



Together Bringing Hope to Children & Families

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Message from The Director.....Listening to our children!

As a society we are not always very good at listening, especially not to our children. Listening to our children seems so much more difficult than just telling them what to do, think and feel. However, this past month attendees of the Children's Hospice International conference held in Cape Town listened to the voices of ten of our teenagers. The teens stunned doctors, nurses, child carers and therapists from many different countries with their insights into the struggles of HIV positive children experiencing the pain of receiving HIV from their mothers. The reality is some things we can't learn from textbooks or even teachers. Some things can only be learned by listening to those we're trying to help. I am reminded about how much time Jesus had for little children, and even for those of us who think we're experts, it's a good reminder. May you also take a little extra time today to listen to your child.

Vaughan Stannard

BOYS CAMP Facing the challenges as the youth!



Wow! What can I say; I had such an amazing time with the boys over the weekend. We had a boys camp from the 29th August till 30th. My colleagues were praying for me thinking that I will not be able to handle boys on my own, but with God's grace and prayers we had fun. Most of the boys that I taught life skills come from the same area of Lower Crossroads and they were friends so it was easy to teach them. We talked about lots of stuff among them, gangsters, drugs, alcohol, teenage pregnancy etc. All these issues we have mentioned are the challenges that they are facing everyday in their communities.

I was so proud of them when they gave assurance to me that they can handle any challenge. This is because of the life changing programmes that they go through at Beautiful Gate. Sometimes when I coach them I think that they are not listening to me or to what I teach them, but it's good to see positive behavior in their lives. They are trying to steer clear of the above mentioned issues that some of their peers are involved in. I just want to encourage everybody that is involved in changing our youth that we may all keep up the good work and change our community. They are our future!

Youth Leader

REUNITING FAMILIES More to come...

Recently we placed a child back with her family. Lihle's case was very hard because her mother abandoned her and left her with her sister. When her sister didn't want to take care of her she told her sister to take Lihle to a children's home. In the end that is how she arrived here. We latter found Lihle's grandmother when we were doing a research in the community. But granny was initially not open to look after Lihle. She felt too busy and too old to help. Through lots of visits, prayers and encouragement Lihle's grandmother changed her mind and decided to take her. Now she's happy to be home with her own family again.



CHALLENGES OF A NEW PRESCHOOLER Learning to communicate in sign language



Kileti is one of our preschool kids who had some disability challenges. She joined us three months ago as her mother could not look after her due to sickness. Her mother unfortunately passed away this month.

It has been very difficult to communicate with her relatives as a follow-up to the death of her mother. Kileti can neither talk nor hear; initially it was difficult for her and the other kids as well as her teacher to communicate with her. There has been a marked improvement of late as she seems to be getting on well with her friends now. She can now pay attention when her teacher is talking and has keen interest in learning.

COMMUNITY NETWORKING Interacting through sport!

We have been identifying 8 soccer teams from the local community to come forward and use the soccer field. Every Saturday about 120 children come to play on our soccer field. The after -care children were also among them. When they finish playing they usually tidy the place by picking up the papers.



The league will start again on October until November if this will not disturb their final exams. These children also attend the same school with the residential children and they become so happy to play with each other.

SCHOOLS INVOLVEMENT Donation from angels!



A group of 13 primary school children from Etshona School came and donated some groceries. They brought two boxes of foodstuffs .The group is called 'Soul Buddyz Club' whose role is to show friendship and caring for other children. The team toured the whole site getting first hand information.

As typical of school kids eager to learn, our nurses had a good chance to teach them about medicine and HIV issues. Their teachers also expressed willingness to learn more about HIV so that more teachers can be empowered. They found the visit worthwhile as they were keen to tell others what new things they had learnt.

We have a few vacancies each year for qualified nurses who would like to volunteer. If you are interested please contact: personnel@beautifulgate.org / Tel: +27 (0)21 370 2501

SHARE YOUR SKILLS Current opportunities

Since June this year nursing students from Masiphuhle Skills Training Centre have been helping us. The centre has been sending students to us for their practicals. It has been a great help for us because we have a shortage of nurses.



It is easy to work with them because they are very keen to learn and very flexible too. They are also enjoying their learning here. One of the students enjoyed her learning program so much that she came back to work as a volunteer! Her name is Nombulelo and she is planning on studying further. We are still in need of the volunteer nurses; there is a lot of work to be done. If you know someone who is interested please ask them to contact us.

FOOD GARDEN 67 minutes of Mandela service day

On July 18th, 2009 Nelson Mandela celebrated his 91st birthday. He put a request out to all of his fellow South Africans to give back to their country via service. To commemorate the 67 years of public service he asked that we give 67 minutes of our time serving one another. These boys are normally here to play soccer and to enjoy the freedom of playing without fear under the watchful eyes of staff here at Beautiful Gate.

This day, these boys helped to clear the land for the vegetable garden that has recently started here at Beautiful Gate. The garden has been started to help reduce the rising costs in food as well as to teach the children gardening skills. Growing good food helps us to grow healthy children and also helping them to raise healthy children. It is good to give them some responsibility so that one day they can take care of their families when they are older.



We are always looking for good healthy compost and manure for our garden if you have information about this please contact support@beautifulgate.org.

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