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To Whom It May Concern:

Request to continue the OLPC project in Limpopo Province, South Africa

Thusanang Trust would like to ask that another 100 laptops be donated to the existing three schools that received laptops last year. Last year when the project was launched, I was very concerned that the project be an on-going, sustainable project and not one that just resulted in a number of items been given to a community and the donors riding off into the sunset. I am glad to see that OHOT students are following through on this pledge.

One criterion was that plans had to be made for ongoing support and involvement and the group worked very hard to ensure such support. Only thirty laptops were given to each school for one grade only and for the next few months, while each grade 5 child took the laptop home each day, each grade 4 and grade 6 pupil also shared the laptops at a weekly lesson. Hence, it would be wonderful if more laptops were made available for the current grade 5 classes to own their own laptops. Paul and Joe can explain the current ownership plan and I am proud to say, in a country with one of the highest crime rates in the world, that not one laptop has been stolen in the past six months.

As in each planned deployment, getting the laptops through customs will take planning but I believe that plans should start now to deal with that issue. We will be able to host the OLPC team with pleasure and the equipment sent over will be stored at the Thusanang buildings, where we have strong rooms. We have already established agreements with the three school communities and therefore foresee no handing over problems as we sorted all such issues in 2008. We are not interested in introducing them at other schools at the moment as we believe that the best use for the proposed donation will be at Katane, Driehoek and Mmaweshi schools. Each of the teachers in charge of the project at the schools has already overcome great challenges in learning how to use the computers and how to assist and facilitate the use by children.

Yours sincerely

Shelley Milstein

Project Manager

Thusanang Trust

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