

We can't believe it's June already! It feels as if this last year has just flown by – but that's probably because we've been keeping ourselves so busy. Thankfully, all our hard work has really paid off and the progress we've made in such a short time has been phenomenal. We've managed to open 7 homes in the last year – so we now have 13 homes caring for 84 abused and abandoned children. It's all thanks to our staff, supporters and volunteers and as long as they're behind us, it looks like many more homes will be opening their doors in the not too distant future!

STAFF

We're delighted to introduce two new additions to our staff, Beullah and Kalubi. Beullah replaced Nomvo as House Mother in our Luvoyo home. She is a very loving mother and the children are very attached to her. She is also incredibly house-proud and keeps her home spotless!



Beullah, our fantastic new mom!

We would also like to welcome Kalubi, who is a former school teacher from Zimbabwe. She will be assisting Catherine and Priscilla with a specific focus on teaching our children, helping them with their homework and making sure that they get the best education they can.

Several of our staff members recently attended a training session held by Kathryn from the SHINE organisation. SHINE specialises in helping children to learn to read – especially those who are struggling in Grade One and Two at school.

Our staff took a lot away from this session, learning about the benefits of reading to children of all ages and they even picked up some tips on how to turn reluctant readers into enthusiastic ones. We would love to buy some special reading books to help our children's reading, particularly

as we have several who are really struggling in this area. So, if anyone would like to contribute towards some specialised readers, please let us know.



Picking up handy hints!

CHILDREN

We are especially pleased to let you know that all our children are doing extremely well. We have welcomed a few new children to our homes in Kayamandi, Stellenbosh, and to our new homes in Ruyterwacht and Zonnebloem.

Many of our children went on camps over the Easter holidays and had a wonderful time and several more will be going on camps during the winter mid-year break. In our last Newsletter we told you that some of our older children were enjoying music therapy sessions. These sessions now include gumboot dancing, which the children just can't seem to get enough of.

Three of our homes in Khayelitsha have special volunteers who are 'friends' to our children and House Mothers, take our kids on outings once a month and make a big fuss of them



Having a blast at camp!

on their birthdays. The children who don't have volunteers obviously get very upset when their friends from other homes get to go somewhere and they don't.

We would love to have special volunteers for all six of our homes in Khayelitsha, so if you've got the time and the energy – and love to put a smile on a child's face – please phone Jane on 021 761 7251.

In other good news, a group of older boys from The Homestead, a Children's Home in Khayelitsha, are teaching our boys how to play soccer. Not only is this great exercise and a lot of fun for our children, but it also gives the older boys an opportunity to show that they care about children in their community.

DAY CARE CENTRE

We are very happy to tell you that the computer room at the Day Care Centre

is now up and running, and children and teachers alike are learning how to use the computers. This will give our children a real head-start before school and is an invaluable tool for our older children who use the PCs to do their homework.

Thanks to a generous donation, we now have new, good quality wooden jungle gyms at the Crèche and at our homes in Goodwood and Ruyterwacht. The children LOVE the jungle gyms – and so do our House Mothers because the children get to burn off some excess energy outside!

The children at the Day Care Centre were enthralled by a visit from bird experts who brought birds of prey with them, which some of the children even got to hold. The children had a great time and learnt a lot about nature and conservation.

We'd love to show you pictures, but sadly there is no camera at the Day Care Centre. So, if anyone has a digital camera for Toni, our project manager in Khayelitsha, to use to take photos of the children, could they please let Gillian at our office know. Thank you!



2 learners using our new PCs!



Having fun on the jungle gym!



All our Day Care Centre kids!

NEW HOMES

In our last Newsletter we told you that Patricia and Nestor were moving into our home in Ruyterwacht. There were quite a lot of enquiries for placements at the home, and they now have four little girls, including a gorgeous 3 month old baby. Patricia and Nestor are loving their new family and we hope that they're going to be able to welcome some boys to their home soon.



Proud new parents!

We also mentioned in March that we were looking for a House Mother or parents for our new home in Zonnebloem which we are running in association with the City Bowl Anglican Churches. Well, we have found a wonderful couple,



Excited parents-to-be!

Emmie and Raymond, who have recently moved into the home and will hopefully admit their first two children in the next couple of weeks.

Also in March, we asked you to hold thumbs for our houses in Vrygrond. The planning permission had been held up for a very long time and it seemed like nothing was going to happen. No sooner had our Newsletter gone out than plans were passed and construction commenced.

In addition to this we formed an association with the Vrygrond Community Development Trust with whom we will be running these homes. Last week we finished our interviewing process and believe that we have found two House Mothers and an assistant, and we hope to open these two new homes in July. We must put more requests like this in our Newsletter if this is what happens!



Our newest home waiting for a family!

MORE NEW HOMES!!!

We are also thrilled to tell you that we hope to be opening a home in Ocean View in association with the local Anglican Church, as well as a second home in Hawston for older children. Discussions are also underway about the opening of homes in Paarl and a second Sibongile home for disabled children. 2009 is shaping up to be a very busy year for Home from Home!

Working with local churches and NGO'S has been an incredible experience. We have met so many caring and concerned people who form the committees running the homes. We have developed wonderful working relationships and we can see how supported the House Mothers feel. Without these partnerships we would not be able to expand our network and provide homes and loving families for the children in need.

WISH LIST

In addition to the above requests for a camera for Toni, and donations for a set of reading books, we are also looking for gardening equipment and trees. We are trying to really 'green' the gardens at our homes and Day Care Centre in Khayelitsha.

For any of you who have visited, you will know that the soil in Khayelitsha is extremely poor and it is very difficult to



Just two of the wonderful children we care for!



grow anything there. We have had recent help from volunteers at Cape Mental Health who have done a wonderful job clearing and cleaning, but now we would like to make our children's environment greener and more pleasant to live in.



Having lots of fun and exercise

We are looking for various items to set up our two new homes in Vrygrond. If anyone in Cape Town is redecorating and wants to get rid of furniture, appliances or anything that can be used to furnish a home, please let us know – we would be extremely grateful for any donations!



Forming close bonds and friendships

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



CONTACT DETAILS

Tel : +27 21 761 7251 | Fax: +27 21 761 1581 | Web: www.homefromhome.org.za | email: info@homefromhome.org.za

BANKING DETAILS

Nedbank South Africa | Branch Code 10 11 09 | Account no. 1011 109 700 | Swift Code NEDSZAJJ