

# The Kurzweil Foundation

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*Project Poetry & Pictures, Gweru Zimbabwe, 2010*

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## **Project Poetry & Pictures, Gweru Zimbabwe**

Project Poetry & Pictures began in 2004 to promote literacy and arts. To that end, we have donated the book *Forever Poems for Now and Then* by Sonya and Amy Kurzweil to organizations serving children and families in the US and abroad. For example, books have been donated to Reach Out and Read Massachusetts and Michigan, Pediatrician offices throughout New England, Trinity College Dublin, Ireland outreach programs, The US Marine Toys for Tots Foundation, Project Read in Mangalore India and Katrina Relief. Between 2006 and 2008, staff presented poetry and art workshops along with donations to the Boys and Girls Clubs of Boston and in the Boston Public Schools and at local museums.

This past year, 2010, we made a very special donation of 500 books to Gweru, Zimbabwe. Books went to the Cecil John Rhodes and its sister school, The Stanley Primary. The Cecil John Rhodes is the alma mater of one of our team, Sandi Dube.

Various challenges faced us in making this happen. One was the cost of shipping to Africa. Then there was getting through customs in Zimbabwe which was not straight forward. Fortunately, it all came together as the DHL Company granted us a major discount and provided excellent door to door service. And the Dube family in Zimbabwe vigilantly attended the customs issues in Gweru, assuring that all the books arrived safely at their destinations by the beginning of the school year, Sept 2010.

Once at the schools, the books were immediately incorporated into classroom lessons and began to be used as texts for teaching poetry and art to the children.

We received wonderful letters of appreciation from the teachers and the children as well as drawings and photos reflecting the children's intellectual talent and creativity. These are included in this booklet. Plans are underway to send our accompanying Time to be a Poet and Time to be a Poet 2 worksheets, also included in this booklet.

I wish to thank our team in Boston, the DHL Company, the Dube Family in Zimbabwe and the teachers and children of Cecil John Rhodes and Stanley Primary for making this such a meaningful and enriching multicultural, educational and artistic experience.

Very Sincerely,

Sonya Kurzweil, Ph.D.,  
Director PP&P, The Kurzweil Foundation  
Dec 2012



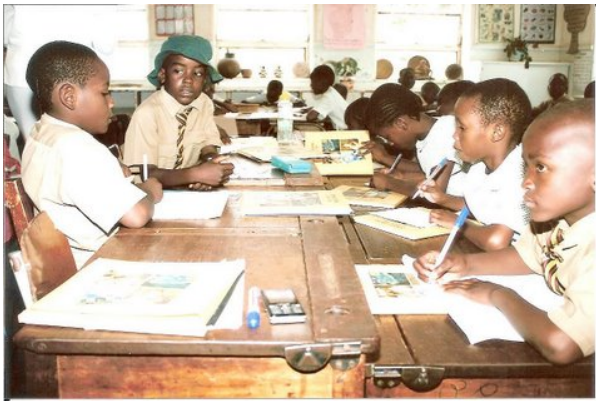
Sandi Dube at her grade school alma mater  
Cecil John Rhodes, Gweru, Zimbabwe, Sept, 2010



Library and Head of School, Mrs. I. Nyabeze



Playground, Courtyard, Theatre



Using *Forever Poems* for Now and Then in the classroom to teach poetry



Sandi Dube, with the children, at the Cecil John Rhodes, summer, 2010