



NEWSLETTER – MARCH 2010

Bursary Project

Thanks to their hard work last year, both the 2009 bursars were accepted to study in their field of choice in 2010. Samukelo has started a 3 year diploma in Public Relations at DUT and Philile is studying a BSc (Biological Sciences) at UKZN. Both are really enjoying their courses. Thanks to Prestige Cleaning Services and the Victor Daitz Foundation for sponsoring Samukelo and Philile respectively.

The two tertiary students sponsored by Suncoast performed well in their Grade 12 examinations last year. They are upgrading a few matric subjects through ICESA, as well as studying 2 law subjects though UNISA; in order to pursue careers in Criminology (Thobeka) and Law (Tsepo). Thank you to the students mentors for their valuable guidance and support.

Suncoast is also sponsoring 6 renewable school bursaries: 2 Grade 9 (Chesterville Secondary), 2 Grade 6 (Christopher Nxumalo) and 2 Grade 2 bursaries (ukuKhanya Kwelanga). The children were selected by their teachers in 2009. To date their school fees have been covered, and they have received their school uniform & stationery requirements. Other educational expenses such as extra lessons and textbooks will be provided as necessary. Suncoast staff are providing a monthly mentorship programme for these school bursary recipients.

The children, their parents and teachers/principals were recently invited to Suncoast for an official announcement of the bursaries. It was a very proud occasion, where their school principals took the opportunity to congratulate the children, but also remind them of their responsibility to make the most of the opportunity they have been given.

We look forward to observing the progress of the bursary candidates, and trust that they will in time fulfil leadership roles in their families and community.



New school uniforms



Suncoast Bursary Announcement

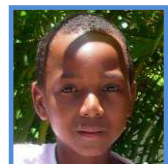


Mentorship



Chesterville Secondary

Christopher Nxumalo Primary



Ukukhanya Kwelanga Junior



After-School Sport (Sport For All)



2009 Year-end Camp: Sixty Sport For All children enjoyed an exciting weekend of sport, games and equipping with their coaches at Koinonia Conference Centre in Botha's Hill in December. Thank you to everyone who helped make it such a success. We hope to make this an annual event.

New Sport For All franchise for Chesterville Extension



We are very pleased to report that following the successful operation of Sport For All at Chesterville Sports Ground (Road 1) since early 2009, support from Sport For All Franchising has led to a second Sport For All franchise in Chesterville. The new site is in Chesterville Extension 1, on a municipal field located between H.P. Ngwenya Primary and Chesterville Extension Secondary Schools.



A proud moment for the Sport For All Team

The Sport For All container arrived in March, following which an Open Day was held to introduce the community to Sport For All. The event was well attended by over 300 children, as well as parents and local community leaders. It was a tremendous asset having the on-site assistance of Agresham & Potjo from Sport For All head-office during the set-up phase. Coaching is taking place at this field each day after school, and formal registration of the children is in progress. Once sufficient numbers of children are registered an official Launch will be held. This event will be advertised in advance – we would love to see you there.

The establishment of the 2nd franchise is a big step towards the objective of keeping children from Chesterville productively occupied and safe after school, as well as providing life-skills training and an opportunity for role-modeling. We would however still like to raise sufficient enterprise development funding to establish a 3rd Sport For All franchise in Chesterville in order to accommodate children living in areas some distance from the existing sites.



Camp Fun!



2nd Sport For All Site (Chesterville Extension 1)

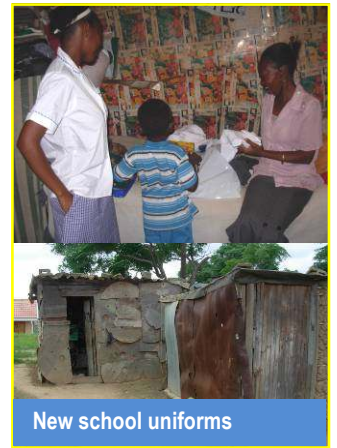


1st Sport For All Site (Road 1, Chesterville)

Community Welfare Support



The year started off well with a generous donation of R20,000 for school uniforms, fees and stationery. It has been wonderful to be able to assist several deserving families in this regard - mostly child headed households or families where the parent is terminally ill and the family does not have birth documents or access to social grants. To date eighteen children have been assisted with uniforms, stationery and school fees. The donation allowed us to provide more than one uniform per child, which helps the families a lot with washing and wear & tear. Even though school fees are 'only' R200-R400 per year, payment of these fees goes a long way in helping the schools.



Several cases of suspected child abuse (mainly physical and alleged sexual abuse) and other social issues related to learners have been reported to us by Chesterville schools. We then assist with investigation and follow-up on these cases. We are assisting a family with a young autistic child, and social assistance is continuing to be provided to two child headed families whilst they are waiting to access social grants.

We have been fortunate to have three student social workers from UNISA with us. One 4th year student is doing her practical placement and two 3rd year students are volunteering. It is great to have young enthusiastic workers. They will be involved in some counselling, as well as life-skills programmes within the organisation.

The Welfare Forum has been going well with a lot of networking taking place in the community and organisations starting to work together. The next Chesterville Welfare Forum meeting is scheduled for the 14th of April.



Food Parcels

Chesterville Street Committee Representatives, the Chesterville Residents Association and Vukukhanye distributed 65 food parcels to needy families in Chesterville towards the end of 2009. The food parcels were very kindly donated by East Coast Radio Toy Story via the Westville Rotary Club. The food parcels consisted of a 20kg box of non-perishable food and 2x10kg maize meal. Thanks to Laser Junction, Capilano and Door Rescue for their assistance with transport.



Gardening Initiatives

Investec has committed to invest in two gardening projects in Chesterville. With the assistance of the Chesterville Residents Association, suitable sites have been identified and on-site training, to be provided by Food & Trees for Africa, will commence in April. The investment package for each site includes a 2-day practical workshop, gardening equipment and planting materials (seeds, seedlings). The aim of the project is to help groups who are already taking initiative to create productive, sustainable gardening projects, which can be a source of food and income for community members; as well as a working model which others can learn from. Preparation of the sites (clearing of bush and weeds etc.) has started. Corporate 'work-parties' are invited to participate in this collaborative effort – current needs include the collection of free manure from Yellowood Park to assist with the improvement of soil condition.



Masxha Garden Site



St. Ann's Catholic Church Site

Suncoast staff 'work-party' clearing weeds at the St Ann's site



The Street Committee Team (Chesterville Residents Association & Vukukhanye) was invited by the Department of Community Safety and Liaison to present at a Provincial Symposium: "Building a United Front Against Crime" on the 21st of January. The team presented on the model used and progress made in Chesterville, where Street Committees have been established over the last 18 months. (An outline of this presentation can be viewed at <http://www.vukukhanye.org/site/reportsandnewsletters>) We are currently engaging with the Department of Community Safety and Liaison to develop a model which can assist with the establishment of 'community safety groupings' (e.g. street committees) in other communities in KwaZulu-Natal.

Street committees in Chesterville continue to meet regularly to deal with safety and social issues and help residents resolve cases. The Chesterville Residents Association facilitates communication between residents and the Police when required. Street committees also play an integral role in social matters, and have for example recently formed a Sports & Recreation team to promote and coordinate sporting opportunities.

Early Childhood Development

Cygnets Pre-Primary School continues to host quarterly workshops for principals from at least 7 Chesterville Preschools, which have proved incredibly beneficial and inspiring. The next workshop will be held on the 23rd of March.



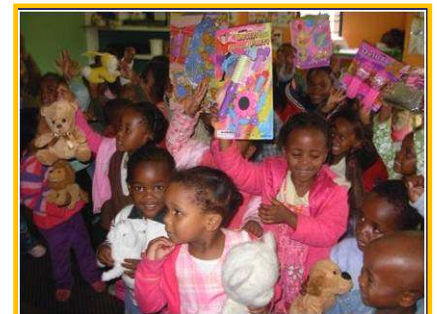
With the help of 'Earthfirst', Zamokuhle preschool was used as a pilot site for the demonstration of how to start a vegetable garden. Vegetables grown here will supplement the two meals per day provided to preschool children.



SUNCOAST organised a fabulous Christmas Party for the children of Zamokuhle and Bamba Izandla preschools, hosted at the Zamokuhle facility. Thanks to Suncoast staff for their ongoing enthusiastic support, as well as the Suncoast maintenance team who continue to work through upgrades at the school. Painting of the entire outside of the building will be tackled this year.

Christmas toys for Chesterville Preschools

Thanks to generous donations of new toys through East Coast Radio Toy Story and the Westville Rotary Club, Christmas was a little more special for the children at 7 of the preschools in Chesterville! Over 400 new toys were distributed to the following preschools: Zamokuhle, Bamba Izandla, Sicheluthando, Ekuthuleni, Mazenod, St. Barnabas and Nobantwana.



Children's Foster Home Westville (est. 2001)



Seven children are presently living in the Children's Foster Home. All the children performed well at school in 2009. Sanele passed his Grade 12 final examinations, but is upgrading his maths and physics through ICESA Matric School in order to study a BSC:Computer Science in 2011. Thulisile (5) is still in transitional care, and a 15 year old girl from Chesterville was recently accommodated for 2 weeks' crisis care. Tryphina (Foster Mother) has completed the 1st of 14 modules of the comprehensive "National Association of Child Care Workers" (NACCW) training programme, which she will work through during the next year or two.

A number of volunteers continue to assist with homework and extra lessons, and we are fortunate that three Community Development (UKZN) students will be volunteering their time whilst completing their master's degrees over the next two years.

The children were thoroughly blessed at Christmas and had a wonderful day and meal. Thanks to all who helped make it so special.

