



Lily of the Valley Children's Village Makaphutu Children's Village July/August E-news

LILY OF THE VALLEY CHILDREN'S VILLAGE

We are pleased to welcome Phumelele Tsehle as our new Child Care Manager (Auxiliary Social Worker) Phume has been with the Open Door Crisis Centre, and gained experience which is proving invaluable in her new role. As well as keeping the Social Welfare work up to date she is counselling many of the kids and running weekly workshops with the Housemothers, covering many important issues.

Staff from Greys Hospital recently came out and ran a workshop for our Housemothers, covering all areas relating to HIV and AIDS. 67 children are presently on antiretroviral treatment and a course was also run with the older children, teaching them the importance of taking this medication.

We welcomed two new children to the Lily family, a 9 month old girl with a very cheerful disposition who is always smiling. A little boy of 14 months, who is still not able to sit or stand by himself. He needs a lot of love and care, his Housemother has started his road to recovery by introducing him to solid food.

Many social events took place during the July school holidays. Just some of the highlights:

- A record 24 children reached their goal for our Reading Club and were rewarded with an outing to the movies, "Ice Age 3" which they absolutely loved.
- 20 of our boys with Mike, a volunteer, were very excited to go with Varsity College and the Reach for a Dream organization to the SA Air Force Base to ride in military helicopters. We are not sure who had the bigger grin afterwards, Mike or the children!!
- Our boys went on a visit, organized by the Reach for a Dream Foundation, to the Absa Stadium to meet the Natal Sharks Rugby Team. They were also very excited to meet some of the Springbok players who happened to be there preparing for their test against New Zealand. They came home very excited and showed off all the Shark goodies they received.
- The "Big 3" (our 3 oldest boys at Lily) decided to combine their birthdays and have a braai, dance, games evening, which everyone enjoyed.
- Our older girls also combined their birthdays and they went tenpin bowling and enjoyed a meal of KFC.

What has been the biggest joy for us at Lily over the last 2 months is the desire of 7 children to make a commitment to follow the Lord Jesus Christ. Over a couple of evenings 7 children asked about giving their lives to Jesus and seeking His forgiveness. Each afternoon they meet to read the Bible to help them discover who they are in Christ. Pray they will grow in their new found faith !

LILY COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Lily Medical Clinic

A *Senior Citizens Health Day* was held at the Clinic. The senior members of the local Community were invited to attend for a health check-up. They were then served tea and everyone was given a blanket to take home. This event went exceptionally well with over 300 senior citizens attending.

Post Natal Clinic - We have also started a post natal clinic for babies up to 6 months old. The objective is to encourage mothers on post natal check up's, correct misconceptions on immunization, breastfeeding, education on family planning and most importantly prevention of mother to child HIV transmission.

Community Gardens

In order to ensure the sustainability of our projects, especially the food programme, we have, with the assistance of Conejo Valley Community Church, launched the Community Gospel Garden Project. The aim is that two community workers, Kangelani and Zwandile, will train and mentor families at their own homes to develop food producing gardens.

The project started by making repairs to the old plant nursery and starting the production of vegetable seedlings. The team then started composting and preparing a demo garden. We have even started a small 'worm farm' which we hope to scale up to provide low cost (& organic) fertiliser to be used in the gardens.

Block Making Project

It was a great joy to see the re-launch of the block and brick making yard. This coincided with building operations for Lily 3, (initially two new houses) the goal being to supply the building operation with blocks and bricks made on site. We have also secured a commitment for ongoing purchases from a local building contractor.

MAKAPHUTU CHILDREN'S VILLAGE

Euan Blackman and his team of teachers, Cassie, Angela, Kristal and Jenna, from *Teachers Making a Difference, (TMD) U.S.A.* returned to Makaphutu this month. Their project this year was to renovate the science classroom at KwaNtenbeni Comprehensive High School in KwaNuyswe. The room received a much needed facelift that included the installation of floor tiles, 5 taps and basins with running water, new paint on the walls and windows, repairs to broken windows and ceiling. TMD also purchased chairs and tables for students to use for LAB practicums. As part of the process of updating the school's technology to the 21st century, a new LCD projector was also purchased to be used in the science room. Thank you TMD for your hard work and dedication your efforts will make a tremendous difference to the children in our local community.

We are pleased to welcome Jacques Beslaar, a local volunteer from the Durban area. Jacques is currently studying Practical Theology and has joined us as a volunteer to do his practical. Jacques has played soccer for the South African under 19 team and will be a tremendous help with our soccer team.

The crèche has grown to 44 kids, with 19 of them attending Grade R, this year as the word spread throughout the community of the quality of the service provided. This is an awesome reflection of the impact that Makaphutu is having in our community. We had a visit from our friends from Germany, Albrecht and Birgit Schneider and their team. Birgit was instrumental in establishing the crèche at Makaphutu and returns every year to visit and to donate learning aids. Albrecht has established a German web site for Makaphutu and contributes tirelessly to promote Makaphutu

There was much excitement as the children from our music class played in a concert at the Durban City Hall. We owe such a very big thank you to Fiona Grayer from the KZN Philharmonic Orchestra for her tireless effort and passion for music, as she continues to visit twice a week to teach our children to play the Violin and Cello.

Lastly, we have started our first course at the new Skills Development Centre at Makaphutu. What excitement!!!! We are currently running an Entrepreneurial Skills Course where community people are learning how to start and establish their own business. This course has been sponsored by Merseta, a Government subsidiary, and run in conjunction with Triple L and Sebenza Training. The community people have shown great enthusiasm and we are sure that they will do extremely well.

GENERAL

On 13 August the Annual General Meetings were held at our Conference Centre, commonly known as Bushwillow. It was a very special time in that four AGM's were held one after the other! These included the Lily Children's Village, the Lily Projects, Makaphutu Children's Village and the Makaphutu Children's Trust. Fortunately there is a convenient overlapping of Directors and Members so we were able to conduct the statutory and financial requirements with relative ease. The highlights of these gatherings are the Managers' reports as these give a good insight and summary into the activities that take place during the preceding year. As you receive our monthly ENews you already have knowledge of much of what takes place on a day-to-day basis. Another highlight for us was the presence of Sharon Clack, a Lily Director and President of the Love Foundation based in Los Angeles. That Sharon was able to be with us was a real pleasure.

It is important to record that, in financial terms, we have enjoyed a successful year and our financial strength continues to grow. The value of fixed assets under our management also escalated which means that we have more means with which to care for our children and the poor and needy folk in the adjacent communities. We are pleased to share this good news with you, ever conscious that the success is due to the generosity and kindness of our friends and loyal funders – most of whom receive this newsletter! Your friendship and support is deeply appreciated – thank you, we are very grateful!

PS: We have launched our new upgraded website : www.lov.org.za