

Making a Difference - The ISL Zimbabwe Group



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The International School of Luxembourg's third annual candle sale, held from the 26th – 28th of November, proved to be yet another success for the ISL 'Zimbabwe group'. Over €600 were raised at the charity sale of candles and holiday ornaments donated by students, teachers and parents of the school community.

The idea of the 'Zimbabwe group' came in 2003, when Upper School Librarian Pat Ebhohimen attended a conference in South Africa. There she met Jackson Ndlovu, head of the non-profit organization, The Edward Ndlovu Memorial Fund. This organization was founded in 1990 to commemorate the late Edward Ndlovu's life and his determination to improve the lives of Zimbabweans. Today the Memorial Fund works to distribute school supplies to schools across Matabeleland in Zimbabwe. After talking with Jackson Ndlovu, Pat Ebhohimen decided that she too would help make a difference for the children at these schools. Upon returning to ISL that

September, she started collecting and sending basic school supplies, mostly pens and pencils. In 2006 a few students volunteered to help out with a candle sale to raise money for postage and thus the 'Zimbabwe Group' was formed. The group currently counts 16 members and meets every Wednesday at lunchtime to discuss the worsening situation in Zimbabwe and how to continue making a difference.

Each year the group sets a new target for numbers of pens and pencils it hopes to collect in a certain amount of time. In 2007 the 6,000 target was achieved in less than two months. Following this success a higher target of 10,000 was set for 2008: 12,000 were collected in only one month! The group is continuously receiving donations, but at the same time, further requests for necessities. Shoes have previously been collected and sent. This year the group has focused on providing notebooks and has been raising funds so that they can be purchased locally. This year's candle sale raised €637.41 for this purpose.



Jackson Ndlovu remains in close contact with Pat Ebhohimen and has sent pictures of the children receiving the gifts. The group has also recently received an e-mail which sums up their gratitude:

"Thank you so much, Patricia, for all the assistance you have collected for us. It is so encouraging when we are struggling against all odds to keep going, to know that people are prepared to help."