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Tilden J. LeMelle, Chairman  
Jennifer Davis, Executive Director

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Dear Friend of The Africa Fund:

This is a time of great drama on the public stage in southern Africa - Namibia is free, the ANC and the South African government have held talks, the South African police have helped Gatsha Buthelezi's Inkatha movement attack ANC supporters.

As critical as these events are, we are also still concerned with the very personal emergencies faced by southern African refugees living in the U.S. - some hope to go home soon, but many still need our help as they face the many emergencies that can beset strangers living precariously in a foreign land.

For example, one morning recently a South African refugee who has a fellowship at New York University came into our office. He was behind on his rent and short on money for food but that wasn't what was worrying him.

His son was very ill in Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston. He felt it was vital that he visit him. Could we help with the train fare?

I'm happy to be able to tell you that a grant from The Africa Fund enabled him to see his son.

This man is just one of hundreds of Africans in the U.S. who face similar problems every year. The Africa Fund is one of the very few places they can turn. A small grant, ranging from a few dollars to several hundred dollars, given quickly and without red tape, can often make an enormous difference.

Let me tell you about just a few of the people we have been able to help:

A young Namibian woman contacted us from Georgia. She had escaped ahead of the South African police at the age of 14, after leading student protests in her high school. She told us how excited she was because Namibia was finally free just as she had completed her studies at Georgia Tech. She was eager to go home and the United Nations had a program that would pay her plane fare. All she had to do was go to Washington D.C. to apply in person and be interviewed. But since she barely had enough money to live on, there was no way she could get there. We were able to give her a grant so that she could travel to Washington and then return to Georgia and collect her belongings before going home to Namibia.



An exiled South African artist came to us as soon as he was released from the hospital where he had been treated for a heart ailment. The medication prescribed cost \$156 - money he just didn't have. Fortunately we were able to help. I'm pleased to be able to report that not only has his health improved but his work was recently shown in a special exhibition honoring Nelson Mandela.

I recently heard from a Namibian graduate student who is completing a PH.D. in mineral economics at the University of Arizona. He wrote that "this training will be of immeasurable value to my country and its people." He has a scholarship which will start in September but was requesting help to get through July and August. I was especially happy that we were able to provide some assistance, because his knowledge of mineral economics will be urgently needed in Namibia where the South Africans trained no black specialists.

Your contribution to The Africa Fund means that these stories had happy endings. Thanks to you, each of these people received the help they needed at a critical time in his or her life.

In a very direct way, help to these individuals has complimented the much broader policy work we also do in support of justice for southern Africa; some past recipients of our assistance have gone on to serve their people as Presidents and Cabinet Members.

I wish we could do even more. Every year we have to turn people away. Either because they need far more than the small grants we can provide, or because we have exhausted our budget for emergency assistance.

Very soon someone else facing a temporary emergency will come to us. I badly want to be able to help that person. I hope your generous donation will make it possible. Thank you.

For freedom,

  
Jennifer Davis  
Executive Director