



RENZACCI UK PLC

PRESS RELEASE

Issue Date : 28 April 2009
Header : PUTTING SOMETHING BACK

Occasionally a story comes along that strikes a chord. In the case of the Lekki School near Lagos in Nigeria, it left an impression on us because of its connections with the laundry and dry cleaning industry. When you have read it, perhaps you, too, will be moved to help, even in the present difficult financial climate.

The story starts 12 years ago when Jason Alexander, MD of Renzacci UK asked Brian Pearce to visit Tanzania to help set up that country's first fully professional dry cleaners. After successfully completing his mission, Brian was contacted by a delightful lady called Nana Otedola, who had heard of his success and who wished to start her own dry cleaning company in Nigeria.

The project became known as Garment Care, and they have not looked back. They have just celebrated their 10th anniversary with the opening of their third factory and now employ 400 staff. They have consistently used laundry and dry cleaning equipment



supplied via Jason, and they support it through a maintenance team of 5 engineers, all trained by Brian.

Garment Care has stayed true to its original community ideals, not only by providing jobs, but also by training other companies to produce quality products locally. They have shown the way to be economically friendly by safe waste disposal, recycling of water and the correct use of health and safety at work.



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Recently, in the process of acquiring the site for their latest factory, they inherited a 'squatter' school housed in little more than a hut, without windows, toilet facilities, electricity or water. The school was run by a dedicated lady aptly named 'Gift' who ran it for orphans and single parent children. There was little by way of educational materials but it was somewhere children could learn and be looked after while their mothers or guardians were out scratching a living.

Nana and Brian paid for alternative accommodation in a fully equipped building with all the necessary facilities, whilst Brian's wife appealed to friends in the UK for anything they could donate. The response from friends has been overwhelming, but there is still much to be done.

Jason visited Garment Care in Lagos himself in October 2007 and that was the first time he became aware of the situation: "I saw for myself the pitiful state of the old school. It was nothing more than a hovel. As a father of two young lads myself, my heart went out to these youngsters who have nothing. But I also saw the shape of the future, as Brian took me to the plot of land that they had purchased for the new school. I have been following their progress with interest ever since and vowed to try to do what I could to help. The new school has since been built, but they are lacking the sort of materials children here take for granted."

Renzacci UK has itself helped in a tangible way by donating gifts, and, since the company is regularly sending out equipment to Nigeria every couple of months anyway, getting the goods out there is really not a problem. What the school is looking for are basic teaching materials – reading books, stationery, art materials, pens, good quality toys and so on. But they can always turn your used



clothes into cash to fund the purchase of educational materials too – the sort of items you usually take down the charity shop.



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Speaking from Lekki, Brian expressed his gratitude to those who have already donated to their appeal: "These gifts mean so much to the youngsters and the staff alike. There is a refreshing eagerness to learn and such unbounded dedication from the teaching staff. If you can help in any way, we would be so grateful".

So, do please raid your stationery cupboard at work and dig out any items gathering dust. Likewise, look in your wardrobe at home or empty that rail of uncollected cleaning. Please call Shirley James at Renzacci UK on 020 8579 2661, who will arrange free collection from your premises and onward transport to the school.