



We don't know about you, but we just can't believe how quickly this year has flown by! At last, after a long, wet winter, we in Cape Town are finally enjoying some well-deserved warm weather and best of all, our children are all thrilled that their long summer break from school has begun.

## CHILDREN

We're especially pleased to note that our children are all doing well, and that they've ended their school year on a good note. Plus, come January 2009, 5 children will be off to 'big school', which they (and we) are so excited about!



**Lindokhule with his "brother" Manito**

Little Lindokhule, who we told you in our last newsletter has cancer, is doing well with his chemotherapy, although this obviously leaves him very tired and run down. Sadly, Anathi is also not well and has been in hospital for many months as she has drug resistant TB, and will have to remain in hospital for a few more months. But even so, their House Mother, Helen, is doing a great job of looking after them and her other children during this difficult time.

On a happier note, all of our older children will be going on Fresh Air Camps over the holidays – something they all look forward to with great excitement! This is always a marvellous opportunity for them to gain some independence and meet many new friends in a different environment. Of course, with Christmas on the way, it's also a time with loads of visits and outings to the beach, as well as wonderful parties and treats.

Earlier this year in September, our House Mothers and children were lucky enough to once again be invited by the Stellenbosch Flying Club and Reach for a Dream to have a spin in a light aircraft. As before, it was an incredible experience and was thoroughly enjoyed by both the children and their House Mothers!

## STAFF

Princess (one of our assistants) is back from maternity leave after having had a little boy, Liyabona. Both mum and baby are doing very well, though Princess obviously misses her baby whilst she is at work.



**Princess and her gorgeous little baby boy, Liyabona**

We've also enjoyed two wonderful occasions with our staff recently. In September we celebrated the beginning of spring by having a braai (which is the South African version of a barbeque for our overseas readers) with all our Khayelitsha staff and children. It was a terrific day enjoyed by all, and the only time the singing and dancing stopped, was when there was food to be eaten!

Plus, earlier this month, we also took our House Mothers and assistants out for breakfast at Spier to say thank you for all their hard work during the year. This was a lovely day for us all to enjoy the beauty of this wonderful place outside Stellenbosch, as well as a chance for us all to relax and get to know each other a little better.

We at Home from Home want to thank all our House Mothers, and wish them all the best, as many of them take some much-deserved leave during this time of year.



**Everyone enjoying themselves at our wonderful breakfast at Spier**

## LIZO NOBANDA DAY CARE

This year, we were thrilled to have received a very generous donation and plan to install a computer room at the Day Care Centre early in the New Year. We hope this will give all our children (and staff) in Khayelitsha the chance to learn vital computer skills, as well as teach the children how to use the computers for homework research. Thanks to our donors, we also plan to send Princess on a computer-training course, so that she will be able to teach the children how to use the new computers.

Also in the New Year, the old Lizo Nobanda Hospice, next door to the Day Care Centre, will be re-opening as a specialist centre for Multi Drug Resistant TB. While this will pose absolutely no health risk to any of our children, since the new centre is going to be called the Lizo Nobanda Care Centre, we've decided, that to avoid any confusion for either organisation, we will be renaming our Day Care Centre 'The Home from Home Day Care Centre'.



**Our House Mother Nobunto and her five children**

**House Mother Catherine spending some quality time with her children**



Earlier this month, our children at the Day Care Centre enjoyed a wonderful end-of-year graduation ceremony, where the children who are graduating to 'big school' next year, were honoured and received special graduation certificates. We also used this occasion to have our end-of-year celebration for the Day Care Centre staff, parents and children.

## NEW HOMES

In September, our new House Mothers moved into our two new homes, Zanovuyo and Zankhanyo, in Kayamandi outside Stellenbosch in association with the Vineyard Church. We're pleased to have already admitted six children and we are sure that these homes will fill up very soon. In November, we celebrated with an official opening of these homes, which was widely attended and blessed in a traditional African way by the local community.

In October, we also had the blessing of our Goodwood house, which is run in association with St Alban's Anglican Church. It was a lovely occasion at which every area of the

**The blessing of the Goodwood house**



**The opening of the Kayamandi houses**

home, as well as Audrey and her six children, were blessed and prayed for by many people.

In even more good news, the construction of our new home in Hawston is finished and we've recently appointed Denise as our new House Mother. She'll be moving into the new home soon, and getting it ready for when her children arrive. We have no doubt that Denise will do a fantastic job and we're thrilled to welcome her to the Home from Home family!

## PARTY IN THE PARK


With the year nearly wrapped up, it was once again time to celebrate with our third annual Party in the Park. This year, we had an even larger turnout, as we welcomed the staff and children from all our homes in Khayelitsha, Stellenbosch and Goodwood, as well as supporters, volunteers and donors. Everyone enjoyed a great day out, complete with Father Christmas, pony rides, gifts, a braai and much, much more!

Naturally, we have a huge number of people to thank for making this very special day possible – people who generously donated their time, money, resources and effort. Plus, we'd also like to say an enormous 'thank you' to everyone who has supported us this year! It's thanks to you that we've enjoyed such a successful and happy year, with new homes opened, more children cared for and the vision of Home from Home spreading even further!

## ENDING ON A HAPPY NOTE

In a previous newsletter, we told you about Nomasango, the woman who, despite living in a shipping container without running water, toilet facilities or cooking facilities, has managed to look after and care for 12 disabled children. In fact, we at Home from Home were so moved by Nomasango's dedication and love, that we decided to help make one of her dreams come true – by building a home for her and the children she looks after.

We're so pleased that, this year, that dream came true. Because today, Nomasango and her children are living in Sibongile – their new home. Since the official opening of Sibongile, the children have all settled in well, and are really enjoying all their newfound space and freedom, and of course, Nomasango is over the moon! We at Home from Home wish them all the very best in their new home!



Two of our children enjoying the Party in the park



Father Christmas makes a welcome visit



Wishing you all a Blessed and Happy Christmas and we look forward to an exciting year ahead in 2009!



Getting ready for a spin in a light aircraft



Having fun at a teddy bear party



Graduation at Lizo Nobanda



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