



NEWSLETTER – June 2011

Bursary Project

Thirteen children from Chesterville Schools are being supported with renewable bursaries (covering fees, uniforms, stationery etc.). This includes 4 tertiary students and 9 schoolchildren selected from Chesterville Secondary School, Christopher Nxumalo Primary and uKukhanya Kwelanga Junior Primary. The family situations and psychosocial needs of the school bursars are monitored by Vukukhanye's social worker, and support is provided as needed. We are very pleased with the progress being made by the bursars and the growth of the bursary project since its inception in 2008; much of the progress being due to SUNCOAST'S commitment to sponsor 4 new bursaries each year (Grades 1, 5, 8 and 12). We are very grateful for this support and that of the other bursary project sponsors, The Victor Daitz Foundation and Reed Elsevier.



Asanda - Grd 2 Nompilo - Grade 3 Siposethu - Grade 3



Thobeka & Tsepo inspiring the learners of Chesterville Secondary at a special assembly



Nonsikelele - Grade 6 Siphwo - Grade 7 Theminkosi - Grade 7

Suncoast staff members meet monthly with the school bursary recipients to provide mentorship and support. The children look forward to these occasions where they have enjoyed art, aerobics, Heartlines DVDs; and in April visited the SUNCOAST ice-rink. The children are also included in other special events arranged by SUNCOAST, such as a bodyboarding clinic last year.



Thandeka - Grade 9 Thabiso - Grade 10 Silindile - Grade 10



Silindile - 2nd place Grade 9



Sibonelo - Civil Eng. Thobeka - Nursing Tsepo - Mark. Man. Phillile - B.Sc

Learntrade

Learntrade is an outcomes-based training facility accredited with the electrical SETA, which provides training in basic electrical skills and Solar Power systems. Learntrade's aim is to provide practical skills-based training to learners who will use these skills to gain employment in today's job market, or start their own business. Learntrade generously offered two sponsored electronics learnerships to two Chesterville youth during 2010. The two young men who were offered the position have made the most of this excellent opportunity and received their certificates early this year and are now looking for work experience opportunities. We congratulate them on their diligence and trust that the skills they have acquired will open doors to employment, self-employment and further training. Learntrade have assessed a further 10 candidates from Chesterville this year, who have been found to be suitable for enrolment. The full 1-year Learnership costs R28,000 (R7,000 per term). However, for every one person for whom funding is secured, Learntrade will train a second candidate free of charge. Please contact us if your company is interested in sponsoring a Learntrade Learnership. Thank you. For more information, please see: <http://www.vukukhanye.org/site/sponsors>. Direct link to '2011 Learntrade Information Brochure': <http://www.vukukhanye.org/site/search/downloadencode/ljE5MDYlM0ZsJTNEMS!>




Sport For All Chesterville

Extension 1 Open Day >>

Sport For All Chesterville provides structured coaching and life-skills programmes to schoolchildren at two sites in Chesterville. Sport For All Chesterville, Chesterville Extension 1 Site, hosted an **Open Day** on the 19th of March 2011 to promote its services. The surrounding community, particularly children of school-going age, were invited to participate in free sports' coaching sessions and friendly matches such as soccer, netball, cricket, volleyball and touch rugby. Local community dance and drama groups were invited to perform. The day was attended by 550 children and was a great success. Thank you very much to the local community for their support, as well as Huletts, Coca-Cola and St John Ambulance for arranging a sound system, prizes, refreshments and first aid.



 The Vodacom Foundation generously donated 100 tracksuits, 100 pairs of soccer boots and 100 kit bags to Sport For All Chesterville, which is primarily being used by Sport For All Teams during league and friendly matches, but also during training for children who do not have soccer boots.



Community Welfare Support

CHESTERVILLE HEALTH AND WELFARE FORUM



The Forum has continued to run smoothly and has been meeting on a monthly basis. This year the Forum would like to focus more on collectively dealing with some of the cases and difficulties experienced by Forum members and ensure effective monitoring of referrals. Current active members are Vukukhanye, Highway Hospice, Muthande Society for the Aged, Noluthando Nutrition, Sivukile, Cato Manor ABM, Cato Manor Pastors Fraternal, Chesterville Clinic, Community Health Workers, EPWP Drug Awareness Counsellors, West City Fellowship, Olive Leaf Foundation and Zoë-Life.

Launch of 'ARV roll-out' from Chesterville Clinic (16 March 2011)

The Forum was actively involved in assisting the Chesterville Clinic with the launch of the ARV Roll Out in March 2011 i.e. ARV's as well as pre-and post-test counseling are now being provided (to new patients) from the Chesterville Municipal Clinic. The event was a great success thanks to excellent cooperation and partnership between all stakeholders.



ARV Roll-Out Launch

Quarterly Wellness Days at Chesterville Clinic

The Forum was also actively involved in the Wellness Day organized by Olive Leaf Foundation on the 1st of April 2011 which focused on services to families identified from Chesterville Extension 3. Services offered are targeted at OVC families, and include HIV testing, counselling, PAP smears, cholesterol, TB, Diabetes Mellitus, Blood Pressure, drug counselors, nutritionists, environmental health; and social work services such as grants, IDs, referrals and letters. Vukukhanye assisted with social services at this event and dealt with referrals to Home Affairs and accessing social grants.

'War on Poverty' Campaign

There is a mandate from the Office of the Premier to establish 'War Rooms' in every ward in the province, as part of the "War on Poverty" Campaign. The Department of Health has requested the active participation of the Chesterville Health and Welfare Forum and has met with the forum twice this year. In principle, all government departments will deploy staff to participate in War Rooms. Community needs (e.g. housing, grants, individual families in crisis) are to be identified and then attended to at/via these War Rooms.

CHESTERVILLE ONE-STOP CARE CENTRE

Vukukhanye is currently working with the Jes Foord Foundation, the Chesterville Clinic, local NGOs and corporate sponsors towards the establishment of a 1-Stop Care & Counselling Centre in Chesterville. Progress being made is thanks to contributions and support from a number of partners. The past few months have been spent preparing the 12x3m park home donated by Container Conversions to be a functional counselling centre, after which further work will be needed to set it up to also fulfill a rape crisis support function. A generous donation of R60,000 from ABSA (Secured Lending Department) via the Jes Foord Foundation will be used for outstanding needs such as fencing, furniture, jungle gym, shower, furniture and equipment. SUNCOAST staff and maintenance team have done great work in helping to prepare the facility, which included painting and the connection of water, electricity and sewage mains.

Funding received from The Starfish Foundation for Vukukhanye's 2011 OVC (orphans & vulnerable children) programme has allowed Vukukhanye to employ two social auxiliary workers on a part-time basis. These workers, along with two other volunteer counsellors, form a team who are providing counselling services 2 days per week from the Centre, and who also conduct home visits and follow up on families etc. The counselors, who are supervised by Vukukhanye's social worker, have received the following training over the past few months:

- completing intake/family assessment forms, making referrals to Home Affairs as well as other organizations.
- Zoë-Life KIDZ ALIVE programme that helps assist with disclosure and adherence issues, particularly focused on HIV positive children between the ages of 4 and 12. Training includes pre and post-test counselling of children.
- Vukukhanye has engaged with Siyahlanganisa which is an organization that assists in the opening and support of counselling centres. They provided training for grief and trauma counselling in May and will offer further training in family counselling.



Food Parcels

We have been fortunate to engage with CAST who are providing 20 basic food parcels per month to Vukukhanye. These are used to assist the current families we have been supporting as well as expanding to some more needy families. CAST's criteria are fairly stringent and in line with that of Vukukhanye. The goal with each family is to avoid creating dependence and to work towards a situation where the food parcel is no longer needed. Further food parcel donations for distribution to Chesterville, have been received from Rotary Food Power and the Westville Rotary Club.



Other Welfare Highlights

- Clover Alloys 2011 donation of R10,000 towards **educational expenses** for orphans and vulnerable children.
- Five **wheelchairs** (donated by Hillcrest Rotary Club) distributed to grateful beneficiaries in Chesterville.
- Twenty new **sewing machines**, donated by Unilever, were distributed by Vukukhanye to the following community organisations in Chesterville, with the intention of assisting with income generation: 'Muthande Society for the Aged' (an NPO which cares for the aged in eight areas within the eThekwin Municipality, including Chesterville); the 'Phambili Siyakhana Sewing Group' (who create various items for sale, such as clothing, uniforms and household items); 'Highway Hospice Satellite Day Centre' and 'Mhlenge Society for the Aged'.
- **Sunflower Fund 'Bandana Day' Campaign** - Vukukhanye partnered with the Sunflower Fund (www.sunflowerfund.org.za) in their 2010 'Bandana Day' Campaign. The 'Rope of Hope', made out of Sunflower Bandanas tied together, formed part of Hyper 5km Fun Run/Walk at SUNCOAST. The bandanas were sponsored by schools, corporates and race participants and after the event, donated to Vukukhanye. Vukukhanye selected two sewing groups in the Chesterville area - Muthande Society for the Aged and the Phambili Siyakhana Sewing Group, who used the bandanas to create items to sell such as peg bags, ironing board covers, cushions, shopping bags and pillow cases. Vukukhanye will be participating in the 2011 Bandana Day.



Children from Chesterville holding the 'Rope of Hope'



<< Phambili Siyakhana Sewing Group with some of the 316 donated bandanas and one of the items created for sale.

Early Childhood Development

Preschool Construction Project

Following commencement of earthworks at the new preschool site in September 2010, considerable progress has been made – platforming and bulk services (e.g. storm water) is complete, fencing is in progress and the first of 2 new donated 7x7m classrooms has been placed on site. Zoë-Life facilitated most of the funding for this classroom from Radio Cracker, an Irish radio station which provides fundraising support to NGOs worldwide; the remainder of the funds coming from a DT Hudson Charitable Trust grant. A second new 7x7m unit has kindly been sponsored by the African Women Chartered Accountants and Container Conversions, and will be placed on site shortly.

Further 2nd-hand refurbished park-home classrooms donated by Container Conversions are also available. Thanks to a matching grant secured through the Westville Rotary Club, all the furniture and other preschool equipment, playground equipment, sanitary ware for the bathrooms and rainwater harvesting tanks has been funded, which will greatly assist the set-up process.



Preschool Principal Workshops

Cygnat Pre-Primary School continues to offer quarterly training & support workshops at Cygnat for 8 principals from preschools in Chesterville, who have found these workshops extremely beneficial and inspiring.



Investec Classroom Upgrade

Investec staff spent Saturday 14 May preparing and painting a room at the Zamokuhle Preschool in Chesterville. This will enable the room to be used as a classroom for the 2-4 year old age group. Thank you very much to Investec for their support, as well as Paint and Abrasives and Pearsons Paint for the donation of supplies.



Toys for Chesterville preschools from Westville Rotary Club and East Coast Radio Toy Story



New Jungle Gym for Bamba Izandla Preschool



SUNCOAST staff and Umzingi Contractors transported, repainted and restored a jungle gym donated by a Westville resident to the Bamba Izandla Preschool in Chesterville; where the school's 40 children previously had no playground equipment.



Washing machine donated to Sicheluthando Educare Centre >>

School Partnership

Peter's Papers Paper Donations

Vukukhanye has assisted Peter's Papers distribute 2 donations of paper and board to Chesterville schools in 2011. >

Aurecon work-experience for Chesterville Learners

Aurecon hosted six Chesterville Grade 11 learners interested in engineering (3 from Chesterville Secondary and 3 from Chesterville Extension Secondary School) for a day of work-experience at their offices on the 24th of June.

SUNCOAST donation of chairs to Chesterville Secondary School

Thirty-eight cushioned stools were donated by SUNCOAST to Chesterville Secondary School, which have proved invaluable in the *Engineering, Graphics and Design* class, which did not have chairs suitable for the high drawing desks. The chairs were kindly transported by City Couriers.



WS Lloyd partnership with uKukhanya Kwelanga Junior Primary School

WS Lloyd is partnering with Vukukhanye to facilitate improvements to uKukhanya Kwelanga Junior Primary School in Chesterville - after consultation with the school it has been decided to allocate the donated funds towards repairing the girls' toilet facilities in 2011.



Drug Awareness

Durban University of Technology Public Relations students approached Vukukhanye for assistance with a Public Relations Project. The students decided on promoting drug awareness and arranged for a representative of the Cato Manor Police Station to speak at a school assembly at Christopher Nxumalo Primary School.

This tied in nicely with the Drug Awareness Day held at the Chesterville Community Hall at the end of 2010. The campaign was arranged by the Cato Manor ABM in conjunction with Safer Cities, eThekweni Municipality, SAPS and various other key community stakeholders (SANCA, YEP, NICRO, Vukukhanye, Hope to Educate, iThemba Lethu & The Chesterville Health and Welfare Forum). The purpose of the campaign was to educate young people and the community on the dangers and consequences of using drugs (such as 'Wunga'), as well as advising the community of the resources available to them should they or someone they know require assistance.



Heartlines Chesterville

HEARTLINES

Heartlines is an organisation that seeks to assist South Africans to live out good values as individuals and to become more active citizens in their communities. Heartlines has made a three year commitment to walk alongside Chesterville with the aim of improving the communication and relationships between different sectors, both public and private, in order to strengthen the community in this region.

In September 2010 a four day "Foundations for Change" workshop brought together 16 Chesterville leaders from the Community, Municipality, Street Committees, Faith Based Organisations, Business and Schools. This group formed a Local Organising Committee (LOC); and apart from building relationship, the LOC identified social issues to be addressed, which lead to the common vision of a "Healthy Chesterville", to be achieved via the four main aims of 'youth development', 'poverty alleviation', actively working on 'safety & security' and improving 'healthcare'. As an extension of this process, five sector-specific 3 day workshops were held during the 1st quarter of 2011. The sectors invited were Business, Civil Servants, Faith-Based Organisations, Residential Committees and Youth/Education. Through the process to date, at least 100 leaders actively involved in the Chesterville region have been brought together to build relationships and start working together in a more active and coordinated manner towards helping to facilitate positive values-based change in Chesterville.



Children's Foster Home Westville (est. 2001)

There are currently 7 Children in long-term care and 2 in transitional care at the Children's Foster Home...

Mxolisi (6), in Grade R at Browns School, is receiving speech therapy at the Speech Pathology Department of UKZN and is making good progress. His brother, Mloni (8) is in Grade 3 at Berea West Senior Primary. Sli (13) is in Grade 6 at Browns School - in order to promote her love for and strength in drama, she is attending the Rising Star Theatre Academy, including a holiday workshop during the June/July holidays. Tracy is in Grade 6 at Berea West Senior Primary and is particularly keen on cross country running. Thanda and Mthoko are progressing well in Grade 10 at Mayville Secondary School, while Sanele is in his first year of a 3-year diploma in Information Technology at the Durban University of Technology, while working part-time at Edgars. We are very grateful to Reed Elsevier for a grant which covers most educational expenses for these children for 2011. Current needs for the Home include funds for winter clothing.

We have had 7 crisis placements during 2011...

Thulisile has been placed back in the care of her mother, who has recovered from her period of hospital care. Three brothers, who were refugees from the DRC and lived at the home for 1 year, have been transitioned to permanent care at St. Martins Children's Home. Lwandile (4 years old) has required crisis placement on a few occasions. A 17 year-old girl and 10 year boy, both from Chesterville, are presently in temporary care while the most appropriate alternate long-term care is sought.

We had a surprise visit from Yolanda (who was placed in the Home in 2010) and her mother. It was wonderful to see how well they are doing.

Outings and other support:

- Annual Cygnet Pre and Junior Primary Fun Day.
- Youth Day celebration with the NPO
- Life Health Care/Crompton Hospital sponsored the repair of Tryphinas car and upgrades at the Home.
- Rotary Club of Westville sponsored a rainwater tank, linen & furniture, as well as a 'wormery' and garden shredder.
- An day out to Tala Game Reserve
- A weekend at Uvongo
- A trip on the Inchanga Choo choo, thanks to MaxProp Westville
- Annual food collection by the members of Curves Gym
- Tickets to Madame Zingara and lunch from SUNCOAST
- SUNCOAST bodyboarding Clinic



< Bodyboarding Clinic



Tala Game Reserve >



< Inchanga Choo-Choo



Uvongo >



A number of volunteers continue to assist with homework, extra lessons and transport. We are fortunate to again (as in 2010) have 3 student volunteers from La Rochelle Business College in France placed with Vukukhanye for 3 months. The students are assisting at the Foster Home and will also help with work at the preschools and other projects in Chesterville.

NACCW Child Care Worker Training

Modules 1-4 of the National Association of Child Care Worker (NACCW) training were completed by Tryphina (Foster Mother), the 3 Foster Home respite care givers, Kate (Foster Home Manager), Nonku (a teacher from Bamba Izandla) and Hlengiwe (a Sport For All Chesterville coach). This training was sponsored by the US Embassy.



Thank you very much... please feel free to contact us at admin@vukukhanye.org / 031-266 2288 / www.vukukhanye.org