



Vukukhanye

NEWSLETTER – December/January

Bursary Project

As part of Vukukhanye's partnership with Suncoast, the four new bursary candidates selected from Grades 1, 5, 8 and 12 (from 3 Chesterville schools) have been identified. Their school stationery and uniforms have been purchased and we look forward to a successful 2012 academic year. The addition of the new bursars brings the total number of bursary candidates being assisted to 16 i.e. 11 schoolchildren and 5 tertiary students. Z'busiso (the 2011 Grade 12 bursar from Chesterville Secondary School has an impressive academic record and has been provisionally accepted to study B.Com Accounting at UKZN in 2012.

At Vukukhanye's recent Annual General Meeting, we were privileged to hear the stories of three of the tertiary bursars (Philile, Tsepo and Thobeka) who are making the most of the opportunity provided to them, and of whom we are very proud. Thobeka for example, completed a course in home-based care in 2011 and has been accepted into a 3-year nursing qualification through Netcare. Tsepo continues to make good progress in Marketing Management (and is running for SRC president) and Sibonelo will start 2nd year Civil Engineering at DUT in 2012. Below is an extract from Philile's address at the AGM, which she entitled "Believe you can and you are half-way there"...

"What I learnt since matric is that where the heart is willing, it will find a thousand ways. I remember after having my twins, I told myself that the only reason I would get back to school was to get my matric so I can get at least a decent job. My mother asked me one day, "Why are you going back to school? You should be looking for a job. You are a mother now, you need to support your children."

Getting back to school was not easy. At first I had no support at home. Sometimes I would leave them at my neighbours, sometimes there would be no one to look after the girls, they often got sick a lot and I had to miss classes. I could not study well at home, it was chaos. I would often cry and ask myself why do you even bother going to school? Why do I have to suffer this much? Is it all my fault? Will all my struggles and efforts be worth it in time?

I passed grade 11, went to grade 12. That was when I met Vukukhanye, an organisation who believed in people who believed in themselves and in the impossible. Now I am an undergraduate at the University of KwaZulu-Natal. I am in my second year studying Biological Sciences. I would like to thank all the sponsors and Vukukhanye who made all this possible. They have taught me that what lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us."

Philile Mafu (November 2011)



School children with new uniforms!

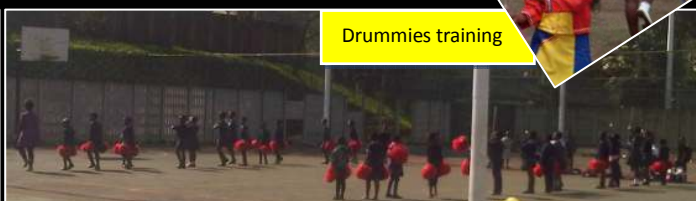


Sibonelo with donated computer

Sport For All Chesterville



Four local coaches continue to provide daily after-school sports coaching to children at Chesterville and Chesterville Extension 1 Sports Grounds. The under 13 to under 17 soccer teams are active in the Durban Central Football Association League, where they performed well again in 2011 – the U/15 team winning their age-group and the U/17s coming 2nd. The netball and soccer teams attended trials at Umgababa, where 10 senior netball girls were selected for the Durban Central Netball League and 6 boys were selected for the next stage of trials for teams such as Kaizer Chiefs, Amazulu and Golden Arrows.



Drummies training



Community Welfare Support

Jes Foord Community Care Centre



Background to the Centre...

Vukukhanye through its partnership with the Chesterville Residents Association, the Chesterville Health and Welfare Forum as well as the Ward 24 Councillor Jabu Mbongwa, identified the need for a Counselling Centre based in the community of Chesterville where residents did not have to travel long distances to receive services especially those related to trauma and abuse. The community of Chesterville has a high incidence of rape and child abuse cases which requires a joint effort by various role-players in tackling the issue. We were very fortunate to be introduced to the Jes Foord Foundation who were looking to partner with organizations in communities to establish crisis centers that would be able to provide professional services and support to victims of abuse in a dignified and caring manner.

Official Opening...

Progress to the point of having a functional counseling and multi-purpose facility has been encouraging - the official launch of the "Jes Foord Community Care Centre" was held on the 30th of November. Thank you very much to everyone who made this possible - partners include the Jes Foord Foundation, Container Conversions SA, ABSA Secure Lending Department, NPC Cimpor, Suncoast, Siyahlanganisa, Style Design College, Lindsay Gray Garden Design, Starfish Greathearts Foundation, The Chesterville Residents Association, The Department of Health and the Chesterville Health & Welfare Forum.



Set-up...

After the donation of the 2 park-homes by Container Conversions, the set-up process has been ongoing. Style Design College students used the empty, undecorated park home units as a design and decorating practical project for their students and produced outstanding results; and Anthony Kirkwood (aka GASAK) painted murals on the outside walls. A jungle gym was recently donated, which is a great asset. Further needs include security solutions, shade awnings, one-way glass partition for the play-therapy room, and the establishment of the garden.



Operation...

The Centre is ideally situated next to the Chesterville Clinic. We have further partnered with the Clinic who will use the centre on certain days with various counselling related services such as HIV/AIDS, TB etc. Vukukhanye renders other supportive services to the community as a whole and the Community Care Centre provides a wonderful central base from which to operate. At present the Centre has a qualified social worker and four volunteer counselors who have received training in crisis, trauma and grief counselling, HIV/Aids and family counselling. The centre has also contracted with a social worker in private practice to provide free play-therapy and counselling to victims of child abuse. The primary role of the centre will be to provide psycho-social support to individuals and families through counselling and support groups.

We are looking forward to a long term partnership with the Jes Foord Foundation as well as other organizations in the community where we can collectively play a role in healing, empowering and restoring dignity to individuals and families and therefore impact the community as a whole.

OTHER WELFARE HIGHLIGHTS

- Almost 1000 gifts were allocated to Vukukhanye by the Westville Rotary Club, as part of the 2011 East Coast Radio **Toy Story** Campaign. These toys were distributed to five preschools, Vukukhanye's bursary families and other children monitored and supported by Vukukhanye. →
- Keep the Dream Foundation donated a number of school bags and stationery for junior-school children, which have been distributed to vulnerable children.
- Santas Shoebox (assisted by Fins and Flippers Swimming School) arranged for the donation of 100 Christmas gift boxes. ↓
- Ongoing Community Worker Training by Zoë-Life and Siyahlanganisa
- Food donation by Eskom staff →
- World Chef Tour, in partnership with Suncoast.



Early Childhood Development

Preschool Construction Project

Good progress has been made on the new preschool being established in Chesterville, where up to 16 children under 4 years of age will be enrolled in the 1st term of 2012. All the classrooms and offices are in place, the preschool zone has been fenced off, instant lawn laid, a jungle gym installed, security gates installed and the equipment and resources funded by the Westville Rotary Club will be placed early in 2012. Volunteer caregivers and a volunteer administrator have been identified.



ABSA staff have invested a lot of time and effort in decorating the interior of the two 12x3 meter classrooms.



Preschool Principal Workshops

Cygnets Pre-Primary School continues to offer quarterly training & support workshops at Cygnets for principals and teachers from preschools in Chesterville.



Suncoast Christmas Party at Inami Preschool

Suncoast treated the children at Inami Preschool to a fabulous Christmas party on the 14th of December!



School Partnership

WS Lloyd partnered with Vukukhanye to facilitate improvements to uKukhanya Kwelanga Junior Primary School in Chesterville - after consultation with the school it was decided to repair the boys' and girls' ablution facilities, where the majority of toilets and basins were out of order (15 toilets and 9 basins/taps). Thanks also to Klaus Fritsch Plumbers for the discounted service provided.



Children's Foster Home (est. 2001)

There are currently 7 children in long-term care and 2 in transitional care at the Children's Foster Home in Westville. Mxolisi is starting Grade 1 at The Browns School in 2012 (which he is very excited about!), while his brother Mloni moves from Berea West Junior to Senior Primary. Sli is invited by Rising Star Drama Academy to apply for a bursary to cover her 2012 drama lessons – and we are very pleased and proud to report that Sli was successful. Sli recently performed a drama piece at Botanic Gardens at a Rising Star Academy fundraiser and plans to do her drama examinations in 2012. Thanda and Mthoko will be moving from Mayville Secondary School to Bonela from 2012, and Sanele will continue his studies in Information Technology at Durban University of Technology. We are very pleased that Sanele has been offered a bursary for 2012 by a private donor. Lindo has been transitioned into the care of extended family after staying at the Home to allow him to complete the 2011 school year.

Tryphina (Foster Mother) continues to provide excellent care to the children, and recently completed training on hygiene and nutrition provided by Zoë Life.

Outings and other support:

- Jungle-Gym upgrade and repair
- FMI Christmas party and outing to Mini Town
- Online Motoring Christmas Party
- Beta Cell braai
- Roof repair sponsored by Nedbank and Suncoast
- Clothing, linen and other support from Nedbank



FMI Party at Mini-Town



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