



beautifulgate

Together Bringing Hope to Children & Families

Our mission 'We seek to care for and protect children, empower and preserve families and mobilize our community'

NUMBER  
13

NEWS | Dec '09



### Message from The Director ... Solitary Health Care

At the beginning of another year, I am reminded that our children's HIV clinic is almost 3 years old and now treats some 420 children in the Crossroads Township! Even so, it's difficult to understand what some children go through on a daily basis to survive with HIV. Themba is one of those children. Just turned 12 years old he comes to clinic by himself every month. His mom is often ill, and when she's not, she's working. So he remembers his own appointments, packs his own lunch and his bag of medicines and then catches a taxi to the clinic, a few kilometers from his home. Almost a teen, he can now start attending the adolescent clinic 20 km's away, but he prefers to stay because here "I can come by myself" he says. In the book of Matthew Jesus reminds us how important it is for us to care for children like Themba, those who are sick or rejected. But the truth is, children like Themba inspire and humble us all.

Vaughan Stannard

### THANKS GIVING : You were behind us, thank you!



On the 22<sup>nd</sup> November we had our Thanksgiving Day and it was a glorious day. The teens made speeches, about what they have learnt through out the year and some of the parents gave encouraging words to the group. The teens also performed dance, drama piece, poems and sang for their parents.

It was also a day to award the teenagers with certificates for what they were doing during the year. They were a big part of what we were doing in the community; holiday clubs for the younger kids, community service, educating and influencing their peers using drama and dance.

### REUNIFICATION - Farewell to our seven kids.

In December seven of our children went home - six of them were reunified with their biological families, and one of them went to her host mother who has taken care of her by taking her on weekends and holidays. Now she is going to foster her, it is so wonderful to have families like that. They had time to bond and get used to each other, we feel very much blessed about these families.

Also in this same month we received two beautiful sisters from child welfare, one is 10 years and other one is 2 years old, and they are settling in happily while we look for a permanent family for them.



## FAMILY SUPPORT PROGRAMME

Let's carry this together!



The number of families has increased, including those who seek food support. Luckily in December 2009 we had no families that were sick, their health was stable and their condition was much better than the other years.

Though we lost one of our clients during December, she was very sick and she left children with their father even though he is also sick. We had a good time though with all of the families that we are working with, we gave their children Christmas gifts and food parcels. We had about 240 children from Philippi, Crossroads and Lower Crossroads area. Thank you to all of our supporters for extending a hand for those in need.

## NEW CHRISTMAS TRADITION AT B.G

Enjoying Christmas with our children!



We started a new tradition at Beautiful Gate this year... we closed down for two days! All of the children that weren't accounted for by their family went home with various staff members. So from Christmas Eve through Boxing Day the kids were enjoying Christmas with Beautiful Gate families.

It is hard to say who had more fun, the kids or the staff members. Those of us without children of our own had a good taste of what it is like to care for little ones... and we have a new appreciation for all the patience of our child care workers who have been doing this wonderful work for years. Someone told me the other day that it must be Gods calling to look after these angels as it is not always easy to do so.

We are in desperate need for volunteer qualified nurses to support our clinic. If you are interested please contact: [personnel@beautifulgate.org](mailto:personnel@beautifulgate.org) / Tel: +27 (0)21 370 2501

## LOCAL FOOTBALL STARS FOR 2010.....That's Ayoba!

When the year come to an end the coaches who are using the Beautiful Gate soccer field came together and decided that they make a farewell for the teams they coach. They have decided to host a tournament between the coaches and a group called Sinethemba youth group. The theme of the tournament was "DO WHAT I SAY" but then the idea was to see if the children have learnt and kept what they have been taught by their coaches. What a day! It was the 28<sup>th</sup> of November and the weather was beautiful, we were all excited about the game. The game started around 13:00 pm during the day. It was a very hard game but to be honest the children won the game fairly by 3-1. The coaches lost and they were very proud of their children. Now we are looking forward to making more fixtures for 2010. **Viva 2010, 23 weeks to World Cup!!**



## Spiritual Quote of the month.

Where others see but dawn coming over the hill, I see the soul of the Lord shouting for joy – William Blake

## KID'S END OF YEAR PARTY

Time to be merry – singing and dancing

What a wonderful day it was for our kids. They each received personalized gifts and they were all smiles. Our main guests at the party were visitors from as far as Norway. They took time to tell the kids about Norway and how it is freezing cold now (summer in South Africa) and also the story of Jesus. Everyone then joined the kids in



songs and dance where people danced in a circle hopping and skipping along the way. Thereafter it was time to eat and drink and mingle. The kids were handed goodies by Father Christmas who brought further cheers to the kids, to wrap up a merry and memorable occasion.

## LITTLE ONES FACED CHALLENGES TOO

Thando goes for appendix operation

On the 7 December one of our boys 'Thando' woke up groaning and crying. He seemed to be in great pain. The house parent was awaked by his groans and went to attend to him. He was just pointing to his tummy and indicated he felt pain inside



The house mother immediately called the nurse and our medical doctor – Dr Vaughan. He arrived shortly and drove him to Red Cross Children's Hospital. They diagnosed that he had an infection of the appendix and he needed an operation but the operation could only be done after another 24 hours. They gave him some painkillers before the operation; we took turns to visit him and a house parent was there all the time. On 8 December the operation was successfully done and we are happy that he is recovering.

Beautiful Gate South Africa - Lower Crossroads

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