



## 25th ANNIVERSARY!

April 9, 2017

Dear friends:

Spring is here and our thoughts turn to our annual fund raising efforts for our projects in South Africa. First of all, I can hardly believe that this our 25th year of contributing funds to support a variety of initiatives in support of vulnerable children and communities in Kwazulu-Natal. Thank you so much for being such faithful and generous donors and supporters.



Among our accomplishments over the past year are two major efforts. We were the lead international partner in a Global Grant project at the Ikhethelo Children's Village. The water situation in South Africa has become challenging and, as a conservation

measure, the water is turned off for several hours at a time. This created huge problems for the children and care givers at the Village. It was, therefore, decided to install a sophisticated rain water harvesting system so that water would always be readily available. The project has been successfully completed and there will always be a reliable supply of water at the Village.

Secondly, you may remember the success of our Mpophomeni education project in 2015. Our major contribution of \$12,000, along with smaller contributions from other partners, resulted in a Rotary Global Grant of over \$50,000. Among the goals of the project was the purchasing of computers and TVs along with the training of the high school teachers to access lessons from the Internet. English is not the first language of students or the teachers so these lessons proved to be of great importance so much so that the Grade 12 pass rate in that year jumped from 40 to 70%. Other rural schools requested the same equipment and training so we contributed to another Global Grant application to provide the same service to an additional 10 rural schools. The great news is that this grant has just been approved by Rotary International and the project is about to begin.

I hope this gives you an idea of the impact of your contributions. Let's make this a bumper year in recognition of 25 years of great work.



*"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world" – Nelson Mandela*