



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

Lily of the Valley

This month there was another cause for celebration as another child at Lily reached his teenage years and celebrated his birthday with an outing to the beach and a typical South African braai (barbecue) which was greatly enjoyed by all his friends!!!!

Thirty tricycles were very kindly donated by Life in Motion to Lily and the Ekujabuleni Day Care Centre and were very happily received by the excited little ones. In order to teach the children road safety, a cycle track is being planned, complete with road signs, stop streets etc. This track was the dream of Marian Loker and will be funded by donations received in her memory.

During the Easter holidays everyone had a great time together, celebrating the Passover meal with the children and the staff and it was a wonderful time seeing how Jesus fulfils the Passover. On Good Friday the children went on a "journey" as the last hours of Jesus life were recounted. With the help of the volunteers the children were taken to 6 different stations where a part of the Easter story was told and enacted. On Sunday our children and about 30 children from the local community got together to watch part of the Jesus film in Zulu covering the death and resurrection of Jesus. This was followed by an egg hunt, a session colouring in the eggs, a talk and then Easter eggs were handed out to the delight of all involved!!!

During the holidays many of our children visit extended families or are invited to spend the holidays with host families. This is an exciting time for the children and they enjoy the experience. For others, many were given the opportunity to attend holiday camps. 10 of our children went on a wonderful camp in the Drakensberg Mountains arranged by Reach for a Dream. They had a great time swimming and playing games, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all concerned, including the two housemothers who went to look after them!! 'Dare to Dream' again invited 10 of our children to a camp and they had great fun diving through mud, going down the foofie slide, swimming in the dam, playing games etc, etc. One knows when a good time has been had by the amount of chatter and recollection stories on their return. There were plenty of many happy memories after these camps - a big thank you to both these organizations!!!

On a slightly sadder note, one of our new little girls was rushed to hospital in a serious condition due to diabetes. Nobody, including her family, knew she had this condition and so it came as a shock to us all. Following much prayer and good care in the hospital, we are looking forward to welcoming her home very soon!!!

Lily Projects

Our first sewing class started with much excitement and enthusiasm. All the ladies are benefiting tremendously from the teaching skills of their very able and dedicated teacher, Thandi, and are greatly enjoying learning new and better techniques. The items the ladies are producing are geared toward the market in both South Africa and overseas. We see an excellent future with the items they have chosen, from denim aprons with African beading to track suits (sweats) and wrap around skirts. Our grateful thanks to LoVE U.S.A. for funding the additional sewing machines to make this class possible and to Krysta for heading up this project.

Much to the delight of both the Lily and community children we have again started to show films in our hall.

During March, the Department of Health sent an Inspector to do an 'official' inspection of our Clinic and we are happy to say that we passed with flying colours. We hope this means the Clinic will be registered very soon !

Makaphutu

This month we said a sad farewell to our driver S'boniso who is leaving us so that he can concentrate on his studies. He has been a delightful person to work with and we will all miss him. Also leaving us are Pastor Denario, his wife Pumla and his daughter Havella, and we wish them well with their future plans. We welcome Ayanda Zondi who has joined us as a volunteer. Ayanda is from our local community and has much experience working with teenagers and children. We also welcome Wiseman Gwala who has many years experience in the security field and will take charge of security at Makaphutu.

School holidays are upon us again, and many of the children have gone home to be with extended families or have been invited to spend the holidays with host families. All of them were excited and looking forward to their time away. Reflecting on the last school term, the children have done very well academically and we are pleased with their progress. There are still some who face some challenges but with good support and input we trust that they will do well.

We received a wonderful donation of small bikes/tricycles from Life in Motion, which have been distributed between the community Daycare and Makaphutu. The children were very excited and have already had great fun.

Outings this month included a day at the beach and a trip to the movies which is always popular. Our 8 to 14 years old children went to Koinonia for an art project, which is run by Alison Warmback, who has been involved with Makaphutu's children for a number of years. Alison reported her satisfaction at seeing an increased sense of security and stability in the children and was particularly happy to find an increased respect for their work. It is always encouraging to receive reports of this nature. The children have entered an art competition this month and are looking forward to the results.

The ladies soccer has been in full swing with their participation in a tournament which involved three other teams. It was a good learning curve and they have gained some valuable experience. Most of them had never played in a proper match and were very excited about the tournament. The junior soccer league season is set to begin soon and all the children have been putting in loads of practice. We are continuing with the construction of our fields at Makaphutu and hope to have the retaining walls / seating completed by mid April.

With very best wishes from the Lily and Makaphutu Teams