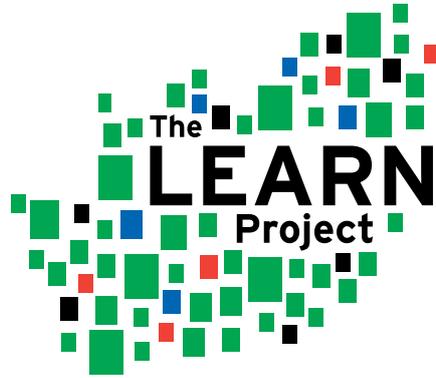




The
LEARN
Project

Let's Educate A Rainbow Nation

Giving children in need the tools to learn and thrive.



Let's Educate A Rainbow Nation

Who we are

Imagine a school library with less than 200 books for over 1100 children...

Books and stationery supplies are essential to fostering a positive and effective learning environment. Many South African schools, however, do not have the resources to supply their learners with these essential materials. Most of the children in these schools have never even been into a library.

Started in 2011, **The LEARN Project** reaches out to schools and children in need. Our goal is to equip these schools with reading books and stationery to create a positive learning environment where both teachers and learners can reach their true potential.

Imagine a school with more than enough books to share...

Our mission

The LEARN Project aims to establish Reading Centres and Programmes in schools that are currently without reading books and to encourage a love for reading and learning in both teachers and learners. This aim is supported by a buddy-system with more fortunate schools where Collection Points for second-hand stationery and pre-loved books encourage learners to 'reuse and recycle' any stationery or books they no longer need, donating them to help those who are less fortunate to excel at school.

Where it all began

Ros Toerien and Lucy Pienaar, two like-minded friends, with a shared desire to motivate and inspire teachers and learners, discovered they shared a vision of making a difference in South African schools. Ros, a mother and teacher, and Lucy, a mother and businesswoman, came together to start **The LEARN Project**. They welcome on board any interested friends, families, businesses, or schools with a heart to make a difference and assist schools in need to make important changes in reading and learning.

Lucy's story

Whilst on a trip to Umngazi River Bungalows in September 2011, I met a young teacher who had done some of her training at the local schools. For some unknown reason, I decided to give up my fishing and visit two of these schools. The smaller school really gripped my heart. Some of the classrooms only had two desks! When I got back to Durban, I managed to secure R20 000 sponsorship through my husband's company to supply 30 double desks to this Transkei school.

I got chatting to Ros and she shared her vision of starting a project assisting local schools in KwaZulu Natal with new and used stationery and books. With the help of Ros's husband, Brad, we came up with the name **LEARN - Let's Educate a Rainbow Nation**. Over the past year, we have been able to assist our chosen schools in Durban and, as our project grows, we hope to assist many more schools

CONTINUED...

in our community. I am really excited about this project and believe we will be able to make a difference in many young lives. In the words of Edward Everett Hale, "I am only one, but still I am one. I cannot do everything, but I can do something, and, because I cannot do everything, I will not refuse to do the something I can do."

Ros's story

I stopped teaching to become a full-time mom. However, as a passionate teacher, I really missed the classroom and had an urge to share my love of learning. Volunteering as a helper through a church outreach project, I started visiting a school in Bhambayi. Through these visits, my heart was opened to the vast needs in this community.

One day, driving out of the township, I remember thinking, "Surely there is more I can do to help. Lord, show me how you want to use me." This was the turning point. I felt God say, "You need to start a library in the Junior Primary school." I looked

out my window and saw Kasturba Gandhi Primary School - a sign I had driven past many times, without even noticing.

Feeling ill-equipped, I put the thought to the back of my mind, but God definitely had bigger plans for me! A few weeks later, I received a call from a local school asking if I knew of any schools with a need for books and stationery. I did - Kasturba! A few well-placed phone calls and two car loads later, I knew this is what I had to do.

I met with Kasturba's principal and discovered that they didn't have a school library - most of the children had never even seen a library book. That was the start of my commitment to make a difference, by inspiring a love of learning through donated books. I also decided to start collecting stationery and redistribute it to children in need. When Lucy mentioned her Transkei experience, I knew that we would work together.

Making a difference

The LEARN Project started with 4 pioneer schools in our community and the support of the teachers and pupils was overwhelming! Soon, collection points were overflowing and containers of stationery were delivered to Kasturba. Many learners had never used colourful stationery before while the teachers were delighted with the textbooks.

Despite this success, there is so much more to do - the neighboring Senior Primary library is an open room with only 3 shelves of books while there are 8 classes of 48 students in every grade from Grades 4-6 using the library! We are committed to supplying books and stationery supplies to schools like these.

So many people and organisations have come together to make this project a success. They include:

- Gamma Panel and Switchboard Manufacturers for the R20 000 sponsorship to supply 30 double desks to Vukandlule school in the Transkei
- A truly generous individual who paid the deposit to secure the venue for **The LEARN Project's** launch event in 2012
- Jennifer Makepeace, a graphic designer who designed our logo and offers her time and creativity to develop **The LEARN Project's** advertising materials
- Richard King from Green Hat Creative who assisted with the design and construction of our website and launch presentation
- Waleska Saltori, a corporate copywriter who came on board to put our story into words
- Caroline Clayton, a marketing professional who assists with promoting **The LEARN Project**
- Arthur Hill of Xclusive Shots Photography who offered to document our journey in photographs
- Lynn Cutter, a librarian who offers her time and expertise to our initiatives
- James Cresswell-George from Living Word Printers who prints our promotional materials
- Many others who have made generous donations, offered great raffle prizes for our events, and given their time and energy to make **The LEARN Project** a success
- The list goes on...

We thank you!

Get involved

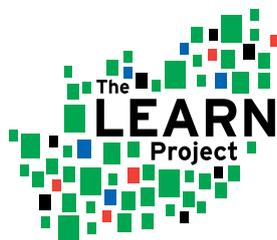
The LEARN Project offers a number of opportunities for those who want to get involved in this worthy cause. Areas in which we need assistance include:

- Donations of books and stationery supplies
- Covering and sorting of books
- Reading to children
- Visiting schools in need
- Setting up Reading Centres in schools in need
- Setting up Collection Points in your school or company

We recognise that everyone has unique skills that they would like to contribute to projects such as ours. So, we welcome any new ideas on how we can give children the tools to learn and thrive in their educational environment.

Talk to us

To learn more about **The LEARN Project**, please contact us:



Let's Educate A Rainbow Nation

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Banking Details

The LEARN Project

Standard Bank

Account number: 052950115

Glenwood branch code: 042526

Note: When making payments, please use your surname and payment code (see list below) as a reference. For example: SMITH-F. Please email your proof of payment to ros@thelearnproject.co.za.

D - Donation

F - Fundraising event

ST - Sponsor a teacher

R - Raffle