



Phedišang's Newsletter - Hands On February 2011

WHO WE ARE

Phedišang is an organization that contributes to the care of orphans and vulnerable children by providing meals, health monitoring and access to available government funding.

WHAT WE DO

Phedišang's mission is to:

- Provide orphans with 2 meals a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year
- Monitor their health and liaise with healthcare professionals and providers
- Obtain available government grants
- Keep the children living with a family member

Projects are centred around achieving these aims. In addition, it is very important that we provide a nurturing and loving environment for these children so they can thrive.

ACTIVITIES

S.A. GOVERNMENT INVOLVEMENT

We have taken a deep breath at Phedišang, and done exactly what the South African government has told us to do: we have separated our Limpopo operations into the 7 centres, each with its own staff, bank account and official legal status. We have done this in the hope that proper Government funding to run the centres, which was paid in 2009, will flow again - as the State officials have promised. [These changes are part of the rigid Government requirements for funding.]

The Phedišang staff have had to cope with un-kept promises and commitments not honoured, worrying about when salaries and stipends will be paid as well as continuously reassuring the children that food will still be forthcoming. But thanks to firm loyal support and encouragement, we keep on going, despite all

else. From next month we will apply donor funding to supplementing food paid for by Government, and to funding afternoon activities and extensions. Most importantly, the Limpopo office will continue to function (presently located in Turkey), providing guidance to staff and committees, mentoring and help to the children, and distribution and transportation of all donations.

LEADERS' PROGRAM – COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY AND DAY TRIP

We finished last year's Leaders' Program by bringing together all 35 children for a special ceremony at the River Lodge, a local hotel and conference center just outside of Hoedspruit. We spent the morning reviewing the past leadership sessions, playing a few games, and handing out certificates to all 35 participants. It was a great morning followed by an even better afternoon which included swimming in the refreshing pool and cooking up a traditional South African "braai" (barbeque).



2010 Leaders Commencement Ceremony Pool Time at the River Lodge!

During the commencement ceremony, we announced the 12 Leaders who were selected to participate in a special outing. These leaders were selected based on outstanding involvement and attendance in the Program, and on their written motivation statements. For the special outing we took the 12 Leaders to Blyde River Canyon where we visited Echo Caves, Three Rondavels and God's Window. And, of course, we stopped for a picnic lunch complete with sweets and chips (an important highlight when you are a teenager)!



Echo Caves



God's Window

The 2010 Leaders' Program was a great success and served to augment and deepen the Phedišang Project. It helped expand communication at and between the many levels of community, staff, committees and most importantly the children, whom we are there to serve.

LEADERS' PROGRAM

The Leaders' Program includes 35 children (Grades 8-11) from the seven drop-in centres (5 from each centre). All are considered 'high-achievers' and meet once a month to learn about leadership development, life skills, goal setting, and career opportunities. This is the 2nd year that the Leaders' Program has been operating, and we extend heartfelt thanks to those donors who have made this program possible.

GRADE 12 PHEDIŠANG STUDENTS

Congratulations to the four Grade 12 Phedišang learners who passed matric and qualified



Grade 12 Learners receive dictionaries and calculators

to leave school and move on to other things! These four have applied to local FET colleges and we are pleased that they will continue their studies. An emphasis on education continues to be an important part of what Phedišang provides and we help as much as possible to push the children to study and set goals for their future. Sadly, two of our students did not pass matric but have not lost hope and will continue to study and try again next year. Our friends at the Stephen Lewis Foundation funded the purchase of a dictionary and a calculator for each of our Grade 12

students. Thank you for giving these learners resources to help them succeed!

MOSHATE DROP-IN CENTER RECEIVES CHRISTMAS GIFTS

Over the Christmas holiday, 48 of the children from the Moshate centre received Christmas gifts from a local community group! As if that wasn't enough, the Lutheran Church in the area provided extra food parcels for several of the most needy children to take home. This was an unexpected surprise and gave the children and families at Moshate centre much to be thankful for this holiday season. We appreciate the local community support!

PHEDIŠANG CHANGES IN 2011

OFFICE FUNCTIONS MOVE

The Johannesburg office is being scaled down in size and activities. The Board has decided to move as many functions as possible to Limpopo, including all donor-relations and liaison. We will continue to administer funds collected for Phedišang, and support the centres via our extremely competent Manager in Limpopo, Charity Monyela. As Government has prescribed, each centre will raise its own funds and be responsible for its own management. Charity, supported by volunteers, most specifically Wendy from the U.S. Peace Corps, will help, encourage and mentor the centres at all levels. Our aim is to maintain the current standards of care, nutrition and activities for the children. We are carefully monitoring the centres, and should this change, we undertake to keep our donors informed.

STAFF UPDATES - FACILITATORS TO MANAGERS

Olga Masete and Hazel Shai, the Phedišang Project facilitators, have been employed as facilitators at the Phedišang Project, and we thank them for their dedication. It is with great pride that we announce their move up the ladder: Olga is now the manager at the Turkey Drop-In Center and Hazel is the manager at Moshate Drop-In Center. They are both working hard in their new roles and setting good examples for the other managers. Congratulations Olga and Hazel – we know you will be successful!



Hazel Shai - Manager at Moshate



Olga Masete - Manager at Turkey

EDWIN LETTY RETIRES FROM THE BOARD

Edwin Letty of Maitland S.A. has been an invaluable member of the Phedišang Board, stepping in to help on a day-to-day basis following Leigh's move to Cape Town. He has decided to retire from Phedišang, and we thank him for his and Maitland's enormous contribution. Edwin will be hard to replace, but we wish him well in his retirement.

FAREWELL TO JUDY

As a result of the restructuring and changes of the project we are saying goodbye to Judy Bassingthwaighte who has been with us just over a year. We wish her well in her new endeavours.

TERTIARY STUDENTS

Laurence Moakamela has started a degree in Pharmacy at the University of the Western Cape and Tebatso Mauwane has embarked on the 2nd year of her Bachelor of Business Administration at CIDA University. We wish them both well for the year ahead and thank those donors and supporters who have made this further education possible.

WATCH THIS SPACE

Donors often ask us "How else can we help?" This is after having done the formidable task of properly feeding all the children on an ongoing basis. The areas in which we believe that we have really made a difference have been the additional afternoon activities, which include games, dance and computer activities. For a long time we have been dallying with, and talking to some donors about, the idea of a resource centre which would include computers, printers and internet access. This is an absolutely vital part of joining the 21st Century world, and apart from cyber-surfing and exploring, it includes basic things like reviewing opportunities for tertiary study and extension, and then working on the applications. We believe that we have a uniquely Phedišang solution to this resource centre and will have more news in forthcoming communications!

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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