



News from Swaziland Schools Projects

February/March 2024



Welcome to the February/March SSP Newsletter

This edition features a visit to Eswatini by our trustee, Keith, the latest on our upcoming Easter Auction, a thank you note from a sponsored student and a report about a recent desk repair project.

Easter Auction

The SSP online auction of goods and promises will open for registration and bidding on **Monday 18 March**.

Please make a note of the date and then have a look at the many fabulous lots on offer. The site address is here or you can use the Easter Auction link below:

<https://app.galabid.com/easterauction>

Easter Auction

The auction will close at 8pm on **Easter Monday 1 April**.

There will be something for everyone such as tickets for football and cricket, rides in vintage cars, wine, walking with llamas and handmade items from Eswatini.

Please forward the details on to your friends and family.

If you can offer a lot to be auctioned, please contact Keith at contact@swazilandschoolsprojects.org

I can offer a lot



**SWAZILAND
SCHOOLS PROJECTS**

**Rotary Club
of Bedford**

**EASTER
CHARITY
AUCTION**

**OVER
50
PRIZES**

TO REGISTER AND BID
go to: <https://app.galabid.com/easterauction>
bidding opens at 8am on Monday 18th March 2024
and closes at 8pm on Monday 1st April 2024.

All proceeds will go to the Swaziland Schools Projects and other charities supported by the Rotary Club of Bedford

Visit to Eswatini

Our SSP Trustee, Keith Fossey, and his wife, Liz, visited Eswatini in February (at their own expense) to see the local team, visit current and potential projects and meet partner organisations.

This year the weather was kind although some of the tracks to reach schools had been ruined by storms and heavy rains in the weeks prior to the visit. Visits included Malalotja Environmental Education Centre, Sulutane, Luhhumaneni, and Mafutseni

West and partner meetings included The Swaziland Charitable Trust, Bomake and Kwakha Indvodza.



The British High Commissioner, Simon Boyden, came with us to Sulutane where, along with our partner, The Claypotts Trust, we are building a new preschool and community room.

Simon is particularly keen on seeing the development of renewable energy in the country and was pleased to hear that SSP is already starting to use solar lighting where it can secure to do so.(see photo above of Nomcebo, Simon, Johannes and Keith).





Mafutseni West is a school that SSP has not been to before and it is due west of Mbabane, quite near the border with South Africa. There is much to be done here including repairs to teachers houses and classrooms, building a kitchen etc.



[Donate now](#)

Bank Details

Thank you so much to those who have switched their donations and standing orders to the new account. If you are yet to switch over, please note the details below:

Coop Bank Business Account

Name: Swaziland Schools Project

Sort Code: 08 92 99

Account Number: 67293834



Bursaries

In 2023 your donations meant that 34 young people (mostly orphans or vulnerable children) were able to attend High School. Reproduced below is a letter from a young person you sponsor at High School. We will feature stories of some of these young people and more letters in future editions of the newsletter.

“It is so good for me to know that there is someone who is taking an interest in me as I’m all alone without any other support. I spent the holidays doing some piece jobs to sustain myself and help provide some of my basic needs. My living situation made the previous school year a little challenging and I know that I will improve my performance at school if I can get money for electricity and food as this will mean less stress.

To sum up, I want to thank SSP and its donors for being in my life and for playing the role of parent. I promise you that I won’t let you down and one day you will be proud of me. May God bless you”.

Pupil Form 4

Sponsor a child

Donations

We are sometimes asked whether supporters can raise or donate money for specific things, so here are a few examples:

- **£6** will fund a solar light for a child to do homework without having to use a kerosene lamp or candle.
- **£30** will pay for a school uniform for an orphan or vulnerable child.
- **£400** funds a year's high school fees as well as daily food and school uniform for one child.



Desk Repair Project

Working with our partner Kwakha Indvodza, another of the hugely successful desk repair projects was completed at the end of 2023.

A new desk can make a significant difference in a child's learning experience but most primary schools cannot afford to buy new furniture because the amount of money funded per pupil by the government hasn't increased in 12 years, despite the country's constant inflation. As a result, students share broken and wrecked desks, and most schools have an abundance of discarded school frames. Due to a lack of furniture, some schools are forced to limit their annual admissions.





Twenty apprentice Carpenters and Welders (out of school and unemployed young people) were trained, equipped, and employed to repair desks in 4 primary schools in the Hhohho and Lubombo Regions. This helps to prepare them for the job market now and in the future. These projects also help to minimise, recycle and reuse waste by re-entering broken desks and discarded steel frames into use, ensuring the environment is clean.

The 2 groups of 10 engaged apprentices managed to gain on-the-job experience in the carpentry and welding fields and repaired 572 desks (437 replacements + 135 minor repairs) in the 4 primary schools.



Facebook

SSP has a Facebook page - please follow us on Facebook by searching: @Swazilandschoolsprojects or use the Facebook link below.

SSP on Facebook

Looking for a Speaker?

Want a speaker to present to your group? Please email us, we would love to share our stories about Eswatini and do **NOT CHARGE A SPEAKER FEE**.

Email: contact@swazilandschoolsprojects.org or use the link below to message us.

Email us to book a speaker

SSP is registered with the Fundraising Regulator



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We would love to hear from you.



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