



SA Christmas Edition

'Tis the season to be jolly... and to think about those less fortunate. Among the daily hardships and difficulties that our projects and communities face, they are still able to be cheerful and to give thanks for the many blessings this year... zozos and gardens have been cultivated in Leratong; launches and overseas trips have been celebrated by Sigiya Sonke;

the orphanage is about to open its doors at Khazimula; and Paballo has had an amazing night of 1 000 drawings.

Thank you to all our donors who have given their support so generously over the last year to make all this possible. We wish you all a blessed festive season and safe journeys and homecomings – wherever you are and wherever you go.



In traditional action



The Launch of Sigiya Sonke!

Sigiya Sonke/*Dance Together* was launched in October – and there were plenty of celebrations and *dancing together!* The Pigeon House at Pirates Club was turned into a Shac-Chic Shebeen... with braziers, fairy lights, murals, gumboots, live guitar music and DJ - the highlight being the entertainment from the Sigiya Sonke group led by their enthusiastic leader, Jack. As part of the theme, the 120 guests were given little enamel

mugs to hang around their necks and to fill with skokiaan punch. The latter part of the evening saw one guy (no names) filling a gumboot with the punch and coercing others to take a gulp! Those guests that signed up as donors had their names go into the lucky draw with generous prizes. It was a great launch for a great group! Jack was very grateful for the support... *"Even if we didn't raise a lot of money, it will help the group to get more powerful performances"*.

New Year Plans

Great ideas and plans are afoot for the new year for the group. For the last 12 years they have been gathering in a dilapidated warehouse with no electricity to do their dance routines and to share their dreams. We have at last found better premises that will be safer, closer and have lighting. Sharing this space for a few hours in the

evenings with a voluntary organisation dealing with HIV/AIDS issues, it will provide the group with the opportunity of a creative environment – we are looking forward to painting it and making it their "new dance academy".

The group has continued to dance at their various venues – the Kim Field Dance Academy, some functions and competitions, and a few of them at the Dance Factory where Jack's son, Zenzele, particularly shows extreme promise as a ballet dancer – see him in their Christmas Show in December (bookings at Computicket).

Jack and Ant have also done some corporate training workshops which have proved fun and lucrative. There is a possibility of more of these next year with Sigiya Sonke and the Affirmative Action group joining ranks – you can even spot us all on SABC 2 shortly, in their Zwashu lifestyle magazine show! *Isikhathi Sishintshile!*

AVAILABLE FUNDS:

We have R12 000 from sponsorship and donors that has yet to be allocated.

PLANS FOR 2007 / FUNDS NEEDED:

- Rental for new premises
- Decorate & upgrade premises
- Salary for Jack
- Transport for group / buy a vehicle
- Music system
- Outings

Jack, in reply to being asked what was the best thing this year: *"The acceptance of Sigiya Sonke group by Gumboots – because we never belonged somewhere before – it's a home we never had."*



Jack – the leader, dancer, father-figure, inspiration, friend

Leratong Pre-school



Mpho and Peggy in the children's new garden shelter

Year-end message from Peggy Chauke

Dear Donors

Thank you very much for everything you have done for us during this year. We really appreciate your support. With the ongoing demand to take in more children, this has been a very stressful year, but with your help we have managed to handle the load. However, we still have a lot to achieve and learn.

Achievements

This year our main achievement has been the increase in enrolment from just over 100 to almost 140 children. Although this has placed a strain on our limited resources, we have succeeded, and Leratong remains a haven of love and stimulation for all its children. Our main goal for 2007 is to expand our classroom space and provide resources for more pupils. This will require both an initial one-off cost of approximately R50,000 and additional running costs of approximately R5,000 per month.

Shortfalls

Although a lot of maintenance work was done in the early part of 2005, there are a number of areas where repairs and refurbishing are needed, for example our kitchen cupboards, electricity, and some further painting. We also struggle so much when it comes to finances, we never have enough to pay the staff at the school.

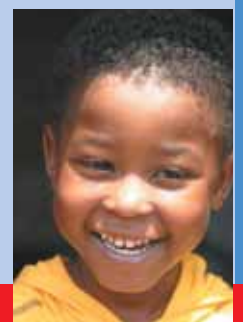
Conclusion

We have ended the year on a very high note. Through the enormous generosity of the Michelangelo Hotel, its General Manager, Mr Hans Prenner and guests at their gourmet dinners during the year, we were awarded a donation of R100,000 as their adopted charity for 2006. John Lightfoot and I were there to receive the donation last week at their final dinner of the year. A huge thank you to all who helped bring this about, and in particular to Celia Haupt of Gumboots who arranged the introduction to Mr Prenner.

With this money and the many contributions from all Leratong supporters, we go into 2007 with a strong feeling of optimism. To celebrate the year we will be having our Christmas party and graduation on 9 December.

Again thank you very much to all Gumboots donors who were involved in supporting the school and making it the success it is. From me, the staff and children we wish you a happy and peaceful festive season.

God Bless you!
Peggy



One of Peggy's happy pupils

WHERE HAVE DONATIONS GONE?

Expenditure for the last 3 months to 30 Nov.

• Outing to Zoo	1,960
• Garden project	2,115
• Food & provisions	4,883
• Pension & medical aid for teachers (monthly cost from Nov: R2,700; initial lump sum: R25,000)	27,700
• Internet	920
Total	R37,577

UNSPENT FUNDS

• Donation from Michelangelo Hotel	100,000
• Other donors	78,493
Total	R178,493

PLANS FOR 2007 / FUNDS NEEDED

• Additional classroom, facilities & running costs	100,000
• Teachers' salaries & Christmas 2006 bonuses	30,000
• Maintenance	15,000
• Food & provisions	4,500
• Pension & medical aid - teachers	8,800
• Garden project	2,000
• Educational & recreation	18,193
Total	R178,493





KZN's Khazimula

Khazimula has had a wonderful year thanks to the donors, the sponsors and particularly John Tungay's dedicated, hard work – this inspite of the problems he and Paula have experienced this year. Gumboots wishes them a better, healthier year ahead.

The accommodation is ready and the staff are on standby for Khazimula Orphanage to open its doors in December (as soon as funds are available from social welfare). This will be wonderful beginning for the 18 to 20 orphaned children and streetkids who have been chosen to share this beautiful space.



KZN's former Minister of Agriculture with a cabbage grown from Gumboots' seeds

Gumboots Seedbank supports "Working on Fire"

The Gumboots Foundation is proud of the part its Seedbank in Khazimula is playing in supporting another initiative. The "Working on Fire" Programme, launched in 2003 with combined aid from government and the commercial forestry sector, provides training and work opportunities for young people and develops teams to prevent and fight fires.



Young learners planting seeds

Within the first year of operation, 40 fire-fighting bases had been established, each with over 20 hand fire-fighting crews in place. Outside of the fire season, these teams are active with fire prevention work and community awareness programmes. Part of each team's spare time is spent teaching rural schoolchildren in KZN about the danger and control of fires, HIV/AIDS information, and how to grow plentiful supplies of vegetables by establishing school gardens. And this is where the Gumboots Seedbank comes in... the teams fly in helicopters to the various rural schools and communities and hand out the free seed packets while they educate the children. They encourage local communities to care for the land, grow their own produce, and improve their health by consuming a wide variety of nutritious and locally produced vegetables.



"Working on Fire" team with Gumboots' seeds

Chickens...

The communities in and around Lidgetton are still benefitting from the chicken "tractors" and their occupants – a wonderful innovation!

Plans for the new year

John Tungay is keen to work together with TAFSA (The African Families Foundation) who are based in the UK. They are hoping that Gumboots will be involved in this initiative too as they are looking at getting an "All African Conservatory of Music, Singing and Dance" established. They are in touch with Ladysmith Black Mambasa who are also keen to be part of this – and so there could be some good synergy there for our own Sigiya Sonke!

WHERE HAVE DONATIONS GONE?

Since the last newsletter in August, Gumboots' R14 012 funds have gone towards:

- Chicken feed for the occupants of the "tractors"
- Paying the caretaker at the orphanage
- Towards lectures for teaching the community how to start SMMEs

PLANS FOR 2007 / FUNDS NEEDED

- For seeds as and when needed
- Caretaker's salary
- For the TAFSA initiative

Gumboots looks forward to working more closely with Khazimula next year, and hopes that the Orphanage will be sufficiently sorted out to have a happy, safe and festive season.





Paballo ya batho

Check out Paballo's new website: www.paballo.org

"The Night of 1 000 Drawings"

This new fundraising concept took the form of an exhibition of A5 drawings (by anyone on anything) - from South African artists to the general public, including the homeless themselves. These were donated to Paballo and sold for R100 each at an 'uber-trendy' evening held on 16 November in downtown Jozi where 1 500 drawings were strung around the hall. Ndai (Paballo's director) said: *"the night was beyond my wildest imagination"*, with over 700 people attending and 640 drawings sold – raising R98 722!

Despite BHP Billiton's donation of R30 000 towards the event, Paballo took home R66 000, after expenses. The remaining drawings will be hung in the Paballo room. Log onto the "Night of 1 000 Drawings" blog (<http://1000drawings.blogspot.com/>) to see pictures and get the low-down on the event.



The entrance to the exhibition



Some of the drawings sold on the successful night

Paballo's new 'baby'...truck

The main aim of the "Night of 1 000 Drawings" was to raise money towards a much-needed bakkie. But on the night, Paballo were given a big surprise when a 'baby truck' by Siyakha Pump & Tank was handed over to them – it was immediately put to use on the Wednesday night run and collecting donations from the Soweto Gospel Choir.

Christmas Cheer ...

Paballo's Christmas plans are slightly different this year, as in Ndai's words *"the homeless are starting to plan for us"*. This year they plan to do their Christmas drive a week early and are hoping to still provide a hot, take-away Christmas dinner (pap, chicken,

veggies and juice). Paballo are also involved in the Salvation Army's Christmas meal (23 December) where a hot meal will be served to the cheer and tunes of the Salvation Army band.

Strategic planning and research

With the help of volunteers from RAU, Paballo's plan, in 2007, is to conduct an impact assessment of their work. It will look at, and measure, the impact Paballo is having on the homeless community, beyond supplying food. They will use the results of this study to identify the major challenges faced by the homeless and develop new programmes to address these issues.

WHERE HAVE DONATIONS GONE?

Since the last newsletter in August, Gumboots' R10 033 funds have gone towards:

- Medical supplies
- Relief work*
- Hiring transport (pre baby truck)
- Stipends for the two Wednesday night cooks, and cleaning equipment
- Buying cups for soup

PLANS FOR 2007 / FUNDS NEEDED:

- They want the young 3-4 year-old children to go to Paballo's pre-school. This will free up the mothers to look for work.
- The cost of this is R300/month, but they are hoping for contributions of R150 towards this.
- Paballo also plans to involve the mothers in the cooking and cleaning at the school.

*Paballo's relief work money went towards a young Xhosa-speaking man who travelled up from Queenstown to find his sister. He spoke no English, and could not write his own name. He soon became lost and depressed on the city streets as his blanket and food supply were stolen, and he discovered that his sister was in Cape Town. Paballo supported this man with food, a new blanket, a change of clothes and a ticket back to his 20 goats, 14 cows and many sheep!



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

