



## Phedišang's Newsletter - Hands On June 2009

### WHO WE ARE

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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

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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 centered on 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

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#### ON THE GROUND in LIMPOPO

Phedišang continues to operate smoothly and well. Meals are prepared and activities are introduced and alive at the centres so that everything keeps going and the children are well looked after. The reports are timeously compiled and sent to the office in Johannesburg; relations with the social workers and the government

Department of Social Development are maintained, and paperwork is completed to apply for grants where possible. Some of the children were sick and were transported to the relevant clinic and in one case the hospital for attention.

## **LEADERS' PROGRAM**

This has continued to flourish with the leaders at each of the centres working hard to do their bit. What is most noticeable is the work the leaders are doing in helping the cooks and carers with day-to-day responsibilities and the directing of afternoon and weekend activities. Just a few days ago, Nick made an impromptu visit to the Turkey centre. It was the day off for the carer, and so the activity room was closed. However, Nick found the computer room open. Inside, Tumelo, one of the leaders at Turkey, was busy teaching about 10 children basic typing skills on Turkey's three computers. In the carer's absence, Tumelo had assumed the role and went to work coordinating an activity. This is exactly the purpose of the leaders program: to build strong leaders at the centres, and so ease the burden of responsibility on the cooks and carers, boost the quality activities and support to all the children at the centres, and strengthen the leaders as individuals in the process. It is definitely proving to be a beneficial program, and will be continued, in some form, next year.



## **OFFICE MOVE – JOHANNESBURG**



Our office in Johannesburg has moved from the previous location in Greenside to an office building in Parktown, Johannesburg. As we move, we record a big thank you to our co-founder, Leigh McLean, who has provided Phedišang with free office space and facilities for the last six years. Our new office space is being generously provided free of charge by the Aurum Institute, an organization in Johannesburg specializing in medical research concerning TB, HIV/AIDS, and workplace disease. Given the major causal rôle of HIV/AIDS in creating the need for Phedišang, we believe this is an appropriate match. It is a perfect location and venue for maintaining our critical functions in Johannesburg, and saves us the high administration costs of financing our own office space. This in turn, translates into more donor money going directly to

benefit the children in Limpopo. Special thanks go to Paul Davis, a board member and close friend of Phedišang, for arranging this most-needed accommodation.

## **PARTNERSHIPS**

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### **DELL COMPUTERS**

In March of this year, Phedišang received a generous donation of 12 new computers from Dell. These are high-quality, up to date computers with Windows Vista pre-installed, flat-screen monitors, and the latest in computer hardware. Nick has found numerous freeware productivity and educational programs to install on the computers. They have been distributed to the centres, and Nick, Hazel, and Olga are now working closely with the carers and leaders at each centre, teaching them new skills each week. Nick is providing one-on-



one instruction to two carers while the children are in school, taking them through a comprehensive computers skills course. After these two have 'graduated', he will work with another two carers, and so on. The carers and leaders are expected to pass their newly acquired skills to the other children at the centres, ensuring a sustainable succession of computer skills training. These computers are a major boost to providing Phedišang children with computer skills essential for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

### **STEPHEN LEWIS ASSESSMENT**

On 11-12 June, Ms. Jenny Parsley, and independent consultant for the Stephen Lewis Foundation in Toronto Canada, visited the Phedišang Project. The Stephen Lewis Foundation has provided major financial support to Phedišang during the past financial year, for food, stipends, and other specified expenses. Jenny had visited Phedišang before in February 2008, and so was really able to see the progress made over the last year, especially in Limpopo. She was particularly impressed with how organized the Limpopo office had become, thanks in a large part to the effort and diligence of Charity and Suzan (the Manager and Financial Administrator respectively, down in Limpopo). They would not have achieved this were it not for the support of our 2 successive U.S. Peace Corps volunteers – Christy and Nick. We are very proud of this assessment and see it as an affirmation of the efficiency and sustainability of the project. Thank you and congratulations on a job well done to everyone who has worked so hard to grow and improve the project.

## FUNDRAISING

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### IMPERIAL LOGISTICS



A most heartfelt thank you goes out to Abrie de Swardt and the team at Imperial Logistics of Johannesburg for their generous cash donation. This loyal support from concerned South African companies is what we really need. They have continued to provide support throughout past years in the form of regular funding, transporting of goods from Johannesburg to Limpopo, hard goods, food and provisions obtained from clients and suppliers and even a borehole water pump setup in the village of Worcester. Ongoing funding of basic operating expenses is hardly glamorous, but it is essential to keep Phedišang going. Thank you, Imperial Logistics, for being such **good friends!!**

### PHEDIŠANG PROMOTIONAL DVD

The Phedišang Project now has a 10 minute promotional DVD to send out to supporters and anyone interested in learning more about the project. This is a professional quality production filmed in Limpopo that has numerous shots of the children and staff at the centres, includes interviews with Maria Kgabo, Christy Hotardand Leigh McLean, and provides a historical overview of the project. The DVD was produced by Born in Africa in Johannesburg, with filming done by Nigel Bateson, and the narration provided by Michael Richard. All of this work was donated free of charge to Phedišang – we are extremely grateful – huge thanks! All we have to pay is the small fee for printing the DVDs. We would love to send a DVD to anyone interested, but we do ask that if you request a DVD, you commit to showing it to at least 10 other people. This could be incorporated into a charity event, cocktail fundraising party, or any other relevant occasion. For those of you interested in helping raise awareness of Phedišang, this is the perfect tool. We believe the DVD speaks for itself!

### CHICAGO, USA FUNDRAISING EFFORTS – REPEAT SUCCESS!

Last August (2008), Stephanie Gordon Farsht of Chicago, U.S.A. and her two daughters raised \$246 for Phedišang by selling lemonade, fresh baked cookies, and bottled water. This year they have come through again, earning an impressive \$700! At this rate they will be funding the whole project within five years - & this year they enlisted some neighbours to help!-- Our sincere appreciation again to all the stand



operators, especially Sami and Alexandra Farsht for their continued fund-raising efforts.

## **US DONATIONS**

Sadly, the end of June marks the end of our association with the S.A. Development Fund, which has been wonderfully beneficial for Phedišang – we thank them for what they have done for us over the years. We are searching for a replacement, which is vital for the issuing of the essential sec501(c)(3) IRS certificates. Credit card donors can continue to use our regular (South African) card service, and we'll get the money – we just can't issue the certificates. Anyone who knows how we can solve this, or can help – please step forward, it'd be most welcome.

We hope that this minor hiccough in facilitating those U.S. donations will be just that – and temporary. Thank you to all the donors who have continued to send contributions – we will update you as soon as we have something new.

## **ORANGE JUICE FROM SAA LOGISTICS**

Out the blue we got an e-mail from SAA Logistics at the end of February – they have helped us with noodles and blankets back in 2006. They had some concentrated orange juice about to expire – could we help? Indeed we could, and collected 2 truck loads of delicious (so we were told by the Phedišang children who drank it) orange concentrate. With the help of our partners this was shipped down to Limpopo, where it was more than welcome – thank you so much!

## **WATCH THIS SPACE**

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### **ROEDEAN SCHOOL ANNUAL VISIT 2009**

Eighteen students from the Roedean School of Johannesburg will be volunteering at Phedišang from 30 July to 3 August. This will be the third annual Roedean trip to Limpopo. Last year, students worked along side the children at the centres to paint the activity rooms with murals, participate in various activities, and learn traditional games and dances. This year will focus on sanitation, with girls from Roedean teaching basic sanitation and the importance of hand washing in preventing disease. Roedean will be donating hand-washing stations, which are a low-cost way of allowing the children to wash with fresh water. Watch this space in the next newsletter to read how it all worked out!

## **NEW MERISON MOLALANE CENTRE**

We are thrilled to announce the opening of a new drop-in centre in the village of Molalane bordering Bustwana village. Merison BV is a company located in the Netherlands that supplies retailers with quality kitchenware items. They have a strong social responsibility component to their business operations and have committed to funding the opening and operations of a new centre in Molalane for three years. So far, 63 children have been identified in Molalane that will benefit from this centre. This is fantastic news for Phedišang and especially for the greater Sekororo community. Operations at the new centre will begin next month - in July 2009. Watch this space in the next newsletter for a full report!

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### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

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