

To: Friends of the LATTICE Basket/Scholarship Project
From: Sally McClintock

Last year you helped Pretty Dube, Velenkosini Buthelezi and Canther Ntuli to make great progress in their educational goals. This letter will tell you some wonderful news about two of these students and then tell you of a very sad, challenging situation for the other. You know that your generosity through the purchase of baskets and some individual "tax-free" donations made possible success for all three of these people. Now I hope you'll consider donating just a little bit for one of them at the LATTICE Session on Thursday, November 20 or by mail (6336 Skyline Drive, East Lansing 48823)

Velenkosini Buthelezi has been selected for an internship at BMW South Africa since June 2008. A talented young man among many talented young people in South Africa, I believe that the LATTICE sponsored education at John Ross College contributed to his being selected. Now he is working, being paid, and being educated/ trained. He writes regularly to express his gratitude to all of us and share his plans/dreams for the future. His work and studies keep him very busy. Living at home with his mother, sister, brother and nephew, he takes on responsibilities for the family as well.

Last week he wrote: "I have been keeping a close eye on the US elections and so is everyone in this country.I believe Obama has the potential to bring change to America I just hope he is able handle the pressure and the responsibility upon him. It is not just the Americans that are putting their hope on him but the rest of Africa."

Here's his message this week

Dear Aunt Sally I wanted to update you on my progress at work. On Monday i was given the company car to go to a course in Durban the BMW mind you and i only had to return it 2 days later. I was very excited somehow i feel like im being treated more special than anyone of the people at work. I enjoy everyday of work and each day seems much better than the day before. I feel very bad for the people who are struggling to find jobs and it is a pity that there is very little i can do to help them. This was just a short update of my progress but ill write to you as soon as i get the opportunity to use a computer and not my phone. Usale kahle Aunt Sally

Canther Ntuli is completing her sophomore year in accounting at the University of Cape Town. Thanks to her hard work and personal encouragement from many of you, she passed all of her exams in Statistics, Economics, Management Accounting and Information Systems. She writes to say "Thank you for your unfailing faith in me."

Pretty Dube has completed her junior year at University of Zululand where she is majoring in education and business. A call at 4 in the morning this week from Pretty reminded me of just how difficult life can be in rural KwaZulu Natal Province. Her life story is one in which she has triumphed over many difficult situations but now she is being challenged again. Pretty phoned with a voice full of stress to tell me that she and a friend had just been hijacked at gunpoint while driving home for vacation after recent

school examinations. The two hijackers blocked the road and pretended to be performing a "regular" vehicle check.

Pretty's clothes, books, laptop computer (new in June from LATTICE sponsors) and cell phone were all taken. Fortunately neither she nor her companion were physically harmed but you can imagine the terror that she experienced, the nightmares she is having and the extreme loss that this is for her since her caretaker, a grandmother who lives with a small pension, can give her no financial help.

The basket sales will support Canter and Pretty for the University studies but the LATTICE friends and members who helped me unpack and label the Zulu baskets in preparation for the upcoming sales, suggested that I let all of you know about this particular situation that Pretty is experiencing. They said that if we each contributed \$1, or \$5 or even \$10, we could probably replace her computer so that she can continue to develop her computer technology skills.

Some of people have already given me checks made out to LATTICE with a note that the funds should be for Pretty Dube. They suggested that I let all of you know the good news and the bad news. All contributions will be tax-exempt since LATTICE is a 501 (c) (3) organization. If you are interested in being one of Pretty's "angels", please send LATTICE a check at 6336 Skyline Drive or bring your contribution to the next LATTICE session on Thursday, November.

I look forward to seeing you at the sales next month. Here are the dates and times.

2008 – Saturday, December 6
10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Fair Trade Sale for the Holidays
Edgewood United Church in East Lansing on Hagadorn

2008 - Saturday and Sunday, December 13 and 14
Alternative Christmas Sale by a number of Fair Trade Organizations
All Saints Episcopal Church in East Lansing on Abbott Road.

Thanks for reading all the way to the end of this update!