

Home from Home is about to celebrate its fifth anniversary and it's wonderful to look back at the past few years and see just how much we have achieved!

Looking forward, 2010 is now upon us and everyone is gearing up for the long awaited World Cup. We're not sure what impact it's going to have on us at Home from Home – except for the 5 week holiday in the middle of winter during which we'll have to keep all our children entertained! So, if you're in Cape Town during this period and keen to help us with a holiday programme for the children, please get in touch and let us know.

Speaking of holidays, the children all had a lovely Christmas. Our season started off with our annual Party in the Park on December 15th. Because we are now bigger than ever, the party is taking over more and more of Wynberg Park and we're going to have to find a bigger space to accommodate all of us this year!



Santa in Wynberg

HOMES:

KHAYELITSHA

The children really enjoyed their long holidays. Our wonderful volunteers, Mike and Becca, have been with us for four months and in true World Cup spirit got our children involved in sports programmes and cricket outside the crèche! The local soccer team has really taken off and quite a few of our children have become involved in training on a regular basis. The children have also been able to enjoy their summer at the beach thanks to our



Budding soccer stars

volunteers. Matt was here from the UK and took the children on several beach outings. We don't know who enjoyed these outings more – the children, the foster mums or Matt!



Matt and the kids at the beach

We are delighted to welcome a new assistant, Sakhila, in Khayelitsha. She joins the team supporting our foster mums and, like all our other assistants, will play a vital role in running the after-school support programme with Toni. She'll be helping the children with homework and school projects and teaching them to become computer literate.

They really do grow up so fast... three of our children are off to high school already! The children all love getting their new uniforms, books and bags ready at the start of the year, but, as you can imagine, doing this for 36 children is quite challenging – and expensive.

The HFH Day Care Centre has started the year well and we now have 55 registered children. Although we started the Day Care Centre exclusively for Home from Home children, most of our children have grown up and gone off to 'big' school so the Centre has now become a service to the community – one which we are really happy to fulfil.



Our Daycare Centre children

GOODWOOD

The school year started well, with two of our boys moving to a new school where they have really settled in. The girls are very enthusiastically doing their homework with Audrey – long may this continue!

KAYAMANDI

Our two homes in Kayamandi have been through some changes. Four children returned to their respective families over Christmas, and we have three new children, a baby and five year-old twins. Yoliswa, one of our foster mothers, has left to pursue her studies in Social Work – we wish her all the best.



Kayamandi children

Mama Rosie, the long term assistant at the homes, stepped up as a new foster mother. No sooner had she started than poor Rosie had an accident and fell down the stairs and broke her arm and injured her knee. Please pray for Rosie's recovery as she is now off work for a few weeks to recover. Fortunately we have a new assistant, Xolile, who is helping Caroline run the homes at the moment.

RUYTERWACHT

Patience, our youngest baby at Home from Home, turned one on New Years Eve and is well on her way to walking. We're not sure whether this will make Patricia and Nestor's lives easier or more difficult!



Patricia and Nestor at home

ZONNEBLOEM

Emmie and Raymond's family is now complete with four boys and two little girls. The family is really settling down now and everyone is integrating well. We certainly get a lot of requests from Social Workers in the City Bowl area to place children, and have placed children from this area in our homes as far away as Ocean View and Vrygrond. We will be exploring the possibility of starting a new home with our Zonnebloem associates in the near future.



Two of our Zonnebloem children

HAWSTON

While our Hawston home is the furthest away, Denise is getting more frequent visits from us now that we have our new Social Worker Charlotte on the team. We also have regular meetings with our association foster mums, which we base around Denise's weekends off when she comes

into Cape Town to visit family. All our foster mums find this time together invaluable for sharing, networking and friendship, but for Denise who is much further away, it is even more important. Denise has five children in her regular care and one place open, which is available for emergencies should the need arise.

VRYGROND

Doris and Daphne our foster mothers at these two homes, have their hands full with twelve children. Doris has six boys in her care which would be a handful for most people – but fortunately she has worked in a children's home for boys so she is thrilled to have them!



Doris and all her boys

OCEAN VIEW

Our newest home in Ocean View now has four children – three boys aged 2, 4 and 6 and a lovely 6-year-old girl. The house only has two bedrooms but we hope to add a third bedroom soon so we can give two more children a home. Even though space



A new, happy family!

is quite limited at the moment, our foster parents Sally and Warren have done an excellent job turning the house into a lovely home for their new family and Warren has even spent time planting a beautiful garden.

SIBONGILE

Just before Christmas, the twelve children who were still living in shipping containers moved into our second 'proper' home that we are running with Sibongile. This has made an enormous difference to the children, as well as to the staff. The children now have separate rooms to sleep in at night and the staff have enough space to do physio with the children. We hope that the old containers will be turned into a Day Care Centre for disabled children, which would provide a huge service to the community.

NEW HOMES:

Although it feels like we are just growing and growing, there is still a huge need for new homes for vulnerable children who have no one else suitable to care for them. We are often approached by groups in different areas who have recognised the need for community foster care in their

neighbourhoods and ask us for help setting them up. We are currently thinking about new homes in the Westlake and Masiphumelele areas, as well as investigating second or subsequent homes with our associates in the City Bowl, Vrygrond and Stellenbosch areas. We are also investigating associations even further afield in the Eastern Cape where vast numbers of children have been orphaned by AIDS. Though we are not entirely sure how this is going to work yet – and how we will manage homes outside of ‘touching’ distance – we know that the Home from Home model can be easily adapted to different areas and will make a massive difference to all the children in the Eastern Cape in desperate need of a home.

GRACE!

Thanks to a very generous donation last year, Home from Home purchased its first vehicle. Charlotte’s job entails a lot of driving around visiting our mums and children, so she is extremely happy to have her own car – plus it’s a lot more cost effective for us as an organisation. Since Charlotte uses her car to dispense love, care and support, we decided to name her ‘Grace’!



Charlotte taking Grace out for a spin



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

VOLUNTEERS

At Home from Home we are blessed to have such amazing volunteers. Mike and Becca have been in Cape Town for four months and spend almost every day helping out in Khayelitsha. We are going to miss them enormously when they return to Europe later this month. Matt, a long time volunteer who lives in the UK, has also been visiting recently and taking mums and children on outings which they’ve hugely enjoyed.

Then we have people like Mel, our handyman who is always on call; Susannah and Padi, who run Friends of Home from Home UK; Clem, Marlies and Jutta, who run our Home from Home Associate in Germany and Ally and Victoria, who have taken over the important task of keeping all the goods people give us as donations, as well as sourcing items like school uniforms.

Whether dealing directly with the children, or helping in the office or overseas with fundraising, all of our volunteers enable us to keep our costs down and have made us become a real team. As the saying goes, ‘Many hands make light work’ – and we can certainly testify to that!



Our volunteers Mike and Becca with some of the children

We at Home from Home wish everyone a wonderful and blessed Easter!



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