HELP THESE EAGER LEARNERS

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Africa Classroom Connection
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Minneapolis, MN 55404-3522

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We use the funds to support building schools and educating children, directly benefiting the students who will discover the world in books and learning, thanks to you. There is no paid staff and we don’t have our own offices. You can donate by check, credit card, electronic funds transfer, or stock.

It’s that simple.

There is no legal relationship between ECAG in South Africa and Africa Classroom Connection. We ensure through careful oversight and documentation that your funds are used for the charitable purposes required by our IRS tax-exempt status. So your contribution is tax deductible.

You can learn more about our projects, board, and finances at Guidestar.org, a place setup by some of the world’s largest foundations to collect information about all US non-profit organizations in one place.
THE ESHOWE STORY

Eshowe is a small regional town, primarily agricultural, in the state of Kwazulu-Natal, South Africa, about 100 miles (150km) north of Durban. The population is predominantly Zulu. Eshowe has a rich history as a former British administrative center. It’s famous for a natural area called the Eshowe Forest.

In 1977, the desperate need for a Secondary School in the growing township of Gezinsila (now King Dinizulu Suburb), near Eshowe, had come to the attention of the local Rotarians. The Rotary Club of Eshowe assisted in the formation of what is now the Eshowe Community Action Group or, as it is known world-wide, the ECAG.

ECAG invented a clever arrangement. A local community would raise a 10% deposit (these days about $1,200, a large sum in rural South Africa), then ECAG would find an organization or individual to provide the other 90%. ECAG found engineers to develop a simple standard classroom design, easily duplicated, so that every school would be easy to build and safe for the students.

Civil engineer Emmanuel at Emasundwini School

Class under trees can’t be held in cold or rainy weather.

A school built by ECAG

IT WORKS!

The local community’s investment means the people respect and care for their school. The standard plan ensures that common materials and readily-available skills are used in construction of each school.

The day-to-day running of the ECAG is done through the offices of Makhoba Volbrecht & Associates. Their work is overseen by a management committee consisting of Rotarians, headmasters, Department of Education and Culture officials and other Provincial Government officials. The organization has, to date, achieved the building of just under 2,000 classrooms and 14 laboratories at 150 locations.

The learners are between 5 - 21 years old. Thousands of these children do not go to school, not through any fault of their own, but rather due to a lack of educational facilities. In rural South Africa, there are no libraries, movie theatres, or other places where children can learn about the world outside their community.