two~~ thirteen years old, I was born in 1996/06/03, I am in form A. My parent is Mathabang Lesekele, We are five at my home.

I ask for a help because I am left with one parent and she sometimes not come at home and she sends money other times, I was helped by my uncle so now ~~she~~ helps eight people as he is alone.

The name of my uncle is Tseliso Lesekele. He helps seven students and My grandmother so ^{don't have} he don't have power to help us all. My grandmother ^{work}

^{because I want}
When I grow up I want to be a doctor, to help the sick people by giving them medicine.

I will be happy if my application will be successful.

Yours Faithfully
Matseliso Lesekele
MATSELISO LESEKELE

P. O Box 1475
Maputo/Manung 520

24 January 2010

The Secretary
Educare
U. K

Dear sir / madam

I thank you very much for the help you have given me. Last year I was able to pay school fees with the M1000. I received from your help.

I am a 4th girl in family of seven girls. I am sixteen years of age and my parents are not working. It is difficult for my father to pay my fee school fees as has to sell wheat to get money in order to pay for me. If the harvest is bad he may not even be able to pay my school fees. I truly thank you for your help.

Our school is in Mokhotlong district. It rains during the summer and in winter snow falls and it is very cold. My village Ntjabokone is situated near Senqu river. When it is hot in summer we swim in that river.

My father has no livestock. Thieves stole every thing. My other sisters are in the primary school. Here in Lesotho primary education is free. We only have to buy school uniform.

I am now in form B and I promise to work hard in order to pass. I did not do well in form A because I was always worried about the school fees. Now that you are helping me I am going to put more work in my studies.

Thank you

Yours sincerely

Maapeo Seliane

Thetsane High School
P.O. Box 1949
Maseru 100
Lesotho

10 February 2010

The Secretary
Edu-care fund
57 Stables Road
Loughton Essex
LG 10, IHA UK



Dear Sir/Madam

RE: APPRECIATION FOR SCHOLARSHIP

A shower of gratitudes pour out to Edu-care fund for assisting me with my studies. I want to thank you for giving me a chance of being at school. I feel very happy to be one of the students you assist because many are in need of your help.

I passed form B (grade 9) and I am now in form C (grade 10). I promise you that I will pass form C with first class. I am willing to work very hard knowing that I will be rewarded with success. I want to fulfill my dream of being a teacher. This will bring me closer to children, therefore, I will ^{be} able to help the needy.

Yours faithfully
Mpolokeng Saroko

Pitseng High School
P. O. Box 75
Pitseng 320

30th January 2010

Dear Educare

It is with great pleasure and honour that I write this letter to you and I hope you are going to appreciate its contents.

With all due aspect, I would like to inform you that I have fulfilled the promise I made to you about my studies. I passed my C.O.S.C. level with second class. This is so because of your care and support you gave me and I am very grateful with them. I thank you with all my heart for these.

I took control over myself and I was able to struggle for my success. I dreamt and flourished my mission to survive, to be the light in the land and to live in the land of success. I would like to do my tertiary level at NHTC and do nursing. With greatest regards.

Yours Faithfully
Mpati Mokhubu

Thetsane High School
P.O. Box 1949
Maseru 100

11th February 2010

The Secretary
Edu-care fund
57 Staries road
Loughton Essex
LG 10 1HR UK



Dear Sir/Madam

RE: APPLICATION FOR A SPONSORSHIP

I here by applying for the sponsorship I am
Relebohile Mokotsolane. I am a 15 year old girl.
I am doing Form B. I passed standard 7 with
first class, I passed form A with position five.
And when I grow up I want to be a doctor.

I apply for a sponsorship because my parents
are not working. We are six in a family and my
sister is the one who is helping all of us with our
school fees. My brothers are doing high school,

I hope to work hard and pass all the subjects.

Yours faithfully
Relebohile Mokotsolane

