



NEWSLETTER – MARCH 2009

1. Bursary Project

Bursaries for tertiary study during 2010 have been awarded to two Grade 12 learners (class of 2008) from Chesterville Secondary School. Thanks to the Victor Daitz Foundation for sponsoring Philile's bursary. Both Philile and Samukelo passed their matric examinations, have attended career assessment and guidance sessions to help them make educated decisions regarding their future, and have mentors supporting them through their study process. Philile is registered at ICESA Matric School where she is repeating Grade 12 Maths and Physical Science. She will also receive private maths tuition and enrol for an IT course through Unisa. This year will prepare her for studies in 2010 - Food Technology at ML Sultan or a Bachelor of Consumer Science at Unisa. Samukelo will be enrolling for two Unisa courses - a comprehensive computer literacy course and a certificate in Public Relations, which will prepare him for further study in the field of Public Relations. We wish them all the best in their studies.



Bursary Recipients:
Philile and Samukelo, with the school principal Mr. Shabalala

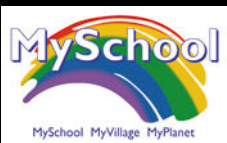
2. School Partnership Project

Vukukhanye is partnering with the Chesterville Secondary School principal, staff, governing body and management team; as we together seek to enhance the learning and teaching environment at this school. Initial meetings have identified the following priority interventions: improving school security, targeted school building upgrades (volunteer work-parties), special projects (computer room, staff room, staff offices, catering department), management and staff support & supporting the school's annual prize-giving.

The computer room upgrade and set-up is complete: a team of volunteers from Investec spent a hard day painting the room in preparation for the installation of granite work surfaces. Thanks also to Shave Paints for the donation of paint and materials needed. Once the work surfaces were installed, African Areté set up the 20 computers that had been donated to the school through the Mr Price Compstart programme. This excellent resource is up and running and will be of tremendous benefit to the preparation of learners for tertiary study and the labour-market.



A partnership between the Dreambuilders Institute and Chesterville Secondary School has been finalised. Dreambuilders' 3-year programme; which includes working with the school management, staff and learners and forms part of the Life Orientation curriculum; will commence formally in March 2009.



Join the "My School" Programme, swipe your card when shopping at certain stores and you can support any of the Schools in Chesterville – 14 new supporters added so far. For more information contact us at kate@vukukhanye.org or **031-266 2288**. Thank you.

CONGRATULATIONS TO CHESTERVILLE SECONDARY FOR THEIR IMPROVED GRADE 12 PASS RATE:



This improved from 47% in 2007 to 70% in 2008.

Consequently the school was recently awarded the “Annual Mayoral Matric Award 2008” (EtheKwini Region) for the “Most Improved School”.

3. After-School Sport Project (Sport For All)



The “Sport For All” social franchise model was launched in Chesterville in December 2008. This model was chosen as it has been tested in a number of communities in South Africa, includes life-skills training and creates employment for local coaches. It is also largely self-sustaining, due to the R30 per month membership fee, as well as a built-in fund which sponsors orphans and vulnerable children. The number of children attending coaching each day after school is approaching 100. Formal registration of these children, as well as set-up of the electronic card-based management system is in progress. Each day after school six local coaches provide coaching across a variety of sporting codes. These include soccer, cricket, netball, basketball, cricket, hockey and rugby. More sports such as drum majorettes, swimming, indigenous games, golf and athletics will be added over time.



The aim of after-school sport project is to “keep children off the street” i.e. use sport as a development tool, by providing formal sports coaching combined with life-skills training in a trusted, safe environment. The venue (Chesterville Sport’s Ground, Mahlali Road – photo above) primarily serves the nearby schools of Ukukhanya Kwelanga Junior Primary, Christopher Nxumalo Primary and Chesterville Secondary Schools, which have a combined learner population of over 3000. We hope to have enrolled 700 children by the end of 2009.



4. One-Stop Centre

A One-Stop Centre is in the process of being established in an existing building adjacent to the present municipal clinic site in Chesterville. The project has the following aims:

- Establish a Forensic Pathology Services (FPS) Unit (based on a working model at Prince Mshiyeni Hospital in Umlazi) which will provide a source of support and counselling; as well as facilitate proper evidence collection and follow-up; for survivors of rape, domestic violence and child abuse. The FPS unit will include a satellite police station as the distance to the Cato Manor and Westville Police Stations is presently a significant barrier to proper reporting and response to crime in the area.
- Extend the current Day-Hospice service in Chesterville from 2 to 5 days per week.
- Provide sub-office space for health and welfare departments, which can be manned on a roster basis and will make services more easily accessible to Chesterville residents.
- Establishment of a Community Court in Chesterville.

5. Health & Welfare (Community Support)

Since October 2008, ten community workers have been conducting home-visits, completing family contact forms and identifying the issues that families are facing. While this information is being used to create a database of social needs, the community workers and social worker have also provided direct intervention and follow up. This has included cases of child abuse and neglect, child-headed households, referrals to Home Affairs, assistance with foster care grant applications, as well as facilitating all children of school going age being registered and attending school, and motivation for the waiving of school fees when appropriate. The community workers have received training on counselling of children, food security, types of grants available and requirements needed to access them. Health-related issues are referred to the Highway Hospice or other appropriate organizations.



Community worker training

Vukukhanye received a donation from Round Table in December which included provision for food parcels and stationery (facilitated by the Starfish Foundation). We combined this with a donation from the East Coast Radio Toy Drive and were able to distribute 20 food parcels and over a 100 toys to children and families on our Database. The Community workers were part of the distribution process and it was very successful and welcomed by the families.

6. Community Safety & Street Committees

Forming part of the broader Chesterville Community Safety Initiative is the present drive to resuscitate Street Committees in Chesterville. The aim of the project is to encourage community members to take a greater interest in, and responsibility for, their community and thus contribute to a more peaceful and productive environment. The following progress has been made:



- A communication and training specialist has formulated training materials and guidelines which will guide the implementation process. These include a 'Facilitators Training Pack', 'Community Meeting Toolkit', 'Street Meeting Toolkit' and 'Induction Training Materials'.
- Ten Street Committee Facilitators have been trained and have assisted with monitoring, particularly during the busy December/January holiday period.
- Legislative review and compilation of a "Street Committees Policies & Procedures Manual".
- A Street Committee Brochure has been designed to be used as a communication & education tool.

The next step is a community meeting at which the role-out plan will be communicated and discussed.



Street Committee Facilitator Training & Training Materials

Pavilion-Chesterville Partnership

During the December/January holidays, two Chesterville residents were appointed as “Community Liaison Officers” to work alongside security personnel at the Pavilion shopping Centre. This was part of the growing partnership between the Pavilion, Chesterville and Vukukhanye - to help improve safety and security at the Pavilion, as well as protect Chesterville residents (many of whom are Pavilion Staff) particularly when walking between the Pavilion and Chesterville.

The following comment from Lynette Ntuli (Pavilion Manager) sums up the success of the intervention:

“The partnership was very successful, especially in such a busy period. I feel the most significant aspect of the liaison was that it was apparent to all that we had created links in the community and these were beneficial both ways. The officers were part of the JOC team and they played their part where called upon to assist in the matters they were drawn into. Another significant mention is that we had no (major) incidents on the Chesterville path reported to us. The collaboration between Security, JOC members and the Safer Cities volunteers meant there was constant monitoring in that area. This is the type of net result I certainly hoped to see and would like to continue to see.”

Procedures have also been put in place to deal with child offenders found misbehaving or shoplifting at the Pavilion. Such children, who live in Chesterville, are referred to community leaders who follow up on the case with the children’s parents/caregivers. This approach has been implemented since December and has proved very successful.



7. Early Childhood Development



**Bamba Izandla
Preschool Christmas
Party & Graduation.**

Vukukhanye has a long association with the Bamba Izandla Preschool and other preschools in Chesterville and is presently facilitating the establishment of a preschool network of six schools. The primary goals are the training of staff, equipping the schools for creative play and learning, and facilitating adequate resources for curriculum development. A recent information sharing morning at Berea Primary School was very successful and more of such partnerships between established schools and the Chesterville preschools will be facilitated.



December 2008

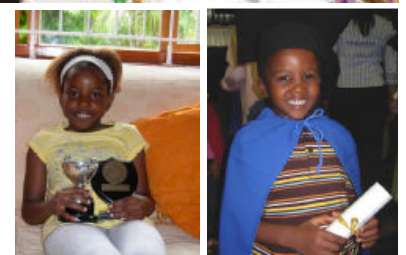
8. Children’s Foster Home Westville (est. 2001)

There are presently seven children being cared for at the Children’s Foster Home in Westville. We are so proud of all the children’s 2008 year-end results. Mxolisi (4) has started at Berea West Pre-Primary School and Mlondi (6) is in grade 1 at Berea West Junior Primary – Mlondi was so excited to wear a uniform. Thanda and Mthoko have started high school at Mayville Secondary School, where Sanele is in matric. Thobekile (19) and Thabile (22) have both moved out (towards independence) during the last few months. Phindile, a 16 year old mentally handicapped girl spent 10 days at the home as a crisis placement in December. She is now living at Umlazi Children’s Home.



We are very excited to welcome Caryn Green on board as a volunteer for two full afternoons a week. She will be assisting Tryphina with childcare and homework. Thanks to all the volunteers for their committed support.

Congratulations to Tryphina for passing her driver’s license!



Thank you very much to all those who have been so supportive of the initiatives mentioned above.

Please feel free to contact us ... admin@vukukhanye.org