

Spring has sprung and there's still a lot to be done! So, without further ado, let's kick off with an update on all our homes by area.

HOMES

KHAYELITSHA

Our homes in Khayelitsha hold a very special place in our hearts as this is where it all started. Fortunately, all is going well at the birthplace of Home from Home. Beaulah, our newest mother who started in March, has settled in fantastically and it's lovely to see her smiling and laughing as she plays with the children. We did have a bit of a scare recently, two of our children were suspected of having the H1N1 flu. Thankfully, it was only 'normal' flu, but our HIV-positive children are especially vulnerable so doctors don't take any chances.

All six of our homes in Khayelitsha are full and it is just a shame that we have to turn away so many children who are in need of a loving home.



SIBONGILE

Three of our children from Sibongile are now attending the Home from Home Day Care Centre in Khayelitsha. This has proved to be a wonderful move as these children receive extra care and stimulation and we would like

to say a huge thank you to our staff at the Day Care Centre for agreeing to look after them. We are still on the lookout for a second home in Khayelitsha for our disabled children and are keeping our fingers crossed that we find somewhere suitable soon.

KAYAMANDI

Both our homes in Kayamandi are now full with twelve children – most of whom are siblings! Social workers often struggle to find homes and siblings are often separated. What makes Home from Home so great is that we'll always try to keep brothers and sisters together.



The fact that the two homes are joined creates even more of a family environment and our mothers often take it in turns to cook for both homes, allowing some time off from cooking for the other foster mom, and adding to the general sense of community! Maybe we should all adopt this idea and share meals with our neighbours.

RUYTERWACHT

Patricia and Nestor have settled down very well with their family and now have five children – four girls and a boy – and are expecting another boy shortly. They had quite



a difficult time at first with their baby, Patience, who was in poor health, but she is doing so much better now and it is amazing to see how fast she is growing up! Nestor has done a lovely job with the garden and they now have a jungle gym, so we're just waiting for the weather to improve so that they can spend more time playing on it!

CITY BOWL

Emmie and Raymond, who had just moved in at the time of our last newsletter, are now proud parents of four boys, two sets of brothers. Fortunately, they are able to call on their great experience from having had three children and five grandchildren, with another grandchild and a great grandchild on the way! All four children are settling in well at home and at school and Emmie and Raymond are hoping to welcome two little girls soon to complete their family.

HAWSTON

Denise has been our foster mother in Hawston since December last year. Sadly, her home is the furthest away and we hardly get to see her but one of our trustees also pops in every now and again to see how Denise is doing. Denise is looking after five children now two brothers, two sisters and another little boy. It's wonderful to see how these children have settled in, especially because of their rather troubled backgrounds.

GOODWOOD

Audrey and her six adorable kids have been together a year now and seem like a normal, loving family. The children are doing well at school and it is lovely to see them help each other with their homework. Plus, Audrey is putting her experience from the last year to good use – and is helping and encouraging our newer mothers!



VRYGROND

Our newest home! In our March newsletter we were in a state of despair because we thought that we would never start building. In June we told you that construction was well under way. Now, in September, we're thrilled to tell you that our first home is open and our first three children have been admitted! We were incredibly blessed to receive donations of goods and furniture from the Ackerman Foundation which allowed us to get the homes up and running in time for the children to move in. We decided to open one home first, get Daphne and her three little girls (who have taken to her in a wonderful way) settled in and then open the second home. More on the second home in future newsletters.

So, that's a wrap up of our fifteen homes to date! There are more in the planning stages, but having opened nine homes in the last year, we're happy to take a breather for a while. With fifteen homes in various locations, it just isn't possible to be everywhere and we want to make sure that all our children and foster mothers receive the best possible support and supervision they can get. That's why we are looking to employ a new social worker, who can help us fulfill this duty. She will have a base at our office in Wynberg, but will spend most of her time visiting our various homes. We hope we can introduce you to our new social worker in our December newsletter.



SUPPORT GROUPS AND TEAM BUILDING

As we grow, it's vital that we maintain the closeness which makes Home from Home a successful organisation. We recently held a Team Building Day for all of our Khayelitsha staff, together with Jane, Pippa and Gillian in order to establish more effective communication and find out how we can make Home from Home even better. As well as being very enlightening, we also had a lot of fun, playing team games, sharing food we had prepared and learning more about each other.



Last month we also had a get together with four foster mothers who are 'on their own', i.e. their houses are stand-alone houses, unlike Khayelitsha or Kayamandi. Denise from Hawston was unable to get there, but we are trying to arrange the next meeting when she is in town. Being a foster mother to six children who are not your own can be a lonely and, at times, very challenging job.

While we offer all the help and support we can together with our partner churches and community based organisations, sometimes a foster mother just needs to hear from someone else in the same situation. Lovely bonds have formed between moms during these times together, and they often go on to arrange times when they can all get together with their children.

A CHALLENGE TO YOU FOR 2010!

With the Soccer World Cup coming to our shores, 2010 is going to be a big year for us in South Africa. How about marking it in a very special way, by setting yourself an incredible challenge? Endurance Challenge Charity Trust (ECCT) is a charity which raises funds for South African charities caring for orphaned children who have been made vulnerable by HIV and Aids.

To date, Team ECCT members, headed up by founder, Dr David Crombie, have performed some extraordinary ultra marathon fundraising feats, running in races such as the Himalayas 100 Miler, the Amazon Jungle Marathon 220km self-supporting stage race, and in October this year will tackle a 250km self-supporting race in the Kalahari desert.

Now, we're not challenging you to do something so extreme, but we're asking you to join Team ECCT in the Two Oceans Half Marathon (21km) or Ultra (56km) in April 2010! This is an invitation to everyone, regardless of whether you have done marathons already, or can barely run for a bus! The wonderful thing about this opportunity is that David will devise a personal training program for every Team ECCT member to take you from wherever you are currently to be well prepared on race day. David will be running his 19th Two Oceans Ultra, so he knows the route and what it takes to get a coveted medal! There will be group training runs along the way for those of you who live in Cape Town, and plenty of tips and encouragement to keep you motivated.

We'd love for as many people as possible to join us in this exciting challenge, so if you fancy giving yourself a real goal for the next six months, go visit to read more about the challenges and sign up.

And if you don't feel that you are up for the 21km or 56km race, then you can still sign up as there will be an opportunity to enter a 10km and/or 15km race in March with the team. We hope to see as many as possible of you out there running with us, as Home from Home is a recipient of funds from this Challenge!

To find out more about the Two Oceans Challenge (and to sign up) please go to www.ecct.co.za

WISHLIST

No big requests this month, but we would love to get our children some colouring books and large wooden puzzles so they can play and learn at the same time! Of course, anything else you no longer need is always greatly appreciated. Many thanks in advance!



Our Day Care Kids take a nap!



Just two of the wonderful children we care for!



Mary Jane's happy family!

If anyone would like to help with any of the above, please contact Gillian at the office on 021 761 7251.



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