

## MARCH 2012 - ISIBANI NEWS

Isibani remains as busy as ever but there is a real sense that we are heading in the right direction. Sboniso, our operational manager, is doing very well and is handling a lot of the day to day centre based services.

### Creche and baby day care

The crèche is off to a flying start in 2012 ... there are almost 90 children attending and a further 11 in baby day care.

We have big plans for the crèche this year, all children aged 3 and above were assessed at the start of the first term and will be re-assessed at the end of each term throughout the year so we can monitor their improvement and identify any children who are not keeping up with the rest of the class.

We are also hoping to bring in medical professionals to review the children; we will test hearing and eyesight as well as having an occupational therapist, speech therapist, dentist and dietician visiting throughout the year.

There are 5 classes at the crèche and children are taught in both English and Zulu. There is one to one support for any children falling behind.

Most of this has been possible thanks to a YWAM volunteer from Zimbabwe called Ray. He has past teaching experience and has chosen to stay on in South Africa to work on this programme with us, we are very happy to have him.

We are desperately in need of educational type toys – puzzles, flash cards, building blocks etc. Anyone wishing to donate towards the cost of these toys please email [donate@isibanicentre.org](mailto:donate@isibanicentre.org)



## Volunteer News



At the end of last year Gogo Rosie returned to Australia after volunteering with us for almost a year, she will be a hard act to follow but we are confident we can persuade her to return for another visit!

Sindi, a local lady from Amaswazi who has volunteered with us for over 5 years left in January to pursue her life long dream of becoming a nurse. We look forward to welcoming back Nurse Sindi in two years time.



Anne is enjoying living on the farm (if having 2 cows and 4 chickens counts as farming .. we wont talk about the fact that she started out with 6 chickens!)

This is Evelyn and baby Holly at around 10 minutes old.

Sofi enjoyed her Christmas in the UK but was very disappointed not to see any snow.

We have a short term volunteer from Germany, Eliza, who has started dance classes in the old baby day care building in Khetani, so far so good!

Flora and Sandra, our 2 German volunteers, are doing very well and working on lots of youth and children's projects.

Mma Zinhle has joined the health team and has worked with Sindi over the past few months learning about HIV testing, adherence training, first aid and much much more. Now Sindi has left Christine has stepped in and is working with Zinhle a few hours each week.

Sandele, Sylvester and MaNxumalo are still with us and are all doing well. After around 4 years of trying MaNxumalo finally has her ID book, yippee!! This means she can access grants for her 3 children and for the first time in many years will be able to support herself and her family.

## Special Classes

Flora, Christine, Nokuthula and other volunteers are continuing their work with Celimfundo primary school. Three mornings a week they take a group of around 25 children out of grades 1 to 3 to attend special classes. They started by screening 80 children who were not coping well in the mainstream school and selected the most needy for their special class.

In these classes the children are being taught in both English and Zulu and are learning basic skills such as counting, reading and writing. In the short time this programme has been running the volunteers have seen huge improvements in the children, they are more confident, eager to learn and are much better behaved when they return to their regular classes.

We are using a curriculum donated by an overseas volunteer and the programme has been very successful so far. Our vision is to have a dedicated building in the grounds of the primary school but we are thankful to KCF for allowing us use of their church in the meantime.



For a full fact sheet on this programme email [anne@isibanicentre.org](mailto:anne@isibanicentre.org)

## Special Needs and Cerebral Palsy

During 2011 we witnessed many miracles both in our special needs and cerebral palsy groups.

We have a patient who was left unable to walk or even stand after having TB of the spine, we started with exercises whilst he was still bed bound and he turned into our star pupil. If he was asked to do 5 repetitions he would do 10! He came to the centre regularly for sessions and his hard work has paid off, he is now walking with just one walking stick.

We are blessed to know a little girl with CP whom we first met a few years ago, she also wasn't able to stand or even to sit up straight, her limbs were very contorted. She has improved beyond belief and in our last session of 2011 was able to walk without any help.

If things continue like this we will need to start fundraising for tissues for these sessions!!

We are thankful to NG Kerk, Winterton for sponsoring these programmes with food and to Surina our CP therapist and Emmaus hospital for running the special needs clinic.



## **Clinic Days**

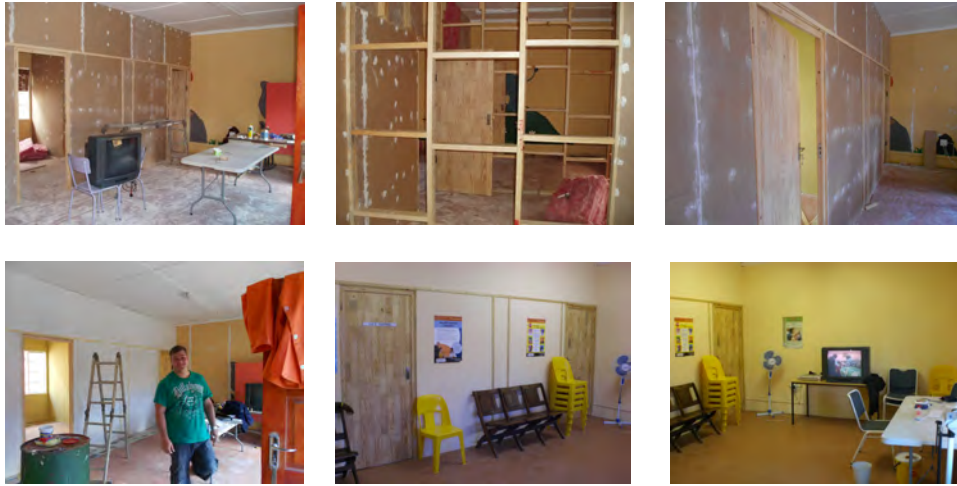
The mobile clinic visits twice each month and can see over 250 patients in one day. With thanks to the dedication of Jill Atkinson and the generosity of Desai Supermarket we are now able to provide food and drinks to these patients as they wait for their consultation.

Jill is desperate for volunteers to help her in the kitchen on these days; if we don't find her volunteers soon we fear she will be needing the clinic herself! We are also grateful to two local nurses who offer their expertise regularly on clinic days.

Isibani continue to offer our support to clinic staff and now hand out all the chronic medication. We are a victim of our own success as many more patients are choosing to collect from our clinic now, we have over 400 patients registered on our database.

We also help the nursing staff by taking blood pressures, blood sugar, weighing patients, assisting with HIV testing and screening for TB.

With thanks to a local volunteer carpenter we have turned one of our larger rooms into 3 separate consulting rooms. This was made possible only through a donation from Saint-Gobain Rigips GmbH, S.-G. Gyproc (PTY) Ltd. und DHL.



**Date: October 2011**

**"Rigips donates plaster boards and body filler for South Africa"**

*At the time of the soccer world championship in 2010 Saint-Gobain Rigips in Düsseldorf already showed interest in donating building material to South Africa. Spontaneously, their colleagues in South Africa and DHL decided to support them. In October 2011, 800 plaster boards and 216 bags of body filler were donated to the Isibani Community Center in South Africa. With the help of volunteers the material will be used to build new HIV-testing and counselling rooms at the center. Furthermore, a community facility will be built in Khetani to offer various activities to approximately 11000 people (i.e. soccer, music groups, gymnasium, drama groups, holiday clubs, movie nights etc.). Hence, especially the young people will have a place to learn in a secure and friendly environment. Alternative social meeting places are the shabeens (illegal drinking facilities), which often tend to have a negative impact from an early age on.*

*Many Thanks to Saint-Gobain Rigips GmbH, S.-G. Gyproc (PTY) Ltd. und DHL, who realized this project with great commitment and a smooth cooperation.*

**Matthew 25**

We have had good results with Matthew 25 and have recently assisted another few ladies to get ID books and hence be able to access grants.

We have around 120 people collecting food each month for their family, they receive a meal on the day as well as spending some time volunteering at the centre in the garden, the kitchen, collecting leaves or cleaning windows.

**Garden**

The garden is looking incredible thanks to the hard work of a local volunteer, we are using the food grown to supply the Isibani kitchen and are also able to regularly bless our Matthew 25 and home based care clients with fresh produce.

**Charity Shop**

Despite Rosie's departure the shop is still running and Sandra, one of our German volunteers, has taken over responsibility for this now.



## **Isiphephelo**

We have identified a site for the place of safety that we plan to open, we have appointed a project manager and hope to have the centre open by the middle of the year. It will provide accommodation for vulnerable, orphaned and abused children whilst their case is investigated and a longer term solution found for them.

The site will be in Emmaus, close to the hospital and the local schools. The programme will not just be about accommodation but will provide holistic physical and emotional care for these children both during their stay with us and after their subsequent placement.

This is a huge project and Isibani is working in partnership with Morester Childrens Home in Ladysmith as well as Philakahle in Bergville.

We have an extensive business plan for this project so anyone interesting in finding out more please email [anne@isibanicentre.org](mailto:anne@isibanicentre.org) for more information.

## **Holiday Club**

Over the Christmas holiday a team of volunteers got together and organized a four day holiday programme for primary school children. We had up to 130 children attending each day and they took part in up to 4 different activities throughout the day. They tried their hand at drumming (we had a volunteer drummer from YWAM taking these sessions), they baked cookies, had an art and craft session and then structured games.

All children rotated through the 4 activities in the day and also had lots of breaks for food, drinks and free play.

On the afternoon of the fourth day the children performed in their groups in a talent show. The highlight of which for me was a little nativity sketch with the very small children. Mary told Joseph she was going to have a baby and 3 year old Joseph replied “Eish” !!



## **Boys Camp**

Last year Philakahle, an NPO in Bergville, organized a girls camp. We are now working in partnership with them to organize a boys camp which will take place

during the Easter holidays. A group of 30 boys will be selected from local schools, they are first asked to write a motivational essay which we use as a basis of selection.

The boys will go to Greystones Camp where they will stay for 5 days and 4 nights, the programme will be focused around life skills, healthy relationships, peer pressure and the power in each of them to make choices. We want to empower these boys to become young men who will support their families, make no excuses for unprotected sex and say no to domestic violence on any level.

After the camp support groups will be set up ensuring the lessons learnt on the camp stay fresh and new.



The girls camp had incredible results and we hope to be able to run a girls camp and a boys camp each year.

We are looking for sponsorship for this boys camp; the cost of sending one boy to the camp will be R900. All sponsors will receive feedback from the camp organizers as well as a personal reflection from the boy they have sponsored. Part sponsorship is also possible, any donations will be greatly received.

We have a more comprehensive document detailing the objectives of the camp and explaining in more detail the results of the recent girls camp; please email [anne@isibanicentre.org](mailto:anne@isibanicentre.org) for a copy.



### **Volunteers and Donations**

Anyone interested in finding out more about volunteering with Isibani or about how to make a donation towards any of the projects mentioned please email us at [info@isibanicentre.org](mailto:info@isibanicentre.org)

We have a network of past volunteers who we can put you in touch with if you are interested in finding out more from people who have tried it for themselves.

We can accommodate volunteers with a range of skills but are particularly in need of an all round handy man or woman, health professionals and teachers.