

# GFA NEWSLETTER

January - March 2010 ~ (Volume 16)



## NEW..... GFA Lunch Sack!!!



High-quality, insulated and ready to go with you to school or work....!!!

Long-Sleeved or  
**SHORT-SLEEVED**  
Grobanites for Africa T-shirts

'UBUNDU' (on front) is a term used in many African languages to mean "humanity to others" ...or "I am because you are."



Grobanites for Africa logo and website are featured on the back.

Treat yourself to these and other GFA items here:

[www.grobanitesforcharity.org](http://www.grobanitesforcharity.org)

## Update from GFA Co-Chairperson...

This has been a really fun quarter for the GFA team. From January 15 to March 15, we sponsored the Blanket Drive for the children of Siyawela. This year we shipped all 136 blankets sent to us, and still had \$325 left to send for purchase of blankets in South Africa. This is all due to the generosity of Josh's fans who made each blanket and also donated money to help with shipping and additional blankets.

Additionally, it was our pleasure to work with Angélique Kidjo and her Batonga Foundation to sponsor the "Birthday Bash for Batonga" in honor of Josh's 29<sup>th</sup> birthday. It was an enormous success thanks to the willingness of Josh's fans to accept a totally new project and to support his charity efforts as you always have. \$11,396 was raised to sponsor 103 girls through a year of education in Sierra Leone. An additional \$7,248 was raised in the auction to cover additional expenses for the girls during the school year. Sponsors have now received their information packets and have begun to correspond with their girls. What an honor this is for Josh, as a member of the Batonga Advisory Board that his fans have enabled 103 girls to follow their dreams.

Also, we are delighted to report that the total amount raised to date by Grobanites for Africa has reached \$176,182.

Thanks to everyone who helped out with these projects and congratulations to the fans for emulating the love and generosity that Josh always demonstrates.

~Karen~

## January - March 2010 Winner

Congratulations to Marolyn Watson who was the winner of the framed and signed Hallmark 'With You' CD during the Birthday Bash for Batonga!!!

As always, thank you to all contributors to: [www.grobanitesforafrica.org](http://www.grobanitesforafrica.org) !!!

Josh's **AWAKE LIVE DVD** - now on Blu-Ray ...and Grammy-Nominated **NOEL** CD...Available **HERE**:



[www.joshgroban.com](http://www.joshgroban.com)



#1 CD of 2007!!!

*~Birthday Bash for Batonga~*

"Thanks to your generosity, the "Birthday Bash for Batonga" raised \$18,644, which includes sponsorships for 103 girls from two schools in Sierra Leone, Western Africa! (We had originally hoped to sponsor 83 girls but added 20 more when they were all taken in 1 week!)

In addition to the sponsorships, the proceeds for the auction and buy now items (which totaled \$7,248) will go towards additional expenses to help these girls. This includes mentoring activities, lunches, transportation to and from the schools, employment kits upon graduation (for the Freetown girls), and other program expenses.

It was really great to see so many people step up to sponsor girls, especially with such a difficult economy....you came through in a big way for these girls who need our help so much! Many of you even formed teams with people you hardly know to sponsor the girls!

A huge thanks goes out to Kim and Karen from the Grobanites for Africa team, who proposed and coordinated this very special fundraiser. Kim has mailed out sponsorship packets to all the individuals and team members who sponsored girls.

Thanks to those who bid on items....those who donated items....those who will be mailing out merchandise...and to Polly for mailing out all the buy-now magnets!

All proceeds from the fundraiser will be sent to JGF to be designated for the Batonga girls that you sponsored.

Josh, his family, and Angélique are all thrilled about the gift you have given to these girls!

Thank you, everyone, for making this such a successful fundraiser!! (We just might do it again next year!)

What a great Birthday Present you gave to Josh!!"

Val  
GFC

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♥ The Grobanites for Africa Team would like to express its sincere gratitude to all involved in this special fundraiser! Each one of you gave so generously to make a difference in the lives of all these wonderful young people!!! ♥

*~Karen, Kim, Trisha, Harriet and Mary~*

## *BLANKET DRIVE 2010*

GFA is thrilled to report that this year's Blanket Drive was a tremendous success, thanks to the amazing Grobanites. From January 15<sup>th</sup> to March 15<sup>th</sup>, Grobanites everywhere had the opportunity to make or purchase blankets for needy children, including the children of Siyawela, the care center in South Africa, which receives support from The Josh Groban Foundation. These children have won our hearts and we're excited to have been able to show our love for them by blanketing them with warmth once again this winter.

The details of the blanket drive are listed below:

### *BLANKET GUIDELINES:*

Blankets sent were **HANDMADE** only – (due to customs regulations/fees regarding "gifts").

Preferred sizes: Baby/child.....45" x 58" (approx 1 1/4 yd long) Teen.....54" x 60" (approx 1 1/2 yd long)

Warm and washable materials: Soft, bright fabrics and/or yarn work best.

Patterns: Please avoid large or loopy knitted/crocheted stitches, as they are not as warm as tighter stitches. We asked that you make fleece blankets double layered for warmth, as the South Africa winters can get very cold.

Quilts: Sturdy cotton, yarn tied or machine quilted

"No-sew" blankets: These are very popular, because they're quick and easy to do and don't require a sewing machine. You can usually obtain instructions on how to make these where you buy the materials, or at any fabric store.

Mailing: Blankets were mailed to Karen, Co-Chairperson of the GFA team – by March 15<sup>th</sup> to allow sufficient time to re-pack and ship them to SA in order to arrive at Siyawela in time for cold weather.

Photos and cards: We encouraged you to include a personal card and/or photo of yourself. These were forwarded to NOAH to be given to the staff at Siyawela. Please visit this link to view the gorgeous blankets, lovingly-made by all of you:

<http://s277.photobucket.com/albums/kk55/trisham2008/Blanket%20Drive%20for%20Siyawela%20for%202010/?albumview=slideshow>

Customs Declaration: Thank you for keeping a record of material costs and sending them along with your blanket, as this information was needed for Declared Value for SA customs officials.

Monetary Donations: Monetary donations were received and appreciated for fleece blankets to be purchased in SA to accompany the handmade ones, and to help with the shipping costs. Fleece blankets can be purchased in South Africa very inexpensively.

Donations were received via our website [www.grobanitesforafrica.org](http://www.grobanitesforafrica.org) with "2010 Blanket Drive" noted in the comment section.

This year we shipped all 136 blankets sent to us, and still had \$325 left to send for purchase of blankets in South Africa!!!

The GFA Team would like to express deep gratitude to Karen, our Co-Chairperson for championing this project and for tirelessly working to receive and re-pack the blankets for the children of Siyawela.

Thanks, everyone! We knew this drive would be a huge success because Grobies have a way of going above and beyond when it comes to children who need help!

A huge thank you to each one of you,

~The GFA Team~

## 'UBUNDU'



~The GFA Team~

Karen, Kim, Trisha, Harriet and Mary