



The Dikhatole Creche Newsletter

May 2005

Greetings from South Africa!

The last six months or so have been busy ones here in Johannesburg. As a result of the funds you have sent so far, we have been able to work directly with the numerous crèches and pre-schools found in Dikhatole.

Conditions there are improving slowly but surely. The wonderful thing about working with such small children is that efforts are immediately rewarded by happy smiles. See below!

Your support is making a difference



- 8 crèche workers have completed level 1 of an ECD certificate. The difference in the way these crèches are being run is already visible and the carers are more motivated;
- An ECD specialist, Dolly Brittan, is supporting and advising crèches and newly trained carers by helping them deal with various issues and by providing additional training to carers in areas such as nutrition;
- Carers have learnt how to make cheap educational toys out of recycled materials. Now kids can learn important skills through play at the crèches;
- Carers have undergone a two day course on HIV/AIDS awareness. Unfortunately HIV/AIDS is an everyday issue for many communities in South Africa, yet prejudices and taboos around this disease still abound.

- Another level 1 training course for an additional 10-12 crèche workers is due to start in June/July 2005. They will also receive long term support, HIV/AIDS training and training in toy making.

A little bit of history

The Dikhatole Digital Village community project started at the beginning of 2002 in a training centre donated by the MacSteel company in Driehoek, in the east of Johannesburg. With the support of Hewlett-Packard Europe and a large donation of equipment, a Digital Village was set up which sought to serve the employment and training needs of the people of nearby Dikhatole.

From its location next to factories belching fumes into the air, to its rows and rows of closely packed tin shacks and its overcrowded primary school, Dikhatole is not an easy place to live or grow up in.

As the project evolved, we realised that we needed to assist Dikhatole with some of the other issues which affect their everyday lives. This includes supporting youth work, a women's group, a community management committee and local schools.

We were particularly concerned over the state of childcare and the many privately run crèches and pre schools in Dikhatole, so it was agreed that ORT would assist with upgrading crèches through providing training, support and encouragement. While efforts are first being made to improve basic conditions, eventually we plan to train ECD workers in the more advanced areas of science and technology teaching.

How your money is being used

Every penny that you send to us is spent directly on the crèches of Dikhatole.

July 2004-June 2005

All amounts shown in South African Rand

Received

Hewlett Packard Employees (Global Giving)	R17,989.00
Farnborough Hill Class of 1963	R5,741.00
<u>Total</u>	<u>R23,730.00</u>

Spent

HIV/AIDS training for crèche carers	R1,500.00
Early childhood development training	R7,640.00
Educational toy making course	R1,750.00
ECD advisor support	R3,500.00
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>R14,390.00</u>
Balance	R9,340.00



Thank you to Hewlett Packard employees and Farnborough Hill Class of '63

Every single one of these activities was funded by donations sent by Hewlett-Packard employees through the Global Giving campaign and by the Farnborough Hill Class of 1963, UK. On behalf of the children of Dikhatole, ORT would like to extend a BIG THANK YOU to you all.

In March 2005 Vivien Hillier (see photo, left) of the Farnborough Hill Class of 1963 saw first hand why upgrading childcare in Dikhatole is so urgent. She also got to meet some of the carers and children that have so far benefited from this project.

We look forward to welcoming more overseas visitors to Dikhatole!

Invest in South Africa's future

Improving childcare in Dikhatole is a long term undertaking which requires committed staff and a steady source of funds. Thanks to the endless commitment and hard work of project staff Nomonde and Alma, positive steps really are being made towards helping children get a better start in life.

These children will help build the South Africa of tomorrow, so make sure you are part of that future by continuing to send in your donations. Every little bit really does count!

Donations can be made in the following ways:

Through Global Giving: www.globalgiving.com

ICT Sows Grassroots of South African Township

Or make a transfer to:

The ORT South Africa Operational Trust (South Africa)

Standard Bank: Orange Grove, Branch code: 004105

Account number: 001824538, Swift code: SBZAZAJJ

Ref: Dikhatole Creche

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Small but cosy, inside Rise and Shine crèche after training