

Mobile Libraries: Vehicles for Change



Libraries in South Africa

Some Statistics

There are approximately 24,136 schools in South Africa...

...with 11.976 million students...

...taught by 391,829 teachers...

...9,416 of those schools have libraries...

**19% of schools in South Africa
have their own library facilities**

Existing Mobile Libraries in Cape Town

SAMLA (South African Mobile Library Association): takes books to the underprivileged in surrounding townships

Southfield Mobile Library Service: a district of the Cape Provincial Library Services that brings its resources to community centers

Wheelie Bookwagons: takes mobile library resources to schools that have little or no access to library facilities

Ours is Different Because...

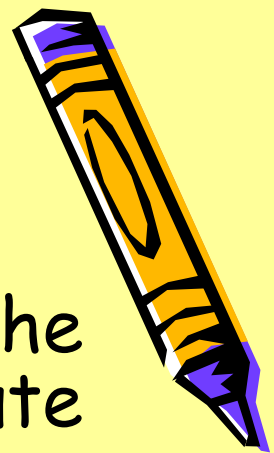
It will specifically target schools and with an emphasis on socially conscious literature as well as the development of library and computer skills on a weekly basis

Literacy

A Definition

Generally, literacy is considered to be the ability to read, write, and speak and compute at a certain level. Functional literacy involves skills needed to cope at an adult level in everyday situations, such as reading a newspaper or completing a job application form. People who lack these abilities often are members of populations suffering from poverty, crime, and unemployment.

-Linda Schamber, The Role of Libraries in Literacy Education



Mobile Libraries



- As a solution to the problems just mentioned, we propose the implementation of a mobile library system.
- However, whereas most mobile libraries act as just book delivery systems, our ML system would be a community development tool.
 - Books would focus on modern and relevant issues
 - Sponsor programs focusing on library skills, literacy and pressing social issues
 - Serve as a networking tool amongst the serviced schools



What We Need

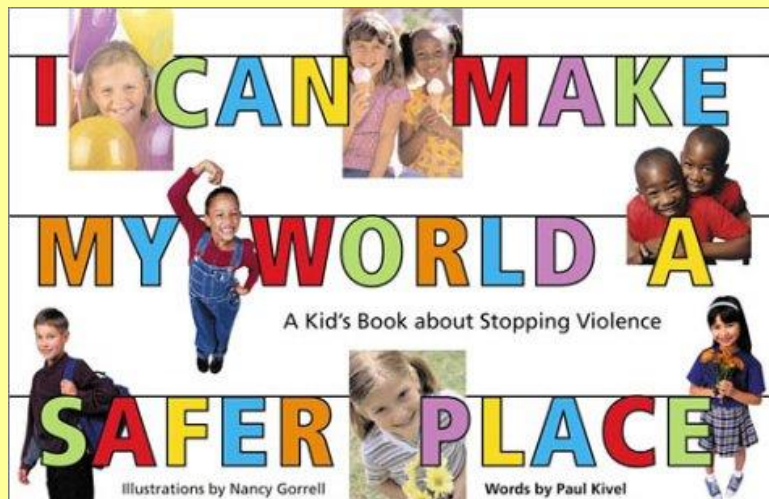


- **Large Capacity Vehicle** (minibus, van, trailer etc.)
 - Insurance, petrol, maintenance
- **Computers**
 - Software
 - Scanners
 - Mobile Internet Access
- **Specialty Books**
 - Gender empowerment
 - HIV/AIDS education
 - Children's rights
 - Native Language
- **Salaries for full-time librarian and assistant**

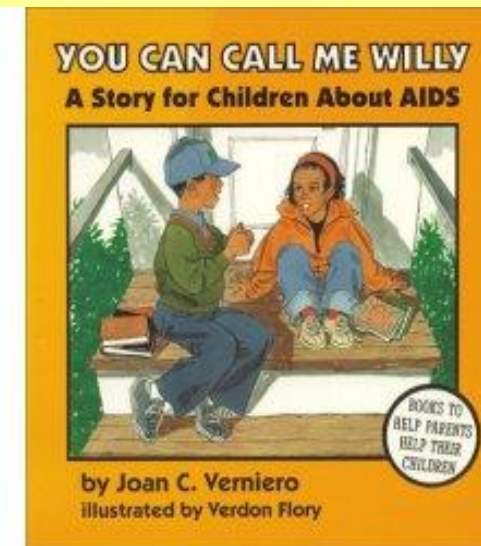


Awareness Through Reading

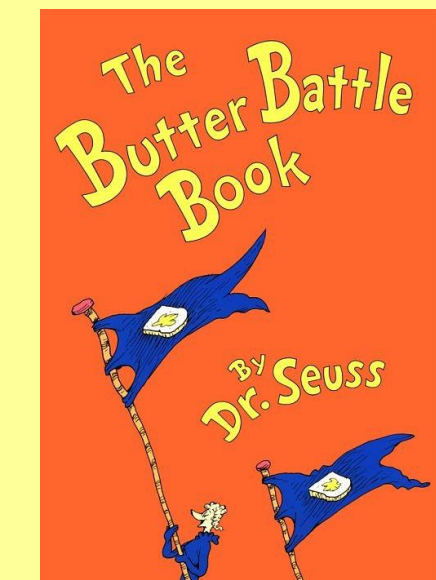
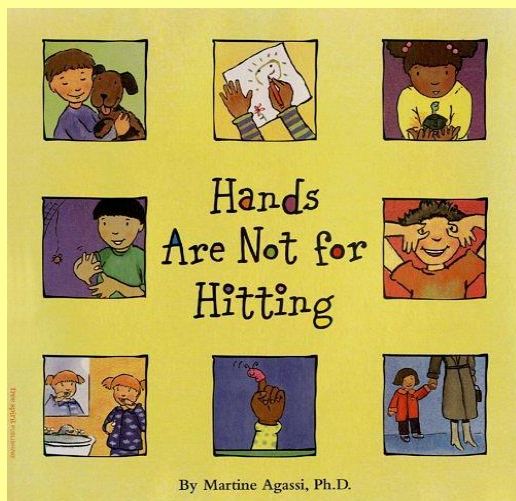
Examples of Books our Mobile Library Would Offer...



Violence



HIV/Aids



Race and Equality

Operation Times



- The library will go to a different school every day of the week.
- The ML will arrive at a designated school at 8 (the start of the school day), and stay until near the end.
- The ML would function as a class for the learners. Each class would go outside for about a 30-minute time period.



Library Programs



- Learners will not just browse the books and pick one out, but actually interact with teachers and the librarian on the bus.
- Programs will be about the importance of reading, library skills, and social issues.
- We want to use libraries as vehicles for knowledge about pressing issues.



The Importance of Library Skills



- Too many learners are not aware of the benefits of libraries as:
 - A place to research
 - A place to study or write
 - A place to find new adventures
- Library skills allow learners to become comfortable in a library.
- They will be more likely to utilize libraries in the future.



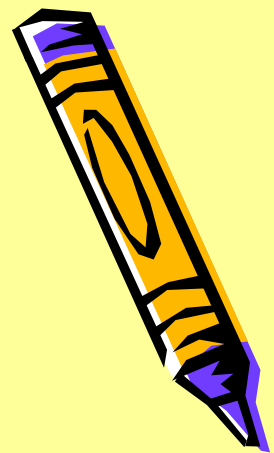
Library Skills



- How to get a library card
- How to use the computer to search for titles, authors, or subjects.
- Typing games would be put on the computers so learners could practice proper typing technique.
- How to use:
 - alphabetizing
 - encyclopedias
 - dictionaries
 - maps
 - phone books
- Learners should become familiar with where to find newspapers and periodicals.



Discussions about Social Issues through Books



- Programs will also include discussions about social issues, such as HIV/AIDS, racism, or violence.
- Books and articles are a great way to prompt discussion about these issues.



Specific Programming Examples

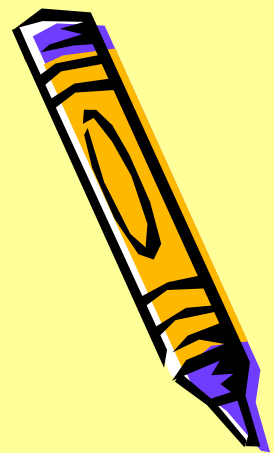


- Librarian conducts a story hour on a book such as, You Can Call me Willy. Afterwards, the librarian can ask questions about what has been learned.
- Children can get involved in reading scenes and short plays about pressures in school.
- More education on HIV/AIDS could be provided through the HIV/AIDS board game.
- Exercises that explore gender and racial biases that are ingrained in children.



Teacher Programming

- Teach library organization skills
 - Tagging books
 - Ordering and Shelving (i.e. DDS)
- How to teach learners library skills (teach the teachers)
- Focus on creating self-sustaining, stand-alone libraries



Teacher Programming

- 1 hr. training sessions after school
- Additional programs on weekends and holidays
- Age appropriate but similar programs, focus on computers and technology
 - Typing, searching and e-mail



Where does it go?



- Disadvantaged Schools
- Schools without libraries or underdeveloped libraries
- Work with Department of Education to identify schools
- EMEP, Amy Biehl Foundation or similarly networked schools
 - Taps into established inter-school relationships
 - Provides a point-of-contact into existing NGOs
 - Allows for greater collaboration, rather than a solitary "out on our own" operation



School Network



- The ML should serve as a library development tool at it's host sites
 - Gathering New Books, Computers and other equipment
 - Organizing existing libraries
 - Give teachers necessaries skills to run a library
- As school libraries become more sophisticated, learners can order books from other schools in the network.
 - ML can then serve as a book delivery service within the network, in addition to normal services.
- Allow teachers to share skills and information



Success!



- The ultimate goal of the ML is to create stand-alone school libraries which
 - Is open and accessible to learners
 - Contains books and materials about relevant social issues
 - Has a fully computerized database connected to provincial and university library systems
 - Has a staff capable of teaching learners library and computer skills
- When these criterion are adequately met, then the mobile library will move on to another school.





What We Need From You

- Connection to broader databases
 - Permission and Cooperation
 - Compatible Software
- Funding
 - Books, computers, buses
 - Salaries, publicity and awareness



Why support a Vehicle for Change?

Libraries are a critical necessity for
the education of children



THANK YOU

