



Lily of the Valley Children's Village Makaphutu Children's Village September / October E-news

LILY OF THE VALLEY CHILDREN'S VILLAGE

Little Mfundo will celebrate Christmas in California! This little two year olds adoption has been finalized and he will leave shortly with his new parents. We wish the family well as Mfundo meets his new brother Adam and sister Aimee. Although it is always sad to see our children leave we know this little guy has a great future with a loving and caring family.

This is always an exciting time as children write exams and look forward to the end of the school year.

Achievements –

- One of our little girls, Thembelihle, was recently awarded a “Certificate of Honour” for being the “Best Learner 2008/9”. A proud result from a very hardworking pupil!
- Nelisiwe “Nellie” recently took part in the Durban and Districts Cross Country race. She ran in the 2km division and came 4th and she was then selected to participate in the KwaZulu Natal Cross Country Meet the following week. Although she ran very well she just missed out on a place to go further. We are very proud of her considering she hardly ever runs and does not even enjoy the sport! She is being strongly encouraged to run and develop her talent.
- Our high school children recently asked for help with their accounting schoolwork as they are struggling. Sharon our accountant has happily agreed to help them. They are very enthusiastic and excited – thank you Sharon.

Health –

- Our little girl who arrived at Lily suffering from an STD after being raped is doing well. The operations have been very successful. We praise God for the healing that has taken place in her little body.
- Although our young diabetic has come a long way she still battles with her condition, she had another stay in hospital but her condition is again stable.
- Minnie has not been feeling well and has fainted several times. We have taken her to the local doctor but there has been no improvement, she has now been admitted to Grey's Hospital for further tests.
- Lethiwe, recently to her delight, received her hearing aid and is so excited that her hearing has improved.

The Reach for a Dream organization took 20 children to the IMAX cinema to watch a movie about survival. They also enjoyed a great meal and received lovely ‘goodie bags’ afterwards.

We held a formal Youth Dinner, and the youth had a great time dressing up smartly and eating good food and dessert. A fun evening!!!

Akhona was small for her age and quite frail but always happy and smiling. Although her birthday was on the 19th we had a party for all the ‘October birthdays’ on the afternoon of Friday 2nd October. Akhona did not take part in all the games and dancing but still had a great time and was delighted to take home some beautiful presents and party ‘goodies’ to her Housemother and family in House 8. She went to sleep a very happy little girl; little did we know she was never to wake. Saturday morning, at about 5 am Akhona died – although we mourn her loss we know that she is with our Lord. A service to celebrate her too short life took place; she was just 7 years old.

LILY COMMUNITY PROJECTS

LILY MEDICAL CENTRE – After nearly 2 years of patient perseverance the clinic has finally been recognised as a health care facility! To add to the good news we have also been licensed to dispense medication through Dr. Leon van Schalkwyk. This is a real milestone in the history of the clinic. The process of ordering our medication has now begun and already we have been able to begin dispensing in a small way. Our prayer is that the clinic will now grow and be of even greater service to the community.

The home based care programme has increased by 12 more members hence the clinic has focused on training and refresher courses. Department of Health conducted a course on TB and its MANAGEMENT. Gateway Projects also facilitated a two week course on Home Care and HIV.

SPORT: We have had a very successful year, and now have well established U13boys, U17boys and Girls soccer teams. The girls team 'Lily Shooting Stars' did particularly well and were even invited to the District trials. They have been recognized by SAFA (South African Football Association) and will be registered next season. The Lily staff played against the Hammarsdale Police team but we lost 3-1.

LILYVALE SCHOOL: The two new classrooms are near completion and will be ready for the start of the new school year in January. Jonathan and Ethel Tanganyiwa are both qualified educators who have achieved wonderful results with the Education programme and Crèche at Makaphutu. This couple has agreed to join our Lily staff to start and build the Lilyvale School. We will start with Grade R and Grade 1 and add on each year. Thandi Meyiwa will continue as Principal of the Ekujabuleni Centre

LILY 3: Our first three buildings are now ready for the interior finishing. These homes are slightly bigger than our Lily houses; they have four bedrooms and will accommodate a Housemother/father and six children, two children to a room. These will be transitional homes for our teenagers who are nearing their time to leave the shelter of the Children's Home and for the 18 year olds who legally have to leave our facilities but are not ready to cope on their own. These youngsters will continue their education either academic or learning skills at the Lily Community Project or through the Makaphutu Training Courses.

MAKAPHUTU CHILDREN'S VILLAGE

We welcomed several new children to the Makaphutu family, and for the first time encountered children who are HIV positive and suffering from TB. This entailed new training for our staff as they learned about special medication and treatment.

Housemother Barbara Ndaba has resigned and will leave us at the end of November. Barbara has registered to start her nursing studies in December. We wish her well as she starts her new career.

We said a sad goodbye to Slidilo. Sli has a visibility disability and has been transferred to Sakethembe for a year. This is an organisation that will help him become more independent. At the end of this period we hope Sli will move to Lily 3 (referred to under the Lily Projects).

Our Crèche has achieved wonderful results and a really good learning environment has been established. We had a scare when two children were diagnosed with swine flu. We closed the facility for two weeks and reopened with all the children having to produce a clearance certificate from their doctors. All is now well and the children are gearing up for their Graduation and Christmas party.

Training Course: Together with our partners we have completed our first accredited course 'How to start your own business' which was attended by 60 delegates. As with all new ventures we did encounter a few initial difficulties but these were quickly resolved and the course was completed successfully. We are now setting up a schedule for various Courses, Training and Workshops for the new year.

GENERAL

We benefitted from another visit from our loyal and committed friends of the LSA (Loving South Africa) Team from Indianapolis, U.S.A. These friends stayed at Makaphutu but visited Lily and other partners they support in other areas, primarily in the Valley of a Thousand Hills. Their financial support for our battle against HIV and Aids remains strategic and profoundly appreciated. You are encouraged to visit the LSA website to learn more about the extensive ministries of Geoff Wybrow and his indefatigable team in the USA. See: www.lovinglsa.org

The U.K. based organization 'TWO WEEKS' have worked with our emerging health projects for the last four years, arranging for professional folk to come and contribute by working in our various departments. This month saw the arrival of two Doctors and two Social Workers. The Doctors, Karen Patten and Simina Shah, have worked in our Clinic as well as helping at Lily and Makaphutu, and visiting the government schools in our area. The Social Workers have concentrated on the children at Lily and have been a considerable help to our own Social Worker, Phume Tsehle. Thank you, our faithful friends from the UK, for your commitment and dedication to our children. Your contributions to our ministries are much appreciated and we wish "Two Weeks" every success as it expands its activities and reach.

In mid October we enjoyed another visit by Trustees of the Dame Hilary Cropper Charitable Foundation, based in England. Our partnership with these generous and supportive Trustees has assisted the development of our Ekujabuleni Crèche, the vegetable growing tunnels, the appointment of a Nursing Sister for the Lily Medical Centre, the upgrading of several buildings, and also assistance with overhead expenses both at the Lily and Makaphutu. One way we endeavoured to express thanks to the Trustees was to arrange a night drive through the Tala Game Park. The Toyota 4 x 4 they were allocated had two punctures – the same wheel – and it was raining and extremely muddy. This episode can be included in our company manual on “How Not To Impress Partners”!