

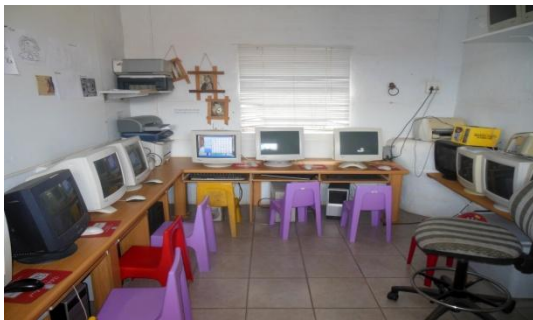
## ACTION UDOBO

Action Udobo is a small UK-based registered charity whose stated objective is:

**To advance the education of disadvantaged children of pre-state school age attending the Udobo School, Montclair, Durban, South Africa**

The charity began as 'The Friends of Udobo School' through a family contact in a small church in Letchworth Garden City and took its present name when it became a registered charity in 2008. It now has supporters all over the UK. It is administered by seven voluntary trustees and reports annually to the Charity Commission. It raises income by fund-raising events such as sponsored walks and by regular donations by subscribers.

Over the years the charity has made grants to the school for major projects, notably the building of a library-resource centre which is named after it.



The main commitment of Action Udobo is provide quarterly grants to support the salaries of two of the five teachers, so the charity depends on a steady flow of income through regular donations.

## WHY SUPPORT ACTION UDOBO?

- It is a small, focused charity with a simple objective – you can see just what your money achieves, in regular newsletters.
- You can be sure that what you give is not eroded by administrative salaries or expenses – Trustees are unpaid volunteers and 96% of funds raised go direct to the school – the only expenses are currency transfers and postage.
- Nor is corruption overseas possible. Action Udobo has a direct management input to the school and the Trustees receive the Governors' annual report and accounts.
- In the face of world poverty and deprivation, you may feel there is little you can do – but a gift to Action Udobo will soon change the life of a real child in a real place.
- Its work encourages self-reliance by the school: the fees paid by families of children provide half the school's income.
- So, it really does help those already helping themselves – the 'fishing rod' principle

For further information see the charity's website:

**[actionudobo.org.uk](http://actionudobo.org.uk)**

You can make a single donation through the website, but please consider a regular gift-aided donation by standing order – forms available from

[actionudobo@gmail.com](mailto:actionudobo@gmail.com)



**UK Registered Charity No. 1138863**

# UDOBO?

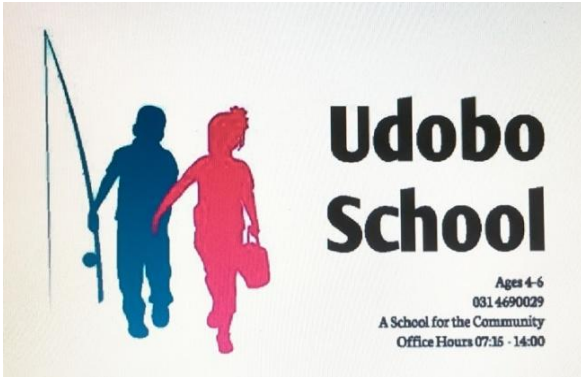
*That's a funny word! What does it mean?*

**[Say 'oo-dor-bor']**

## Udobo is the Zulu for 'fishing rod'



This is the logo for Udobo School in Montclair, a suburb of Durban, South Africa



*'Give me a fish and you feed me for a day – teach me to fish and you feed me for life'*

The school was created on the initiative of members of Montclair Methodist Church, who wanted to relieve the sense of hopelessness which prevailed among the poorest families in its local community. It purchased and converted by volunteer labour an adjacent former stable block.



The school opened with three children in 2004. It now has 100 children and a waiting list of 50. It is seen by the South African government as a model for the development of a community pre-school.



- The Montclair district has many marginalised and underprivileged children, often AIDS orphans, looked after by siblings or grandparents. Many others are Zimbabwean refugees fleeing from poverty and chaos.
- The aim of Udobo School is to take children aged 4-6 from the streets of this poor neighbourhood and give them two years of pre-school learning to enable them to take proper advantage of state education.
- Local children have isiZulu as their home language; the Zimbabweans speak Shona.



- State education, which begins at 7 in South Africa, is in English - without this language skill children are likely to fail in school or drop out and become unemployed.
- Udobo is a proper school, not a play-group. It places children in a classroom situation where they can learn English, and have a flying start in state education.
- Just as important, they learn how to learn: to develop self-discipline, a positive self-image and to experience an atmosphere of hope and ambition which encourages every child to develop his or her full potential – they have been 'taught to fish'.
- It is hard for a hungry child to learn, so Udobo provides breakfast, a mid-morning snack and lunch to each child - 'fish for today'.
- The fun of being a child is not ignored: a highlight of the year is the 'trashion show' in which children, helped by families, display garments fashioned from rubbish such as bin-bags and empty maize mealie sacks.



- The smiles on the faces of the children at the annual 'graduation' show how much their schooling has meant to them.