



MaSiBaMBiSaNe
Let's carry the burden together

MCDC News

January 2010

2010 kicked off with Strategic Planning



It was first things first this year when the management team of Mukhanyo Community Development Centre came together to plan the next five years of the organisation. We were humbled by reflecting on everything that was accomplished since MCDC started in 2003. God has blessed us step by step. Now we are looking forward to the road ahead. The planning session took place at Lama-Lama, a game reserve near KwaMhlanga, where the team could contemplate in quiet and tranquil surroundings. The outcomes of the planning will be published in a next issue of MCDC News.

A Heartwarming story from Nakekela

In the winter of 2008 Nakekela admitted a very sick lady in her early twenties. She was brought to the centre by her concerned sister, **Christina**. **Sarah** was confused and needed constant care because she would leave their house and wander around in the township. When she arrived at Nakekela she was stressed and anxious and unable to talk. She also had AIDS dementia in a severe degree. Christina visited her regularly. We were touched by this, as many of our patients' family members just abandon them. Christina always brought a little girl with her and it only came to our attention later that this was Sarah's child. Only after a trust relationship was built between us and the family, we were told that this girl was also HIV+ and that she was being treated by Pediatric Specialists in Pretoria, which is quite a distance from KwaMhlanga. It became too expensive to travel to Pretoria for her medication. The family has no income. Our doctor, **Sonja Miskin**, realised that the child was not well. We really felt that the little girl should get the necessary assistance, or she might fall gravely ill and die. We helped the family with transport money for five months. After long negotiations, Sonja managed to get little **Lindokuhle** officially transferred to a local clinic. The wonderful outcome was to see how Lindokuhle's condition improved - even before she

Lindokuhle snugly wrapped in her Word and Deed blanket and (right) all the gifts from the same donor



was transferred, while Sarah also recovered enough to go home. The family stays near Nakekela and they visit us regularly. **Lindokuhle** loves the sweet treats she always gets here. We are very grateful for God's restoring mercy, sparing both mother and child. Bears, caps and blankets from **Word and Deed** are giving joy to all the children visiting Nakekela. Here is **Lindo**, as she is called by the staff, wrapped in one of the beautiful blankets. All honor and glory to God for the joy and mercy we experience on a daily basis when dealing with all these wonderful people created by Him. Babette Grobler.
Nakekela Manager

Working with people in the community

A group of 19 employees from the MCDC Care Centres and Nakekela completed a basic orientation course in working with people in the community on December 11. It was presented at the Mukhanyo Theological College and in cooperation with the Department of Social Work at UNISA. The lecturer was Annemarie Kruger. Here are all the graduates.



Mukhanyo Christian Academy opens

The Mukhanyo Christian Academy opened its doors on the 14th of January 2010 on the premises of Mukhanyo Theological College. They started off with nine learners but after a week there were twelve – ten grade R's and two grade ones. "We are still expecting more grade ones," says Mrs Meriam Mnguni, principal of the school. "I am very grateful for Susan Coetzee, wife of our registrar, Joe, who helped me through the first few days until our volunteer, Stacey Dykins, from Florida took over. "I feel very satisfied with the first few days and I can already see how the children have progressed," Meriam said. The children's Foster mothers came up for a whole day to clear the school site from weeds, which is a wonderful gesture showing their dedication to be part



Lukens family here to serve

Simon Burdett, Deputy CEO, Dr Flip Buys, CEO and Koos Mahlangu, Youth Manager welcoming Harry and Joke Lukens and their children. The Lukens family was sent by Enschede East Church in Holland to serve the needy people at MCDC.



Harry will start a grief counseling clinic and Joke wants to run a new venture: a mobile clinic which will serve the centre children and OVC's in the field. The family plans to stay for at least 2 years.

Volunteers to help in youth project

Anna Bosch and Eva Niemeijer came all the way from Holland to help with the peer education project which is rolled out this year. Anna studied Multi Cultural Pedagogics in Utrecht, which is partly Child Psychology. "I am passionate about children, especially the youth," she says. "That is why I decided to get involved in other people's lives before I further my studies." She will be here until the end of July. Eva was in South Africa in 2004 with a youth group of her church when MCDC started. Then she went to her ancestors' country, India. She loves working with people and has just completed her studies in Special Education. Eva is looking forward to her work at MCDC coaching facilitators for the peer groups. "These kids have so much need for attention. They have not much joy and are bored after school. If I can help in that regard, I will be so happy," she says.



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