**Smiles and Hearts Foundation Brings Tools of Hope to Rural Africa**

*Founded by award-winning educator Jane Boyd and award-winning entrepreneur Jeff Werner, the nonprofit delivers tangible tools that empower schools and communities.*

When Jane Boyd and Jeff Werner stepped onto the dusty schoolyard of Reenpan Primary in Limpopo Province, South Africa, in October 2024, they thought they were delivering a simple gift: boxes of notebooks, pencils, and supplies. What they didn’t realize was that the experience would ignite a movement.

Boyd, a longtime educator and award-winning speech and debate coach, and Werner, an award-winning businessman and entrepreneur, had traveled from Texas to see firsthand the needs of rural schools. What they witnessed was both inspiring and sobering.

“We saw bright, eager learners with so little to work with,” Boyd recalled. “It was impossible to walk away without wanting to do more.”

By the summer of 2025, that spark had become the Smiles and Hearts Foundation (SHF) — a nonprofit dedicated to empowering rural African communities with education, safety, and sustainable growth.

Boyd and Werner bring complementary strengths to their shared mission. Boyd offers decades of experience in education and leadership, while Werner brings the vision of an entrepreneur and the discipline of an award-winning business leader.

“Jane saw the need through a teacher’s eyes,” Werner said. “I knew we could build something real around it. Together, we wanted to move beyond short-term aid and create a foundation that equips people for the long run.”

That philosophy defines SHF: a grassroots nonprofit that is USA-based but rooted in direct relationships with schools and communities in Africa.

SHF’s current flagship initiative is the STEM for Reenpan campaign, which provides Portable Science Labs to rural schools. The labs allow children in under-resourced classrooms to conduct hands-on experiments in physics, chemistry, and biology for the very first time.

For Reenpan Primary students, the impact is profound. “When children see, touch, and experiment, their world expands,” Boyd explained. “STEM for Reenpan is about showing kids they can be scientists, engineers, problem solvers — not just observers.”

Werner added: “We don’t give handouts. We give tools that empower communities to stand on their own. It’s that idea of teaching someone to fish — giving skills and resources that last.”

Unlike many organizations, SHF does not simply give money. Instead, it provides tangible tools for continued growth and empowerment — resources that communities can use to build their own futures.

Its mission is summed up in the tagline: Where Hearts and Smiles Change Lives. Its values — compassion, empowerment, education, integrity, and community partnership — guide every initiative.

The Foundation also reflects the personal journeys of its founders. Boyd spent more than three decades in American classrooms, coaching students to national championships and earning honors including induction into the National Speech and Debate Association Hall of Fame.

Werner, as an entrepreneur and award-winning businessman, has been recognized for building successful ventures and for his commitment to community service. His expertise in strategic growth and sustainability ensures that SHF delivers on its promises while earning the trust of donors and partners alike.

Together, Boyd and Werner combine the heart of a teacher and the vision of an entrepreneur — a partnership uniquely positioned to bridge communities across continents.

While SHF is young, its ambitions are bold. Alongside STEM for Reenpan, the Foundation is laying groundwork for broader programs in Education & Opportunity and Awareness & Advocacy.

“We don’t want to be just another organization that parachutes in and leaves,” Werner said. “We want to walk alongside communities, giving them the tools to build their own future.”

For Boyd, the mission remains simple and powerful: “Education changes lives. It changed mine, it changed my students’, and now, through Smiles and Hearts, it can change lives across the world.”

The Foundation is actively inviting donors and partners to join its mission. To learn more — or to make a gift that equips rural children with the tools they need to thrive — visit www.smilesandheartsfoundation.org.

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