



Newsletter  
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## Vukukhanye Educare Centre

Forty-four children are presently enrolled at the Vukukhanye Educare Centre in Chesterville. All seven staff have completed a 6-month 'Childminder's Course' through Phakamisa, and one has completed a course on cooking skills, hygiene and safety. Ntombi, the Supervisor is currently attending a supervisor's training course and the staff will complete training on educare for 3 to 6 years olds during the course of 2013.



Educare centre staff



Investec staff work party



We are consistently striving to improve the physical environment of the school and are grateful for the assistance from Investec, who in early 2013 painted the outside of the school office, set up classroom hooks and planted shade trees.

Thank you to everyone & all those companies who have provided the support which is making the care and education of these children possible. Please feel free to contact us if you would like to assist in any way. A list of food & consumables needed on a monthly basis can be found at this link:

[Vukukhanye Educare Centre Wishlist](#)

Chesterville preschool supervisor's workshop at Cygnet Pre-Primary



Maria, the school cook with produce from the vegetable garden



# Children's Foster Home (est.2001)

The Children's Foster Home is presently caring for 7 children. The children all attend school, other than Sanele who is studying IT at DUT. Thanks to Tryphina (Foster Mother) for her consistent care and commitment to the children. Tryphina continues to progress through her "National Association of Childcare-Workers" training; which takes the form of 14 one-week training sessions. Tryphina will continue until she has completed all 14 modules of this accredited training. The Home is currently providing crisis care for an abandoned 8-year old girl from Chesterville -fortunately an aunt has been identified who will be able to offer long-term care. Two children, siblings who had lived at the Home for the last 10 years, left the Home in January 2013 as they have been fostered with the intention to adopt by a family who has hosted them for many years. While this was a sad goodbye, it is certainly a great opportunity for the children and we are very confident that their best interests are being served.

As with any home, repairs and maintenance tasks are on-going. Thanks to a group of Scouts who sanded and varnished all the window frames and did an excellent repair job on the jungle-gym. Suncoast staff, including some of their landscaping team, recently donated and planted a number of plants and trees.



Thanks to Louise who is teaching the younger children to play the recorder



# Community Welfare & OVC Support

Identification and follow-up support of vulnerable children via Vukukhanye's two community workers is ongoing. This includes counselling, food, infant formula and material support. In addition to the bursars mentioned below, Vukukhanye was able to assist 80 vulnerable children from Chesterville with school fees, uniforms and/or stationery at the beginning of 2013.

Counselling and supportive services are offered at the Jes Foord Community Care Centre at the Chesterville Clinic site. Thanks to UKZN rugby and their partners who donated and planted a number of plants, particularly a security hedge, and painted the outside walls of the two offices. A recent grant from the C.J Lilleshall Trust has funded rainwater harvesting (including a Jo-Jo tank and rainwater connection to the toilet and garden tap), electrical work, kitchen plumbing and an alarm installation.



Rainwater-harvesting system installation complete

Thanks to everyone who donated Easter eggs – over 2000 were distributed to children in Chesterville



UKZN Rugby work-party



# Bursary Project

Since its inception in 2008, the number of bursars has increased annually to the point where 19 bursars are now being provided with long-term renewable bursaries to the completion of tertiary study. Thirteen of these children are currently in school and 6 are studying tertiary qualifications including nursing, marketing, civil engineering, BSc and accounting. Thanks to Suncoast (Tsogo Sun) for their long-term and wholehearted commitment to the bursary project.

Below are quotes from two of the bursars likely to qualify in 2013 i.e. Tsepo, who is in the final year of his diploma in Marketing Management (and has been given the opportunity of work-experience at Suncoast) and Philile who is completing the final year of her degree in BSc, Biological Sciences ...



Some of the school bursars with new uniforms

Thank you for the "marvellous work and dedication that has contributed to my future and personal experience. Being part of this family of Suncoast...has not only contributed towards my qualification but has also built me emotionally and on a personal level. I feel privileged and honoured to come across people with such warm hearts and dedication in what they do." (Tsepo)

"Your support has helped me to continue my studies in cell biology and genetics. Hopefully after I graduate I would be able to work at one of the South African cancer research companies such as the Cancer Association of South Africa and be a part of research team that helps to fight cancer. You have given me an opportunity to improve my life and by doing so you are also enabling me in becoming a powerful source to my community and to my country." (Philile)