

# Aurora Africa Trust

---

---

*Beyond Poverty Relief ... to empowerment for Development*

Registered charity number 1112964

## NEWSLETTER No 4 – April 2009

### WELCOME

Welcome to the fourth edition of Aurora Africa Trust newsletter!

Here is your update on progress made since our last publication.

In this edition, among other items, you will have the chance to meet some of our supporters, know where we are at with our fundraising drive and understand why we at Aurora think “the kindness of strangers” can make a real difference in people’s lives, as Enes, in his own words opens up a little the window into his life.

### WHERE WE ARE AT

Our fund raising drive continues, but needs more help to get us to our target of £26,100.00 by the end of this year. This is the amount of money required for the first three classrooms. So far we have raised £18,234.56.

**The shortfall is £7,865.44, but with your donation we can make it!**

### **Please help as best as you can!**

Please get in touch with us at [contact@aurora.org](mailto:contact@aurora.org). If you are a UK taxpayer, there is another way to further help us with your donation. That is, “Gift Aid”. All you need to do is to fill in a Gift Aid form (we will provide) with your name and address.

This will allow us to claim at least 28% of your gift at no cost to you.

### RUNNING THE GOOD RACE

Alex Coakley and Rick Eveleigh will be taking part in the **British 10k London Run 2009** to raise funds for Aurora.

This event will take place on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2009.

If you would like to join them and help us be on target for our first milestone, please contact Alex at [aacoakley@yahoo.com](mailto:aacoakley@yahoo.com). More info about the event can be found in [www.thebritish10klondon.co.uk](http://www.thebritish10klondon.co.uk)

**Run for your health... Run for Aurora!**

Read more on this in our next edition

## MEET OUR SUPPORTERS

Because of so much hardship and misery in the world sometimes people feel overwhelmed and do not know what to do, especially if they think they are not rich or famous. People tend to think their little contribution can hardly make a difference, so why bother? However, at Aurora we think everybody is capable of helping to bring about changes that could enable and empower others in a significant way.

Starting from this issue we will introduce you to a group of people who think that is the case. Welcome to “Meet Our Supporters”. These people come from different backgrounds and geographic horizons but are all united around a common goal: *To ensure that the long suffering Angolan youngsters get the best start in life they need and deserve.*

We will kick start this series with two wonderful ladies: Margaret Grenfell and Hanna Sitim.

**Margaret Grenfell** served as a nurse at the Kibokolo mission in Angola from 1933 to 1961 when her work was suddenly cut short because of the colonial war. Although she left that country several decades ago Margaret still feels a strong bond with Angola and its people, and continues to connect with them as best as possible. In 1995 she went back for a visit and was warmly received (see homecoming picture). Asked about why she supports the Aurora school project, she answered: “I am glad to support the Aurora scheme as it will enable more young people further their education”. Margaret is a remarkable lady of over 103 years old! She lives in Orkney, Northern Isles of Scotland where she enjoys the scenery.



Margaret visits Angola in 1995



Margaret at her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday

**Hanna Sitim** lives in West London. She is a qualified professional chef and runs a small food outlet called “Debrannies” at the Porchester hall serving delightful meals and snacks to the delectation of the spa customers and nearby businesses. At Hanna’s suggestion Aurora placed a collection tin at her

establishment (shop) in support for the school project. This has become a regular contributor to the Aurora fund raising effort.

Hanna says “I support this cause because it will provide an opportunity to those youngsters affected by Angola’s long war a chance to get education”

Here is a tip. If you find yourself in West London, around Paddington, Queensway, Royal Oak, Notting Hill or Ladbroke Grove areas, why not pop into “Debrannies” and savour mouth-watering Panini and delicious home-made soup? You will also have a chance to drop some change into the collection tin...

Aurora takes this opportunity to thank Hanna and her customers for their generosity and support.



Hanna Sintim



Aurora’s collection tin at Debrannies

### **CHARITY WORKS! (The Kindness of Strangers) – Enes’ story**

This episode relates to the time when I was at my fifth year of secondary education. I was in a boarding school in Kimpese, DRC, and realised that having done so much sacrifice to get me to that level my family could no longer afford to pay for my studies. It has to be said that we were refugees in the Congo at the time and everyone in the house who did any kind of work had to contribute to pay for my fees, but even that wasn’t enough and I wasn’t the only child in the house. It was devastating because I was only one year away from graduating.

I then remembered that some years ago my older brother tried but failed to get a grant from an organisation that ran a bursary programme for Angolan refugee students. Apparently the reason for the refusal was because we lived in the capital, Kinshasa, and priority was given to those from the interior.

However, because there was no where else to turn, I decided to try it for myself. In my desperation, one day during the Easter vacation I went to the central Post Office in downtown Kinshasa, found pen and paper, and then and there wrote a letter to a certain Mr Malcolm, (at the time I didn’t even know his complete name) who administered that scholarship programme

explaining my situation and supplicating him to help me. In the letter I made sure I didn't mention my brother or where we lived.

At the start of the next term, although I had no money I still went back to school hoping that no one would ask me about the fees... The following week Mr Malcolm came to meet with the students on the programme. I was anxious to know whether he had received my letter, but could not go to the meeting as I was not invited. After some time, a boy came out to me and said "Mr Malcolm want to see you"; so I ran to meet him. I remember vividly what happened next. He said to me, "I had received your letter and enquired about you to the headmaster, but I have to say that unfortunately the 'Gilchrist Memorial Fund' has no more money left to support students." Then he paused. "However", he continued "some Christians and churches in Canada have been putting money aside to help those most in need. Having considered your case, I have decided to use some of that money to help you; but it is only to pay for your school fees." I answered "that will be enough for me" and thanked him for the help. He asked me if I had a uniform (a dark blue short and white shirt) I said yes. From there on I went on to conclude my studies and moved on to higher education.

At that time I knew that was an important meeting, but did not fully grasp the profound implication of what it meant.

A year ago I tracked him down as Rev. Robert Malcolm and sent him another letter! This time it was a 'thank you' letter. He is retired and lives in Canada.

I will probably never know or meet those people who put money aside to help others like me, yet I owe them a great debt of gratitude.

Thanks to their generosity I am able to write the story you are reading now. Hopefully through your kindness many similar stories will be written!

## **BECOMING A TRUSTEE OF AURORA**

If you can why not become a trustee of Aurora?

The trustees are people who have responsibility for directing the affairs of a charity. If you would like to know more about this please request our leaflet "Becoming a trustee of Aurora Africa Trust" or download it from the Internet at [www.auroratrust.org](http://www.auroratrust.org)

## **AURORA TRUST BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Here is the team that serves you at Aurora:

Chairman:	Enes M. Mayele
Secretary:	Panzo Abílio
Treasurer:	Alex Coakley
Communication Officer:	Santos Bunga
Advisor:	Rev. Steve Latham