

International model launches book project

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'I brought you presents. They don't look like Christmas gifts, but they're 100 times better. They'll open new worlds for you.' With these words, international model Minki van der Westhuizen made the first book donation of the Minki Book Project last year. Altogether 48 schools in the Eastern Cape received more than 12 000 books in this first donation, and phase one of the project saw a total of more than 50 000 books being donated to schools and libraries across South Africa.

In April 2004 Minki van der Westhuizen launched the Minki Book Project, a national book campaign, in collaboration with **You/Huisgenoot** and online retailer, [kalahari.net](http://www.kalahari.net). This campaign aimed to provide much needed books to schools,

institutions and libraries that cannot afford to purchase their own books. The original objective of providing one school a month with a 100 books was far exceeded and the success of phase one has now lead to phase two being launched in April 2005.

Phase two of the project will initially run for six months and the public will again be asked to donate books. Libraries throughout South Africa are being approached to act as donation points where people can bring their books. The participating library can then either donate the books to schools in the area themselves, or the books will be collected on a regular

basis and distributed to schools from Cape Town.

Donations can also be made on <http://www.kalahari.net/> or books can be posted or sent by courier to [kalahari.net](http://www.kalahari.net). Any company/ individual that can assist with donations of relevant books, are requested to contact Monean Winterbach (see contact details below). Schools that would like to nominate themselves to receive books can send an e-mail to <nominations@kalahari.net>, fax (021-595 9648) or write to PO Box 13010, NI City, 7463. Always mark the communication clearly as 'Minki Book Project nomination'.

If your library would like to get involved in this project, please contact Monean as soon as possible. It is only by the combined efforts of those who care that we will be able to make a real difference in children's lives by opening the world of reading to them.

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