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Bringing you news

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Non-Profit-Organisation: 066-189-NPO – Tax Exemption: 9450/832/16/8-PBO



NEWS

Siyakhula Opening:

On the still, sunny afternoon of Sunday April 10, 2011 the time had come at last to celebrate the completion of the Siyakhula Educare Centre in Masiphumele. After months of planning and building, the Work For Love members who had been involved, were all exhausted yet thrilled to officially open the doors to two, brand new, freshly appointed classrooms! Visitors were welcomed by a lively, joyous school community event that even included Work For Love masseuses providing neck and shoulder massages. The ceremony opened with Xhosa singing and a welcoming address by Zanele, one of the founding carers of the school. Zanele reminded us all that the original school had begun in 2008 through the love and dedication of wetlands mothers intent on creating a place of safety and proper education for their children. Visitors were taken on a tour of the school during which each room was blessed in a special prayer by Welcome, a preacher from Masiphumelele, followed by traditional songs of prayer by the parents.

One visitor was heard to say, "The calm beauty of these classrooms reflects the inner and outer rhythms of children and their connection to nature and spirit."



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Siyakhula Opening...

Together we said this verse:

*Yihla moya oyingcwele onamandla nothando
Ukhanyo lwakho noblungisa busebenze
Ezintliziyweni ngokunyanisekileyo
Uzinze ngokuzolileyo emphefumleni
Ukuze sizise amandla kubantu abatsha
Wokusebenza ngokomphefumlo nangokukhanya komoya*

*May there reign here spirit ... Strength in love.
May there work here spirit ... Light in goodness.
Born from certainty of heart
And from steadfastness of soul,
So that we may bring to young human beings
Bodily strength for work, inwardness of soul
And clarity of spirit.*

(Rudolf Steiner)

Since April 11, more children have registered with the school. The teachers have noticed a magical improvement in the children's joy and creativity during free play in these nurturing, child-friendly spaces. In total, thirty-two children are now enjoying the bigger space, with room for eight more.

Towards the end of March, visitors arrived from our new partner school in Germany. The Christophorus School had raised R30 000 towards the building project as well as collecting 12 boxes of educational materials and clothes. Unfortunately, at the time of going to press these boxes are still stuck at the customs office. The photograph shows Arne, a teacher from Christophorus School, putting on a puppet show for us at Siyakhula.



Siyakhula Laundry Service:



You can drop your laundry at the Siyakhula Educare on weekdays between 7:30 and 4:30. Wash/Dry/ Fold for a big load is

only R 30

Siyakhula Centre, 2751 Masibulele Road, Masiphumelele
Tel: 021 785 4431

Siyakhula Waldorf Educare Before & After



The Fire:

On May 1, 2011, all the newly established peace of Siyakhula School was shattered. In the wetlands a massive fire raged for 6 hours destroying 1500 homes and leaving 5 000 people homeless. Three teachers and the families of eight of our children lost all their possessions. Overnight, the school became a collection site for donations. The teachers were kept busy standing in queues to report their losses, applying for new ID documents, claiming building 'starter packs', donated food and clothes and a government grant as well as trying to secure their piece of land and start building before someone else claimed it. Thank goodness for three remarkable women: Patience who arrived to assist with cooking and caring for the children, Vuyiswa our 'pillar of strength' and Amelie (our much-appreciated, 20-year-old volunteer from Germany) who assessed damages, made lists, reported to the CEO, received donations, sorted them and made sure the distributions were fair and appropriate. All three were invaluable in the aftermath of the fire. They demonstrated awesome strength as did the teachers who all built their new homes in a week. The response from the public was immediate and most generous, creating feelings of gratitude in everyone. Despite the massive shock, the care that the fire evoked in people became a source of general healing and upliftment.

A staff meeting was held at the end of the first week at which everyone was pale and so obviously exhausted that it was difficult to think. Then, only three weeks after the fire, at a staff meeting that was full of truth and joy, Zanele, who had lost everything, was able to share that she felt that the fire had cleansed her life as well as that of the school. This single mother of three children was able to say that she felt blessed by the realisation that people really care for her. Zanele, we salute you!

Work for Love arranged a Masiphumelele NGO meeting and discussion about the Fire. You can read an article on some of the issues addressed on the Scenic South website <http://www.scenicsouth.co.za/2011/05/thank-you-lessons-from-2-may-fire-in-masiphumelele/> or request the minutes of the meeting from info@workforlove.co.za. A subgroup has been formed to look at and take action in both prevention and improving disaster response in the future. The first meeting will be held on Wednesday 8 June at 14h00 at the Masi Library.



Parents Tamara and Bongeka who lost their homes

Newly built shack

National Teachers Conference

From April 17 - 21, six Siyakhula teachers attended the Waldorf Schools' National Teachers' Conference. At the Conference the SA Federation of Waldorf Schools presented the results of a 2-year long research project on Waldorf Kindergartens around South Africa. Siyakhula received a special mention as being the only township school that has actually requested registration and was duly honoured by being presented in detail. We now know ourselves to be part of a bigger movement that supports and guides us. It was a wonderful, enriching and empowering week's event.

Partner Conference in Germany



Amelie Raith our volunteer from Germany

SA delegation in Germany

At the beginning of March, Nicola was invited to attend a 5-day partner conference of The Friends of Waldorf Education in Karlsruhe, Germany. The topic was: Youth in the Time of Globalisation. It was a marvellous experience to meet so many like-minded people from all over the world who are busy creating social programmes similar to ours in Masiphumelele and Ocean View. At the conference, ex-volunteers who had spent their year abroad at the partner institutions welcomed and served the delegates and many happy reunions have already led to new initiatives and fundraising drives. The young German people are full of energy to support and assist where they can. Not only are they helping developing schools and initiatives to flourish, they are also facilitating their own healthy personal development. At the conference we learned that in this era it is necessary for those in their early 20s to start taking hold of their ideals in an active, practical way.

Amelie was our first volunteer through the German programme and she will be returning home after one year at the end of July. She has been a wonderful, loving and responsible volunteer who has taken on many tasks that were beyond her call of duty and filled them with her whole being. She has grown into a strong woman who realizes deeply that she can make a difference.

In August two new volunteers, Ruth and Marie are arriving. Please contact us should you be interested in hosting a volunteer for a few months.



Wellness Room

Now that the Work for Love offices have moved to Siyakhula, Betty has set up a warm and inviting Wellness Room at the Pink House in Masiphumelele. Imagine yourself in a heated room, on a massage table, covered in warm towels, receiving a balancing, deep tissue massage while listening to gentle music and surrendering into deep relaxation. Betty's intends leaving domestic work so that she can follow her passion and massage full-time. Her dream includes finding premises outside Masi. There, she intends establishing a health and wellness centre and spa where more and more of the women who have trained and graduated from Elaine Hackner's Healing Art of Massage course will be able to find employment in massage.

For the month of June and July all treatments will cost R100/hr. This is an excellent rate! Don't miss out on this wonderful opportunity! Phone Betty 072 075 3198 to make an appointment with her or with any of the other qualified Work for Love masseuses. (For home treatments a transport charge of R50 per visit applies.)

Please send any relevant feedback to massage trainer, Elaine Hackner: info@workforlove.co.za

"I am my brother's Keeper": A Work for Love Volunteer Workshop

Karen Rootenberg will facilitate us on a journey of self-discovery on Thursday 9 June from 17h00 - 21h30 at Living Way Campus Hall in Chasmay Road, Sunnysdale. There are still some places available. Booking essential. Phone Nicola 021 7891342

For the month of June and July all sessions cost R100/hr at the Wellness Room in the Pink House.

By appointment only. Call Betty 072 075 3198



(For home treatments a transport charge of R50 per visit applies.)



UPCOMING EVENTS

Kindergarten Sharing

The Waldorf Kindergarten Teachers of the Western Cape meet once a term. For the first time, on June 11, 2011, the meeting will take place at Siyakhula. We feel honoured (and slightly nervous!) to be hosting this special event. Watch this space for more news!

Outing to Planet Kids and the Aquarium


Two special outings have been arranged for the Siyakhula children. After the harrowing experience of the fire, we felt they needed a treat!

Planet Kids in Muizenberg will host us on Monday 13 June and the Two Oceans Aquarium on Thursday 21 July.

NEEDS LIST

What we are looking for:

1) Volunteers in the following categories:

 a) **Transport.** Now and then we need help with lifts such as when the Siyakhula children are taken on an outing or to take one of our outreach patients to a hospital appointment.

**Monday 13 June! We need help with lifting kids from Siyakhula to the Planet Kids in Muizenberg, leaving the school at 09h00 and returning at 12h00.

**Thursday 21th July! We need help with lifting kids from Siyakhula to the Aquarium, leaving the school at 08h15 and returning at 13h00.

NEEDS LIST

Volunteers in the following categories...

- b) **Bookkeeper**
- c) **Handyman** to assist with repairs at the Siyakhula Educare on an ongoing basis as the need arises.
- d) Assistance in **promoting the massage and offering entrepreneurial skills** to the massage graduates.
- e) The Masiphumelele NGO Forum will be offering training in crisis management for **volunteers** who would like to **assist in disasters** such as the recent fire. Would you be on call?
- f) **Plumber** to fix the plumbing at our Wellness Venue in Ocean View.

2) Small room to rent

Betty is looking for **affordable premises** suitable for massage close to Masiphumelele.

3) For the fire victims

Wall paint, carpets or mats, cupboards, shelves, fridge, electric stove, ceiling boards etc.

4) Plumbing material

For upgrading the dilapidated Ocean View wellness venue.

5) Sponsorship for

- a) **A child at Siyakhula:** R250 per child/month
- b) **Massage outreach workers** to visit the bedridden: for 1 visit per week R200/patient per month.
- c) **Stipend for a massage worker** to offer massage to the community on a donation-only basis: R400/month.
- d) Vuyiswa to receive **training at the Centre for Creative Education** R400/month for 18 months or part thereof.

6) Equipment

- a) **Siyakhula Craft:** baking dishes, cookie cutters, felt, wool, white glue, stuffing, beads.
- b) **Siyakhula Garden:** planting pots, balcony planting trays, hanging baskets, compost, hand gardening tools and children's wheel barrows.
- c) **Siyakhula Rummage sale:** your old clothes to sell once a month to the Masi community as a fundraiser for Siyakhula. Best time to drop off is the last week of the month.

Thank You!

All who made the building of the two new classrooms at Siyakhula possible:

- Friends of Waldorf Education and the Weltwaerts programme donated R150 000 and made the project possible. We received generous donations from the Christophorus School in Germany, from Anne/Kjetil Hana and their friends and family in Norway and Amelie Raith and her friends from Germany. They made it possible to finish the classrooms nicely with good quality equipment as well as to set up our laundry service.
- Teachers, Vuyiswa, Akhona, Zanele and Amelie who sustained their enthusiasm through months of building chaos. Many kind volunteers and parents assisted in cleaning all the toys and setting up the new classrooms. Thank you, Amelie, for sewing the beautiful curtains. Many donations of toys, windows, furniture and discounted service costs were given.

All the people who so generously donated towards the fire victims:

- We especially want to thank Liezl Cilliers of Stellenbosch University, Kashiefa Parker, The Noordhoek Farmvillage Foodbarn for daily bread, Michael Waldorf School, the Centre for Creative Education, Briar Grimley, Hugo Le Roux and many more who kindly dropped off donations at the Siyakhula Educare Centre in the immediate aftermath of the fire.
- Gareth and Mandy Ackerman of the Ackerman Foundation donated a R 5 000 Giftcard for Pick 'n Pay for the school teachers that were victims of the fire.
- The People's Education Support Fund Japan donated R 6000 towards replacing school uniforms and stationary. This donation was organised by Kyoko Kimura.
- We received a generous R14 750 towards the fire victims of the school. R9 500 was donated by Anja and Thomas Schulte and the remainder by Kate Snaddon, Claudia Williams, Brigitte Stehlik, Liz Smith, Karen Rootenberg, S. Havard, R. Middle, Val Steeg, Sue Walker and Sheila Millar. We were able to buy windows, door, locks, hinges, ceiling boards and other hardware material, provide a financial boost for our staff and relief teacher as well as cover the month's school fees for all families who had lost everything.
- We want to thank Amelie, Vuyiswa and Patience who kept the school going in the chaos as well as receiving, sorting and fairly distributing the masses of donations so graciously. They knew just what to do to best assist all the traumatized people in a loving and supportive way. Well done, we are so proud of you.
- Thank you Felix and Jonas who have started coming regularly to do odd jobs at Siyakhula and for helping the teachers to rebuild their homes.

Last but not least:

- The Constantia Waldorf School and the Raith Family, for having given generously to the running costs of the school in the last two months.
- Thank you to Robin Koehorst, Dough and Fawzia for building a raised garden at Siyakhula, the Cape Peninsula University of Technology for the donation of about 10 hardy shrubs for the school, Planet Kids for charging Siyakhula half price, the Two Oceans Aquarium for inviting our school to visit free of charge next month and Cecilia our Treasurer for organizing it.



Thank You!

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