



Lily of the Valley Children's Village Makaphutu Children's Village January E-news

Lily of the Valley

Our year started with very mixed feelings as we had to say goodbye to seven of our little ones. Fikile and Tauniza have been fostered by their Lily Housemothers; Siyabonga and Philisiwe were fostered by members of their extended families, whilst Bongani and twins Cindy and Sandile went to new parents. All these children will be visited and we will make sure they are happy and secure in their new environment.

It is hard to say good-bye to these little ones who have become so much part of our lives. Whilst our hearts ache to see these little ones leave, we do realize that it gives us the opportunity to help others in desperate need. December and January seem to be the 'abandoned babies' months - of our 15 new children all but three are tiny-tots, two little girls just one month old. The more 'fortunate' babies were abandoned at Hospitals or Police Stations, but unfortunately others were left in the bush. One little girl, not yet a month old, covered in ants, was discovered by stray dogs. A lady in the vicinity heard her cries and rescued her before serious injuries had occurred.

72 Children from Lily now attend local schools. The 16th January saw the opening of the schools for the new year. Prior to this was the mad rush to get all the children kitted out in uniforms and ensure they all had the necessary school stationery. A VERY busy time for all !!!! 15 of our children started BIG school for the first time and they looked so cute in their uniforms with their schoolbags slung over their shoulders. There was much nervousness on their first day and they all huddled together in a group when they arrived at school. However, by the end of the day, they all happily told us about their first day and how they enjoyed being at "Big school".

We have our very first high school student this year, a young lad who worked really hard and had a great report last year is now very proud to be a 'senior' ! One of our little girls who is physically handicapped started her new weekly boarding school in January, coming home to us every weekend. Although she could not wait to go, it is taking her a little while to adjust.

We had a visit from a South Korean group, who spent a week with us. They put on some wonderful and challenging gospel skits for our staff and children.

Reach for a dream again treated 10 of our children to a day at an animal farm and they all had a great time. Also thanks to Reach for a Dream two of our boys had the experience of a lifetime. Not only did they attend the SA vs West Indies Cricket International in Durban but were taken on to the field and stood as mascots with the S A Team while the National Anthem was played – what a proud moment !

Lily Community Projects

Our new Sports Centre is looking very smart. We are just waiting for electricity to be connected and it will be ready for our first Football match !! The clearing and levelling of the Netball field is taking a bit longer than expected but should be underway soon.

Krysta is working hard to get the new sewing project up and running. Ten ladies have been selected for training which starts soon. One of the wonderful things about this project is that out of the initial sales of the products these ladies will be making, they will repay the cost of the training. A further ten ladies will then be selected and training in this way will take place on an ongoing basis.

Unfortunately while Nathi was working in the tomato tunnels some wire injured his eye. He has undergone treatment and minor surgery and we are pleased to say has recovered well and should be back at work soon.

Makaphutu

The new year started off with an exciting New Year party at Wade and Felicity's house. Great fun was had by all, playing in the pool and eating together.

January was a very busy month, buying school uniforms & getting everyone ready for school. Five of our youngsters started high school this year. They were all very excited about moving up to the senior level.

Our Social Worker, Nombuso Dimba is conducting and leading weekly meetings with the Care Workers, which have proved to be very fruitful. She also organises meetings with the children on a weekly basis and has one-on-one counselling sessions with each child.

A young lady, who completed matric last year, started a Leadership training course at "World Changers Academy" and is thoroughly enjoying it. Silindilo started boarding school at a school for the blind in Pietermaritzburg and is enjoying it so far. He comes home to Makaphutu every week-end.

Five of our girls as well as three of the ladies, Barbara, Nosa and Nombuso have joined the Ladies soccer team at Forest Hills soccer club. The senior boys have all started their training programme again and the junior team are looking forward to the start of their training very soon.

We are happy to welcome Suzanne from Monteseel, who comes to Makaphutu as a volunteer every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. She is helping with Administration as well as helping to organise the vegetable garden.

All in all a wonderful start to our New Year, we are truly blessed.