

## Gumboots is... desperately seeking volunteers!

Whilst there is always a need for more financial support, there is also so much more that needs to be done, and we are keen to increase the number of volunteers. In so doing, we can help in a practical way to fulfil some of the dreams of the projects and disadvantaged individuals.

We are appealing to anyone who would like to get involved – in any small way at any time. Please contact Jenny for the list of the jobs, both for our projects, and as other spin-offs from Gumboots. Please see what resonates with you and where your skills could be used. We stress that this can be in whatever capacity that suits you – as a

once-off or weekly or monthly – it has to be a win-win situation.

For more information or to become a Gumboots donor, visit our website [www.gumboots.org.za](http://www.gumboots.org.za) or phone Jenny Prangley 082 928 8806

## Sigiya Sonke

### Connecting projects

After months of planning, 11 Sigiya Sonke dancers piled into the hired Quantum bus, manned by John and Jack, with the sounds of singing, drumming, shouting, eating – and headed for the Midlands. Following as far behind as possible, came the women – Ade, Jen, Beauty (Jack's wife) and Leratong's Peggy Chauke. Traffic and countless loo-stops turned what should've been a 5-hour journey into 8 hours!

We were off to Howick and to Khazimula to join them for a weekend of connecting through gumbooting, dancing and soccer – imagine all 3 of the project managers spending the weekend together: Jack, John Tungay & Peggy! It was an amazing success... read the Khazimula report for more details. Hopefully we will be able to do something else exciting with the dancers who couldn't go on this trip.



Howick will never be the same again!

### Dance competitions

Sadly the Senegal trip never materialised, but the group had a week of dance workshops and competitions in Khagiso instead! In spite of Jack being very sure they would win the hip-hop, they came away with a disappointed 3<sup>rd</sup> prize.

They continue to dance with passion and promise. Zenzele has been choreographing some of their routines – his dancing and ideas continue to be astounding. He has found a way to marry ballet with township jive in an amazing contemporary style. To see him and Deliseli dancing together brings tears to your eyes.

### Dance and song in Alex

A few of the Gumboots team were privileged to be part of a musical concert in the tiny Alex 9th Avenue Church. This was a joining of talent to showcase Sigiya Sonke and the new Alex choir. Once again the dancers were on top form in spite of the cramped space, rough floor and dodgy hi-fi. And the corrugated-iron walls of the little church shook with the passionate gusto of the choir.

The ubuntu of the event helped to confirm both the choir & Sigiya Sonke's mission "to build relationships in the community".

### Delisile's story

👉 I have been dancing since I was 5 years old. I do traditional, modern, and ballet. I am dancing to express my feelings cos it keeps my mind strong and sharp and my body fit. Then I can focus on reality. I am very passionate about dancing – especially kofifi (township jive). But I don't want to be a professional dancer when I am older – I want to be an archeologist. I was inspired by my Grade 7 teacher. 👉👉



Delisile is going places

### WHERE HAVE DONATIONS GONE?

- Costumes for the group
- Transport & refreshments for functions
- The Howick getaway
- Driving lessons for Jack

## Khazimula

### The weekend of dance

John Tungay and the Khazimula superintendent, Rev. Mbuyo Mdemze, had organized an amazing programme for the Sigiya Sonke dancers' trip to the Midands.

The first event, a soccer match (the Gautengers vs KZN), was a fiery, well-matched game played with plenty of noisy support from the sidelines and accompanied by Beethoven & Bach symphonies in the background! After extra time & two rounds of penalty shootouts, Sigiya Sonke were the victors.

After the very generous braai, the concert began in the hall. The Sigiya Sonke dancers kicked off with traditional, township-jive and hip-hop; followed by an incredible display by Khazimula gumbooters led by Shortie and Siyabonga. What talent in this group – hopefully they can continue dancing together. Jack has already been invited back to coach them and hopefully we can have a "return match" in Jozi soon.

The day finished in the Howick Catholic Church for mass with John T on the organ. What a moving

service to have these previous local street children now singing like angels in the front pew... and then gumboot dancing up at the altar. The transformation is miraculous – they arrived in January with all the external and internal pains of street kids – they now look happy, normal children.

However, the government programme only allows them to be housed at a shelter of this sort for a year – after which they have to be given back to the community to their families or foster homes. It will not be easy for them to leave.



The Khazimula gang



Self-trained gumbooters in action

Thank you John and Khazimula for a really memorable weekend. Since then John has had an operation to his leg – may you be back on your feet very soon.

### Other recent changes at Khazimula:

- The **mini-piggery** – this was set up using Gumboots funds a few months ago. A fine home has been built for the two stout, black pigs known as Khazi and Mula. All the leftover peelings and slops go towards growing them... and hopefully there will be little piglets to follow soon.
- The **Gumboots Seedbank** – a wonderful wooden hut has been built to house the Gumboots seeds looked after by Michael. There are hundreds of packets of spinach, cabbages, carrots, onions etc waiting for August to be given to schools & the community to begin planting their Spring vegetable gardens.
- **Khazimula vegetables** – rows of healthy looking veges are growing under the care of Michael and the children. A big area has also been flattened to erect the new vegetable tunnels where they will be sheltered and still get sun.
- **Rev. Mdemze** and his wife are both very involved in all aspects of the home – especially as he is also a trained nurse /psychologist; and she is a wonderful cook! These skills are much needed in this little community.

#### WHERE HAVE DONATIONS GONE?

- Buying seeds for the seedbank
- Building the mini-piggery
- Wages for the superintendent



Khazi eats while Mula sleeps

## Paballo

### Wednesday Night Outreach Programme

Last month the civil servants embarked on a strike, and clinics and hospitals were not operating at their normal level. This affected the homeless community as they obviously can't afford to pay for private hospitals. So the Paballo medical team was stretched to meet the challenges faced by our friends; more medication had to be bought; ambulances were called but people were still brought back without having been seen at the hospital. It was a very emotional period for the volunteers as there is only do so much you can do. The relationship between volunteers and homeless people is very deep, particularly during the difficult times.

### The Winter Drive

This year has been one of the coldest, sadly claiming the life of one of our homeless friends. But the Paballo team was able to help



Paballo empowers and develops people through skills training

Wednesday night volunteers

hundreds of others through the winter drive to collect warm clothing, blankets and food. The initial aim was to collect 2 000 blankets. However, a huge positive response from the Johannesburg community, meant that more than 5 000 blankets were collected, with 15 organisations participating and 100 volunteers. R13 000 was raised during this period.

### Skills development

Paballo, in partnership with Jawitz Properties and FeedSA, has embarked on a mission to empower and develop people through skills training. Paballo organised training for 10 people to make key rings, coasters, spoon rests etc. Meals are

also provided at the Paterson Park Recreation Centre. Paballo's mission is to affirm human dignity by providing the opportunity to work – for every human being this means life... to be able to provide food for one's family, accommodation and education.

### Night of a 1 000 Drawings

This is Paballo's annual fundraising event – a one-night exhibition held last year was a huge success through people donating A5 drawings and the public buying them. This year it takes place on 15 November. Visit [www.paballo.org.za](http://www.paballo.org.za) for more info about this fun and inspirational initiative.



A donated blanket gives small comfort to this homeless man

## Stories from Paballo

More than 1 000 people are being accommodated at the Methodist Church – most of them from Zimbabwe. The stories are hard...

- **Raymond** from Zim is 60 years, sick and unable to go out and look for a job. He cannot get support from the government as he is not a South African citizen, so Paballo gives him R50/week for food. It is not much as he cannot cook inside so has to get take-aways. Sometimes he uses the money to go to the doctor.
- **Jerry Malinga** from QwaQwa met someone from home and was told that his younger brother had died. He asked Paballo for assistance to attend the funeral. His parent's had passed away years ago and he never attended their funerals as nobody knew where he was. So he didn't want to miss his brother's funeral too. Paballo was able to help Jerry.

### WHERE HAVE DONATIONS GONE?

• Medical supplies	R 5 360
• Relief work	R 700
• Transport	R 345
• Petrol	R 1 600
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>R 8 005</b>

## Leratong

### The new classroom

The official opening took place on 17 May. All the children filed out en masse to share in the proceedings. Hans Prenner, the General Manager of the Michelangelo Hotel, was there to cut the yellow ribbon and was presented with the key of the door! The 24 children (4 to 5 year-olds) were then called one by one into the classroom by their teacher, Dimakatso, where they sang songs for us. It was a very moving experience. We are very grateful to the Michelangelo Hotel for making this possible

Gumboots is busy refurbishing another wooden cabin at the top school – this is to be used by the

little 2-year-olds as a classroom to help with the current space problem. The process is coming along very smoothly and we hope by the end of September we can officially open the class.

### Doctor and his garden

Thanks to one of the volunteers, we have been planting new vege seeds for the spring and summer season ahead. Doctor keeps the garden going, but it is always good to have more hands to help, and some guidance. Doctor is also having driving lessons so that he can get his driving licence and ultimately be able to help with transport.



Classroom opening

### Khandaza's story

Little Khandaza is one of Leratong's 6-year-olds, who has been sponsored by a donor in the UK. Recently one of the Gumboots' team took him and his brother on a shopping spree to buy some essential clothes. It was a day of mixed emotions & blessings. Jenny talks of the visit to the shack where the brothers live...



Khandaza

“ When their parents died, the boys were taken in by their aunt and uncle (and 5 children) into their small space, about 2m x 4m. This is where the family of 9 sleep, cook, eat and survive, down an alleyway in the heart of Alex. And yet they were still able to greet me with big smiles and happy faces, full of anticipation for the trip to Balfour Park Shopping Centre. It was difficult to say who had the best time – I personally found the experience deeply moving as I watched the joy on these boys' faces as they chose their shoes, trousers, shirts etc, with the older brother (of 8) all the time looking after Khandaza, holding his hand & sorting out his clothes. With stylish new caps and balloons, we headed off to MacDonalDs – and then home. Hopefully there will be other outings ahead. ”

“ Sadly Mpho, one of our teachers and a house mother is not well, and has needed to take time off. But for the rest of the staff, I believe they enjoy their work and we are blessed to have people like them working with us. We are also blessed to have Gumboots supporting us. May God bless everyone who makes an effort in helping alleviate poverty in our society and community. ”

A word from one of the teachers/  
administrator – Sheena

### WHERE HAVE DONATIONS GONE?

- Teachers' salaries
- School outing to the Animal Farm and Douglasdale Dairy
- Food and provisions
- Electrical maintenance and upgrades
- Refurbishing the new wooden cabin
- Garden upkeep
- New fridge and stove for the 3 orphaned Simelane children living near Leratong