

# Educare Update

## 2004



### This year's update

Welcome to the 2004 newsletter of Educare, an organisation set up to foster the education of young women in Lesotho (southern Africa). Educare helps pay school fees for pupils of proven academic ability whose family circumstances would otherwise prevent them from completing their high-school education.

The newsletter keeps you abreast of how the young women currently supported by Educare are getting on at school. It also fills you in on the various fund-raising activities the members are involved in. There is a feature on Canada, where Helen McLachlen – one of Educare's founder members – has been joined by two new supporters.

For this issue, Vi Wagner's editorial role has been taken over by John Harris. Vi is busy preparing for a

six-month visit back home to South Africa.

We hope the newsletter shows how much your support is appreciated by these young women. All of them have shown themselves to be dedicated to achieving a brighter future for themselves and their families.

Every year a few of the young women drop us a line to let us know how they are doing and to reassure us that

they are working as hard as they can. We publish some of their letters here. As you can see, they do not take the support for granted.

If you are not already contributing to Educare and would like to do so, please get in touch with us (details at the end of the newsletter).

The committee thanks all the friends of Educare for another year of collective success.

### School results

The fund continues to support ten young women in various schools in Lesotho. All of them did very well this last academic year. Four completed their Junior Certificate (third year of high school). One, Sephewe Pompi of Botha-bothe High School, attained a first-class pass with merit. Two others attained first-class passes, and another attained a very good second-class pass. Well done, all of them!

2003 did not have any

school leavers, as there was nobody in their final year. We expect three girls to complete this year and four in 2005.

So far we have not found a way of obtaining information about those ex-students who successfully finished their high schooling with the help of funding from Educare. We are negotiating with the schools to let us have any news they



might have about their graduates.

## The funds

The amount of financial support that Educare can currently offer still falls short of the needs of these young women. Examination fees place an even greater burden on families who are already struggling to pay tuition fees. In the final year, for example, exam fees can be as high as a whole year's school fees.

The funds currently available to Educare are not enough to allow for individual awards to be increased across the board. However, the Educare committee has agreed that it would be possible to offer an extra amount to the best-performing pupil at the end of the Junior Certificate level. This amount would be made available during the last year of high school and would go towards the examination fee.

## Educare in Canada

The Canadian arm of Educare is made up of three women in Ottawa: Helen McLachlen, Susan Kelen and Susan's mother, Marion. Helen and Susan have been friends since the early 1970s, when they participated in the same overseas exchange programme. Helen went to Lesotho, while Susan went to Central America. It is was in Lesotho that Helen got to know Liphethiso Monica Harris (née Mahanetsa). A few years later, with the same organization, Monica came to Canada.

Helen has kept in close contact with Monica despite the ocean which separates them. In telephone conversations several years ago, Monica made Helen aware of plans to set up Educare. Helen started providing support from the first year of the programme, with Susan and Marion joining later.



All three of the Canadian women involved in Educare have benefitted from advanced education. Helen is a lawyer, Susan is a psychologist, and Marion is a medical doctor (now retired). They understand the struggle and

personal sacrifice that getting an education entails. It is their pleasure to provide support for young women in Lesotho who have the ability to benefit from a high-school education but lack the family resources to finance it.

Dear Sir/Madam

RE: VOTE OF THANKS

This serves to thank you for the sponsorship you offered me for my studies last year.

I got my second class pass at the end of last year. I hope to work hard and improve so that I get even a better pass at the end of this year. Therefore I still believe you will continue helping as you have done last year.

Thank you in advance

Yours faithfully  
Mamongali Mokone

## Fund-raising

Monica Elswood has completed two sponsored 10k runs, with the pro



ceeds going to Educare. The first, in May 2003, raised £100. ('I wasn't even tired at the end of it', quipped Monica.) The second run, in May 2004, raised the even more impressive sum of £320. We feel honoured that she has chosen Educare from among many worthy causes.

Yvonne (aka Bobby), Chris and Monica spent half a day at a local boot sale flogging anything they could lay hands on that had been cluttering their own and other willing peoples' houses. Items sold ranged in price from 50p to £5. Chris



is the veteran boot-saler. Without her knowledge and nerve, the day would not have been

as successful as it was. As you can see from the picture, we managed to have a laugh as well as raise £80. And, yes, those hats did get sold!

Janet did not manage to join the boot sale stalwarts on that day (she had a deadline to meet for her MBA course in Sheffield). However, Janet's husband Cliff, who had offered to act as chauffeur, kindly contributed £50. This brought the total to £130. Not bad for half a day's work!

There is a plan to do another boot sale this coming summer. A good opportunity to get rid of another year's worth of accumulated junk.



### Images of Lesotho

For your viewing pleasure, we have included a few views of Lesotho. (Actually, one of the pictures was taken in Spain. See if you can spot it.)

MABAM, 16 February 2014

I would like to thank you for your help. I wish that you can continue to help me till I finished school. I will try my best to work hard more than I have done. You have been kind to me for helping me when my parents didn't have money to pay for my Education and all the good work goes to you. Please continue to help kids like myself as you have done for me.

Last year I was in Form B level and I have passed it with position two (2) and now I am in Form C and I have to pay the examination fee of M345.00. Except my examination fee my amount to pay school fees is M890.00. I thank you.

Yours Sincerely  
Marefa Maboele

### Contact

If you or someone you know would like to join the band of Educare supporters, contact either Monica or Helen:

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