

CHALLENGING ROTARY PROJECT IS NOW UP-AND-RUNNING!



Part of the first group of 18 children accepted at the Khazimula Children's Shelter, in the Lidgetton Valley. They were transported to their new home by the Department of Social Welfare on Monday 15 January and all been enrolled at the nearby Jabula Combined School in the Lidgetton village.

The Khazimula Children's Shelter for Aids orphans and Street Children living in the KZN Midlands is another of the many projects supported by the Rotary Club of Mooi River.

Nestling on a hill in the beautiful Lidgetton Valley, Khazimula is the only place of refuge for boys and girls, who live within the uMngeni municipal boundaries, whose lives have been shattered by circumstances beyond their control.

Rebuilding their lives is the task of the Management Committee and the Supervisor of the centre, Rev. Mvuyo Ndenze, a former senior nurse at Grey's Hospital in Pietermaritzburg. Mvuyo also holds a certificate in psychiatric nursing. Injuries from a serious motor accident put paid to his nursing career, whereafter he studied for the ministry. He was ordained as a priest in the Anglican Church, for Mpophomeni, and supported the uMngeni Aids Centre's counselling of nurses providing ARV's to Aids sufferers and comforting the dying.

Khazimula opened its doors to vulnerable children on 15 January this year. The dramatic improvement in the health and spirit of the children has been witnessed by all who visit the children's home. "Khazimula" means "to shine" and the shining faces of these children more than reflect their eagerness to present gumboot dances they have learned – or to sing

you a song! The centre's football field has given the children an opportunity to form a formidable soccer team - keen to take on all comers once they are kitted out.

The miracle behind Khazimula has been in the efforts of young people, including the pupils of Michaelhouse, Hilton College, Howick Prep School and the Cathedral School in Cardiff, Wales, to help rebuild the former school as a home for children and as a leadership training centre. Khazimula Primary School was built in the Lidgetton Valley in 1988 for the children of local farm workers. It closed its doors shortly after the Independent Development Trust funded the erection of a large new complex, known as the Jabula Combined School, in the Lidgetton village in the early nineties.

The empty buildings in the Lidgetton Valley fell into decay after being ravaged by poor Midlands residents. Steel doors were ripped from their hinges and roofing materials were removed to build their houses. Rain was soon pouring through broken roof tiles and damaging the remaining ceilings.

Rotarian John Tungay recognised the urgent need for a children's home and training centre for young people so he secured the support of the Rotary Club of Mooi River to develop Khazimula's Leadership Training Centre and the Children's Shelter. Overseas support was sought and the Llandaff Cathedral School in

Cardiff, Wales, provided funding to purchase beds and other furnishings and a group of Dutch engineers were invited to support the project. Ten engineers flew out from Holland to stay at Khazimula during July of 2005 to help complete essential renovations. They completed a large new septic sewerage system – dug by the boys of Michaelhouse and Hilton College during their weekly outreach visits.

The Dutch engineers purchased sophisticated woodwork and metalwork machinery for skills training. Hand-tools and a suite of computers were donated to Jabula Combined School by pupils of the Fairham Community College, of Nottingham, in England. Jabula School has

now welcomed the Khazimula children and the teaching staff expressed amazement at the group's enthusiasm, their gumboot dancing prowess and their singing.

Through the financial support of Pat Draper and his colleagues of Rotary District 9270 and Shoes South Africa Charitable Trust, Khazimula was provided with essential start-up funds for the Children's Shelter and further support is in the pipeline to run the Rotary Training Centre. Development of foster-parents will take place at Khazimula and skills training of the older orphans and street children will be given at Jabula so that they will be able to earn a living after they leave school.



Rotarian Pat Draper of the Committee in District 9270 serving the interests of vulnerable children, photographed inspecting facilities at the pre-school crèche in the Lidgetton village. Lidgetton has been provided with a wide range of facilities for the education of children. The local focus is now on skills development, and to this end the Rotary Club of Mooi River and the Jabula Interact Club have been responsible for research into the real needs of local residents by questioning families in 500 homes and 50 businesses in the area.

The photograph is the first "test" baking of bread for Rotary's "Bread and Health Biscuits for Destitute Children" project of the RC Mooi River. The youngsters involved in the photograph are post-Matriculants who cannot find employment. They are now forming (with the full support of Headmaster Robert Ndaba) a business called "Busy Bees Bakery" to bake and supply various types of confectionary to the 850 learners at Injoloba Combined School at Howick - when the equipment is not in use to provide bread and other products to feed destitute children. The bread and health biscuits will be distributed to children via the NPO "Angels' Care," working in conjunction with the Khazimula Children's Project.

RC Mooi River repeats it grateful thanks to Rotary, and especially to Pat Draper, for making this wonderful project possible. I have been invited by the school's Principal to officially open the bakery on June 25.

Regards

John
President: RC Mooi River



Inkhanyazini Project # SOAT 13

This is a project in MG62130 and is a report on the building by Rtn Chris Ryder who is handling the project.

This day care centre is based in the Valley of 1000 Hills close to the Lion Park and in the shadow of Natal's Table Mountain. The design is almost identical to Khethokuhle. SoA have financed the building in conjunction with Rotary, Lily of the Valley and KZN. The Department of Education is also involved.



Work is being done by the local community, and, consequently, it is slow. The project should have been completed by the end of 2007 and is now due for an official opening mid July.

The budget has been overrun; this is a common problem (also happened with 1000 Hills Helpers), for 2 reasons: firstly, delays result in inflation eating into costs; secondly, there are changes to specs as the building progresses. In this case funds are being diverted from Maquongo # 27 which is also under the wing of Lily of the Valley.

Since my last visit, the floor is now tiled.



Electrics are in place, but not yet connected. The ceilings are complete and the outside is painted.



Toilets are fitted but the water is to be connected.



A retaining wall at the back of the building is to be built as well as an external storeroom.

The building overlooks the local Community Centre, as you can see (beyond the fence) there is a nice flat open space for a football field.



I will visit this project again and update on its progress.



A garden at a CDCC

A Newspaper Article

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Express 6 June 2008 | Page 7

Organisations unite to assist Aids affected kids

THE joint resources of three community organisations have resulted in a R500,000 Child Development Care Centre providing education and healthcare for underprivileged children of their community.

Rotary International, Soul of Africa and 1000 Hills Community Helpers are giving approximately 60 HIV/AIDS affected and orphaned pre-school children from the Valley of Thousand Hills the gift of free education, hot meals and health care.

According to Leigh Booysen, PRO for Soul of Africa, the centre was built and equipped by Rotary and Soul of Africa to provide education for the children from qualified teachers as well.

She explained that the two organisations wanted to assist the 1000 Hills Community Helpers (1000 HCH) organisation. "Dawn Leppan established the 1000 HCH in 1995 to help alleviate the suffering of children in distress. HCH adapted their services to the needs of the community and focused mainly on children and communities affected by HIV/AIDS, chronic illness and poverty," she said.

Booyesen said the 1000 HCH had been previously operating from St Theresa's Church in Inchanga. "They provided meals for approximately 300 people, primary healthcare facilities, a baby clinic for about 150 babies and mothers as well as distribute baby formula, food and clothing. 1000 HCH provide a 24/7 emergency call-out service and trans-

port patients for medical treatment from rural areas inaccessible to normal transport," she added.

Rotary International World President Mr Wilfrid J Wilkinson flew in from Canada to open the Child Development Care Centre for 1000 HCH. In addition to the Child Development Care Centre there is a clinic, craft shop, training centre and kitchen to feed the community. The centre will be run by 1000 HCH.

Rotary and Soul of Africa started Child Development Care Centres (CDCC) to help orphans and vulnerable children within their communities.

Soul of Africa is a non-profit charity organisation who raises money through the sale of moccasins shoes and soccer balls which are hand made by previously unemployed woman in rural KwaZulu-Natal, to assist orphans and vulnerable children.

Booyesen said the necessity for this programme was brought about because of the increase in orphans and vulnerable children resulting from the AIDS pandemic. "Soul of Africa has partnered with Rotary because part of Rotary's mission is to identify humanitarian projects in the communities needing help and are able to assist the communities in implementing them using their large local and international membership base," concluded Booysen.

More than R10,000,000 has been raised for orphans and vulnerable children in KwaZulu-Natal since 2004.

Centre opened by dignitary

Highway News 19/6/08
PRESIDENT of Rotary International, Wilfrid Wilkinson and his wife Joan, visited the Highway area recently to open a community centre in Inchanga.

The opening, a culmination of a long term project by local Rotarians of the 1000 Hills Rotary Club, comes as a welcome arrival to the local community, as it caters for the needs of the surrounding community, with a clinic and pre-school.

Joan Wilkinson, a former pre-school teacher was clearly in her element at the opening, as she

danced and sang with the young pupils of the pre-school section.

The opening was part of the Canadian couple's itinerary in the country; in which the president attended the Rotary annual conference in Durban, visited the hub of the 'Winter Warmth' campaign - which is an initiative to provide warmth during the cold winter months and visited St Mary's Hospital in Mariamshill, where they learnt about the hospital and the new wing made possible by the Rotary Foundation Health, Hunger and Humanity grant.



Wilfrid Wilkinson