

It seems like just yesterday that we at Home from Home were saying goodbye to 2008 and celebrating the start of 2009 – and now, it's already nearly time for Easter! But even though this year is flying by, it looks like it's shaping up to be even busier than the last...

STAFF NEWS

This year, we're so pleased to welcome our wonderful new House Mother, Priscilla! Priscilla is replacing Nobunto and is living in our home, Ekuphumleni, in Khayelitsha. Not only has she settled in fantastically, but her kids absolutely adore her and she's making such a wonderful, happy home for them! Welcome Priscilla and keep up the amazing job you're doing!



Priscilla
and her new family

Positive Parenting

To date, all of our House Mothers, as well as some of our assistants have been attending a special course on Positive Parenting that's being run by the Parent Centre. It's been a wonderful experience getting everyone together from near and far, and according to all those who have attended, the course has been very interesting and informative, and has given the House Mothers new skills to care for their children.



Some of our House Mothers and assistants
at the Positive Parenting course

Please note: We at Home from Home are currently looking for another House Mother or parents to care for our children in Zonnebloem. If you are interested, or know of someone who would be perfect for the job, please let us know by calling Jane at 021 7617251

CHILDREN'S NEWS

We're absolutely thrilled to report that 2009 has been going very well for our children! With all of them in comparatively good health, and happily settled into the new school year. We now have 2 children in Grade R and 8 children who have started Grade 1 this year – children who we were so proud and excited to see going off to school in their new school uniforms!



A few of our very happy
'Big school' learners

In More Happy News

We're very glad to have little Anathi out of hospital and back home where she belongs! Unfortunately though, she still needs to receive her TB medication and because she has to take so much, it is often a struggle for her. But we're all so grateful to her House Mother, Helen, for taking such good care of such a special little girl!

A Dream Come True

A few weeks ago, several of our older children were invited to attend a Reach for a Dream weekend camp, which they all thoroughly enjoyed! After the weekend we received the most wonderful compliment from Reach for a Dream: they told us how well behaved our children had been – something which, of course, we already knew, but it's always nice to hear!

On A Musical Note

Our children are now participating in regular weekly Music Therapy groups. We've found that not only does this give them exposure to musical instruments and the opportunity to learn them, but it's also something that the children absolutely love doing and helps them to express what and how they are feeling.

CRÈCHE

At the end of the 2008 school year, we said goodbye to 12 of our children who would be starting as learners at the local 'big schools' in the area.



Our kids getting school-ready at the crèche

Now, just a few months into the school year, we're receiving fantastic feedback about how well these children are settling in and how equipped for school they are. A huge 'Well Done' and gold stars to all our staff at the centre for preparing the children so well!

In Very Exciting News

Our new computer centre, which is based at the crèche, is nearly up and running - something everyone is looking forward to! Princess has started her computer-training course, and whilst she is still learning, Nicholette (one of our dedicated educators) will help teach the children everything they need to know about computers.

Thinking Ahead

We at Home from Home have also taken the decision to focus specifically on children aged 3 and older at the crèche. This is to help us concentrate on a much higher level of care, so that we can provide necessary and vital educational stimulus and pre-school readiness, instead of simply child-minding. But of course, those children younger than 3 who are living in our Home from Home houses in Khayelitsha will always be welcomed!

SIBONGILE

This is the residence that we at Home from Home have been running in-conjunction with a small community organisation in Khayelitsha. With a little bit of help, Sibongile has been turned into a wonderful home that provides outstanding care for severely disabled children (who we last told you were living in very poor conditions in a shipping container). It's so marvellous to see these children so happy and with so much freedom in their new home!

But sadly there are still many special-needs children, like those living in Sibongile, who desperately need our help. So we are once again looking for land, or a house in the same area, where we could open another home like Sibongile and offer the same special loving care to those children who need it most. The abandoned and orphaned disabled children of South Africa need our help, so if you know of an appropriate property, or any way in which you can help our cause, please do!



House Mother, Nomasngo, outside Sibongile, our new home for disabled children

HAWSTON

We proudly opened this home in December last year, and today Denise, the House Mother, now has 5 lively (and lovely) children living with her. In fact, we even had a special 'house warming' last month, where the house was blessed, and it was so lovely to welcome so many friends from the local community to partake in this celebration!

At present we're working very closely with Child Welfare and several churches in the area, with the goal of forming a 'Cluster Foster Scheme' and building a network of small foster homes – so expect more (good) news of Home from Home in the Overstrand area in the near future!



Guests and friends at our new home in Hawston

NEW HOMES

On 2 March 2009, Home from Home and our associate the local Catholic Church Our Lady of the Rosary, were delighted to welcome our new House Parents, Patricia and Mestor into their new home in Ruyterwacht! Patricia is from South Africa and Mestor hails from the Democratic Republic of Congo (but they both speak English as their common language) and they are a wonderful couple, who cannot wait to receive their first children. We wish them nothing but love and joy in their new home!

At present, we're unfortunately still battling to get planning permission for our new homes in Vrygrond. However, we do already have the builders lined up and ready to start construction as soon as we have the go ahead – which we hope will be soon as there is a great need for community foster care in this area! Here's hoping that we'll be able to bring you the photos of the early construction in our next newsletter! **Keep holding thumbs...**

In Good News

We've received permission to get our new home up and running in Zonnebloem, near the centre of Cape Town, which we will be running in conjunction with the City Anglican Churches. Renovation work is in fact already underway and the search is on for the perfect House Mother/ House Parents. As before, we hope to bring you more news on this in our next newsletter.



Just two of the wonderful children we care for!



SPONSORSHIP

We at Home from Home know that many of you who receive our newsletters already sponsor one or more of our children, and we're so grateful for that! But now, we'd like to ask you to help us spread the word and offer even more people the opportunity to help!

You see sponsorship offers the unique prospect of getting to know more about one of the very special children in our homes. For those who choose to help by sponsoring a child, they'll receive an initial background profile and photo of 'their' child, as well as updates and photos every six months.

Should you choose to do so, sponsorship can be made in any currency and is currently based at R150, €20, £15, US\$20 /month, though this can be paid monthly, quarterly or annually as you wish. If you would like to make a difference by sponsoring one of our children, please do contact Nicky at on nicky@homefromhome.org.za and she'd be delighted to send you more information.

WISH LIST

At the start of the school year, we began stocking up on items that could be used for craft activities for the children. But of course, we always need more, so if there is anyone in the Cape Town area who has any unwanted scraps of fabric, wool, buttons or anything that could be used for crafting, and would like to donate it to the Crèche, please don't hesitate to call Gillian on 021 7617251.

In addition to our request for craft supplies, we are also in need of a cellphone – new or old (as long as it works) – for our new House Mother, Priscilla. She doesn't have one, and because we need her to be able to get in touch with us easily and vice versa, it's something she simply can't be without. Plus, we're also looking for 2 washing machines, because with all the washing our House Mothers have to do – theirs have unfortunately packed up! And it's really difficult hand- washing clothes for 6 children!

If you can help, please call Gill at our office on 021 761 7251.



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