



St. Joseph's Care
and Support Trust
AT SIZANANI VILLAGE

team talk

BULLETIN

Jan / Feb 2011

New Era for St Joseph's: Sustainable Transformation(2011-2012)

The new year started on a high note with the whole management team and board members attending an important Strategic Planning Workshop from the 2nd to the 4th of February 2011 at Meulstroom Lodge. The main purpose of the workshop was the 'Meeting of the Minds' of the board members and the extended management team whilst formulating a strategic way forward for the organisation in response to the ever changing environment.



The Strategic Planning Workshop was facilitated by two board members; Bronwynne Marcia Rennie and Videshree Rooplall who both possess vast experience in facilitating similar workshops. Consultation and interactive participation were embedded at the core of the workshop with the intention to engage all participants present through group discussions and plenary sessions. During the workshop it was agreed that the organisation was at a stage where it must drive towards sustainable transformation.

The Key Result Areas identified as the way forward were:

1. Repositioning focus on palliative care for all (All life threatening illnesses as opposed to HIV and AIDS only)

2. Accreditation and Compliance - In order for the organisation to be fully accredited by Council for Health Services Accreditation of Southern Africa (COHSASA). It was also agreed that the organisation was supposed to be fully compliant with the Health and Welfare Sector Education and Training Authority (HWSETA) so that the Training Department can offer more accredited courses to the community.

Christ Centred Servant Leadership, effective teamwork and productive communication were noted as the main core values of the organisational culture, and thus St Joseph's vision still remains, "to strive to be a light that radiates God's love and a beacon of hope to those affected by life threatening illnesses".



The workshop did not go without its share of fun, the team was treated to a braai on one of the evenings. They also enjoyed a morning devotion everyday. All the participants were thanked for attending and contributing to the strategic workshop.

By Gillian Chibayiwa

Kenyan Delegates visit the ARV Clinic *by Robert Mafinyori*

On the 9th of February 2011, a team of 8 delegates from Kenya visited our ARV clinic to learn the best practises of the Antiretroviral programme since its inception in 2004. The delegation was made up of the Clergy, Medical Practitioners and members of the Civic Sector. The team was accompanied by the Director of the Southern African Catholic Bishops Conference AIDS Desk, Sr Alison Munro, Dr Ruth Stark and Marisa Wilke from Catholic Relief Services.

During her presentation, the Director of St Joseph's Care and Support Trust, Elisabeth Schilling chronicled the high admissions and death rates which were prevalent prior to the introduction of Antiretrovirals. The In-Patient Unit (Hospice) was seen as a place where patients could have a dignified death.



In 2004, the organisation was chosen as one of the pilot sites to roll out Antiretroviral Treatment by the Southern African Catholic Bishops Conference (SACBC) funded by PEPFAR. The positive impact of the ARVs became evident when there was a gradual decrease in the number of deaths experienced and low admissions in the hospice. To date most of the patients who joined the programme have responded well and are contributing positively to their families and community.

The success of the project is mainly attributed to the partnership which was there between the community and St Joseph's. Community members supported the organisation when it carried out its

outreach programmes and campaigns. The Director also thanked the staff for the hard work which ensured the smooth running of the programme.

The visitors had the opportunity to ask questions which were pertinent to their experience in Kenya. The delegates expressed their gratitude on the information which they acquired from St Joseph's experience.



From right to left: Bishop Paul Kariuki Njiru, Sr Alison Munro, Elisabeth Schilling and Mrs Ruth Njoroge during a tour of Rooderpoort informal settlement

After the presentation, the visitors were taken through the ARV clinic by the Health Services Manager and ARV Coordinator.



The delegation also had the opportunity to tour Rooderpoort informal settlement where they were shown the permaculture gardens before they left for Zambia.

Community Development Department partner with local schools to plant a bio-garden

There was an excited hustle and bustle in the Dan Kutumela School grounds (Zithobeni) on Saturday 29 January 2011. Armed with tools, seedlings and snackfood, the Hatfield Christian School matrics drove over from Pretoria for the day to join with some of the Dan Kutumela High School students to prepare a permaculture food garden as part of their Life Orientation syllabus.



The event was facilitated by St Joseph's Community Development team who turned out in force to help assist the children to prepare, plant and water a 21 by 40 metre garden. The idea is for the Dan Kutumela learners to grow and sell produce to finance their own participation in the Nation Changers Conference to be held at Hatfield School in Pretoria on 7 May this year.



The excellent team spirit, enthusiasm, energy and generosity of the young people impressed many on the day. They personally cultivated seedlings during the December school holidays to donate to the project, and worked hard in teams to help prepare the garden, plant and water the seedlings. The generous donations of manure, compost and

the loan of tools were also much appreciated.

Activities for and on the day included training and active participation in:

- Seed germination
- Compost preparation
- Mulching
- Companion planting
- Drip irrigation
- Raised beds
- Permaculture pest control and fertilisation techniques

A wide variety of vegetable and succulent plants will make the garden interesting and diverse. Beans, carrots, spinach, butternut, radishes, beetroot, tomatoes, green peppers and lettuce were just some of the vegetable varieties planted. Aloes, marigolds, nasturtiums, desert roses and a fig tree will add to the biodiversity of the garden.



Three weeks after: One of the participants of the project in a flourishing bio garden

This is the first of what the Community Development Team hopes will become a series of projects, partnering with local schools to teach permaculture techniques and improve food security.

by Helen Adendorff

I am special

by Mantwa Melamu (Grade 9)

I am that precious butterfly
That flies around roses
I am that beautiful rose
In the garden that smiles
To the sun but afraid of darkness

I am that expensive diamond
That is wanted by everyone
Even those who cannot afford it

I am that happiness that brings joy
And smiles everytime
With love and warmth

I am that everything special
You may name it
That special rose that brings love
I am special

My Joy

by Sophie Qibi (Grade 10)

My joy is like a song
So sweet in my ears
So fulfilling in my heart

My joy eptomises my character
The confidence in me
And the smile upon my face

My joy is my anticipation

My love and devotion

And my satisfaction

My joy is anointing

So bright and calm

And the best place in my heart

My joy is people

All the love and care

I receive from them

Not hatred and fights

Laughter is the best medicine

A spider was making her way towards a pile of logs when a grasshopper appeared and asked her where she was going. "Oh, I am just off to web on to the log site," replied the spider.

"Quotable Quotes"

If you want your children to improve let them overhear the nice things you say about them to others.

Ninety- nine percent of the failures come from people who have the habit of making excuses.

St Joseph's sets up a Youth Online Learning Facility

Towards the end of last year, St Joseph's established a Youth Online Learning facility at the premises. The project was initiated to specifically address the shortage of computer skills identified amongst Orphan and Vulnerable Children (OVCs). Most of the children in the Orphan and Vulnerable Children programme are from the rural communities where they are not exposed to computers and technology due to lack of resources and infrastructure. Children from Ekangala, Sokhulumi, Verena and Rooderpoort informal settlement are some of the beneficiaries of the project so far.



Grade 8 students from Rooderpoort Informal Settlement learning the basics of computing

By setting up such a facility, the organisation seeks to meet the following objectives:

- computer literacy
- top up schooling to help Grade 10 – 12 OVCs achieve better matriculation results,
- life orientation to influence and support healthy life choices,
- psycho-social and spiritual support,
- leadership skills and development,
- entrepreneurial skills,
- income generating projects for youth,
- access to career planning, research and employment.

This project is expected to empower and promote vulnerable young people to become fully functional, successful leaders in the community, helping to prevent the destructive cycles of poverty and disease against which St Joseph's is fighting.



It is expected that our current matriculants will be empowered to take initiative by mentoring those who are younger than them, coaching, modeling values, bringing expertise and skills into the area, for the benefit of the community.

It is further anticipated that, as children turn away from harmful activities, concentrate on their studies and are supported in making the right choices for their lives, we will see a generation of young people leaving school, proficient in mathematics and science and ready to sow back into their communities.



People & Places



27 January 2011.... Some of the Tertiary Students supported by St Joseph's during their orientation at the premises. With them is the Social Services Manager (Rudo Mahusa) and Social Auxillary Worker (Betty Skosana)



7 February 2011... Marc Dullaert (Founder and Director of KidsRights) receives umqomboti (traditional beer) from Johanna Mbuyane during their board visit to Dark City Community Centre.



15 February 2011.... Jon Howcroft from Golder Trust during a site visit together with Gillian Chibayiwa (Fundraising Coordinator) and Quinton Mokoena (Community Development Coordinator) at Onverwacht Community Centre.



23 February 2011..... A farewell party was organised for Mark Groepe and Doctor Masemola. We wish them all the best in their next careers

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