

Season's Greetings

to all our donors, projects and volunteers!

The Gumboots Foundation wishes you a peaceful and safe holiday period with your families. We have been operating for 5 years now and are very happy to announce that we have just reached ONE MILLION RAND in donations. It is the time of year to be thankful for all our blessings... and Gumboots would like to say a warm heartfelt thank you to one and all for making this possible.

The 4 projects are very grateful for your continued support. When you read the newsletter below, you will see what a difference every contribution makes.

**Siyabonga - Enkosi -
Ke a leboha - Dankie -
Thank you**



For more information or to become a Gumboots donor, visit our website www.gumboots.org.za or phone Jenny Prangley 082 928 8806

Sigiya Sonke

When you see the 24 Sigiya Sonke dancers in action, you are overwhelmed by their energy and skills. This team of dancers is full of passion and dedication... and this is mostly due to the tireless commitment of Jack who gives of his time as a teacher and father-figure without ever complaining. Although the team hasn't won prizes this year (like their Prague achievements in 2006), they have continued to dance at competitions and events with the same energy that they put into their lives. They have in fact had 34 performances this year – many more than ever before! Plans next year are to mix pantsula, hip-hop & contemporary African dance – with a bit of help from the father (coach) & son (choreographer) team.

Outings vs needs

Gumboots have taken the children on a few outings, including the inspiring Lion King show. However, Jack



Zenzele in action

NEWS FLASH!

John Lightfoot has donated his Nissan Safari (Nyathi Ndala) to Sigiya Sonke – this will help the eternal transport problem. On behalf of the Dance Group "Siyabonga Smangaliso!"

believes that their greater need is for more basic support in the form of clothing, uniforms and school fees. In answering this need, a generous donor has come forward and bought the whole group their uniforms for next year (instead of buying his usual family gifts) – thank you Jeff – the children and families are very grateful.

Dance venue

This remains a big issue. We have found a more reasonable warehouse that is safer and more suitable where the children can practise in the evenings. But we will need to fundraise to renovate part of the premises – what we envisage is also a space for studying and recreation for the kids as most of their homes are too small to have privacy for work and social interaction.

Nomsa Mugwai

I have been dancing with the Youth Stand Together group for 7 years. Dancing has become my talent and has improved my confidence and self-esteem. When I am on stage, I feel like I am on top of the world! Dancing helps me to encourage my peers not to do bad things, and also made me live a positive life. I can explore and experience the outside world and express my feelings. When my aunt decided that I should live with her in Pretoria. I was happy for a couple of weeks and I realised there was one thing missing – that was dancing and the group members. I couldn't wait to come back and dance. I now have passion and dedication towards the things I do.



Nomsa Mugwai

WHERE HAVE DONATIONS GONE?

• Ballet lessons & accessories	R1 379	• Transport, events & competitions	R10 597
• Education & child support	R5 902	• Trophies	R756
• Food & refreshments	R190	• Outings	R17 089
		TOTAL	R35 912

Khazimula

British students erect mini-tunnels

Eight students from Fairham College, in England, flew to South Africa in October to erect two more mini-tunnels at Khazimula. Each tunnel can grow enough "greens" to feed 70 people every day for 7 months! The Gumboots Seedbank is supplying the seeds and plans are now afoot to use one of them to grow seedlings in seed-trays because propagation is not always successful when sown directly into the earth.



Khazimula tunnel with volunteers

Currently the Gumboots Seedbank operates its outreach programme from a building at Khazimula. Michael Ndlela, who runs the Seedbank, reports that their two black pigs "Khazi" and "Mula" now have two youngsters who are growing fast.

The 27 children living at the Khazimula Shelter now have 4 pigs, 20 laying hens, a dog, a cat and several acres of vegetables to care for. All this helps make Khazimula a "home from home" for them.



Food gardens in Mozambique

Outreach projects of the Gumboots Seedbank at Khazimula have crossed international borders into Mozambique where hundreds of orphaned children now have wonderful vegetable gardens to improve the nutrition of their daily diet.

Sister Myra van Niekerk from the uMngeni Municipality, approached John Tungay with an unusual request. She had been invited on a Mozambique Outreach Project and wanted to establish vegetable gardens for the many orphans there. Armed with more than R1 000 worth of vegetable seeds, she set off for the Iris Ministries in Mozambique where 480 orphaned children eat only rice toppings every day – and twice a year they are spoiled with chicken!

She also visited the Kongolote Orphanage where a vegetable garden of 325 sq m was created to plant maize and other vegies. Mamma Sifa



An armful of seeds bound for Mozambique

who runs the orphanage thanked the Gumboots Foundation with the words: "Thank you! I am rich!"

When wealth is measured by Mamma Sifa in terms of nutritious, health-giving vegetables, the international supporters of the Gumboots Foundation will be happy to know that a further outreach visit is being planned to Mozambique in support of children orphaned by HIV/Aids and war. Thank you to all the supporters!

Khazimula's new "soccer strip" from Belgium

Philip Denis is the sponsor of former street-kid Siyabonga, who now liaises with parents and foster parents in the hope of getting some of Khazimula's children back into family environments. Prior to a visit to his homeland of Belgium, he asked Siyabonga if there was anything special he wanted. "We desperately

need bright, recognisable football jerseys and boots", Siyabonga replied! Having practised nearly every afternoon since January on the football pitch at Khazimula, the children have become talented young players.

Philip returned with a cheque for R5 000 to buy the necessary kit for the football team. They were photographed with Khazimula's pick-up truck that is mainly being used to provide consumables to develop skills training among orphans and other young people of the Midlands so they can enter the workplace with confidence.



Khazimula football team kitted out by well-wishers in Belgium

WHERE HAVE DONATIONS GONE?

- Seeds for the seedbank
- Wages for the superintendent

Paballo Ya Batho

Remember the homeless this Christmas

It's that time of the year when we share love and gifts with family and friends. Each year at Paballo they remember those who do not have families, and who cannot be with their families during Christmas – the homeless people.



Sharing on the streets

So Paballo organises a special dinner for them. The volunteers drive around the city serving a full meal to the homeless communities where they sleep. They also collect all non-perishable food and make hampers for those who have cooking facilities so that they can share it around. This year they will be cooking for 700 people and giving out hampers to 300 families. For this to happen, they need contributions and support – you could help by volunteering on the evening, by donating food or by making a financial contribution. It costs them R10 000 to cook a full meal for 700 people!

The meal will be served on the 19 December, from 18h00 until 22h00. Be a part of this team, and help make a Christmas with a difference!

Night of a 1000 Drawings

A platform for everyone to add value to the lives of the homeless people has been created – “Night of a 1000 Drawings”. For the second year running, this unique fundraising exhibition was held. The drawings were created in the months that led up to the 2 exhibitions – Cape Town (7 Nov) and Jozi (15 Nov). This year's event was much bigger than the last – more than 2 000 people attended both functions with more than 1 000 drawings sold.



Night of a 1000 drawings

The aim of the function was to raise money towards the skills development programme to assist homeless people so they can generate income for themselves. To find out more, visit www.1000drawings.co.za

WHERE HAVE DONATIONS GONE?

• Food for the old man staying in the building; two men sent home to be with their families	R 1 050
• Medical supplies	R 3 173
• Polystyrene cups - 10 000 cups bought for 3 months as the factory is closing	R 1 835
• Gas to cook the food for the outreach	R 1 200
• Payment for mothers who assist with cooking and cleaning Paballo hall	R 4 160
TOTAL	R 11 418



Samuel Mugambe's story:

Sam is a very energetic young man originally from Uganda. Due to high political instability in his country he left – before his girlfriend gave birth to a son whom he has never seen. He arrived in Joburg with nothing but his pride and dignity. The church offered him a place to stay, and while there he started volunteering at Paballo on their Wednesday night outreach programme. He trained in home-based care and became a permanent volunteer in a project designed to care for people with HIV/AIDS. He was then invited to become a Paballo staff member.

“Sam is the person who keeps me sane in the Paballo office, his gentle voice and a sharp eye to details assists me a lot.”

says Ndai

Sam is planning to re-unite with his family. However, finances are still a challenge.



Samuel Mugambe

Leratong



Leratong's little people

Challenges and achievements

2007 has been another successful year at Leratong, with many challenges and many achievements. The teaching and administration staff has done a wonderful job in providing a stable and stimulating haven for the one hundred and forty children at the school. The new classroom has been a great success and has relieved the pressure on the 4 to 5-year-old intake.

We are planning to bring on stream another new classroom early in the new year which will be housed in the

cabin at the top school. All that remains to be done is floor tiling and posters, tables and chairs.

A library and media centre has been started at the bottom school and the designated space has been tiled and painted. Two computers, desks and book shelves have been donated, and further donations of books, games and computer software will be welcomed.

Fun in the garden

We have recently also received two generous donations in kind: an adventure playground that has been erected in the garden at the bottom school adding a rustic dimension to the garden; and a brood of 15 hens, with a fully provisioned hen coop including straw drinking troughs and chicken feed. After only a few days the hens have started to lay, and the children go into the coop daily to collect the eggs!



The new adventure playground

living alone. The good news is that through kind donations, in particular from supporters of our Kidlinks associate in the US, we have been able to provide meaningful support in the form of food, clothing and appliances. A caring and loving house mother, Kululiwe, from KwaZulu-Natal, is now looking after the Simelanes with whom they have closely bonded. We now have two Gumboots supporters (Trish Calvert & Velma Botha) dedicated to helping these two families in the form of regular visits, and shopping for food and clothes. Khandaza and the Simelanes are only two examples of many deprived children living in Alex and there is enormous scope for Gumboots to extend its support to children beyond the Leratong environment. This will be one of our main goals for 2008.

Extending support

In our last newsletter we told the story of little orphaned Khandaza living in impoverished conditions in a tiny crowded room with his younger brother and ten other family members. The three Simelane children also lost their mother to AIDS earlier in the year and are



Traditional outfits at the Christmas party



WHERE HAVE DONATIONS GONE?

- Teachers salaries and benefits
- Outings
- Maintenance of premises
- Food and provisions