

## How time flies!

At last, after what seems like a very long, cold and wet Cape winter, spring seems to be with us! We are pleased to say that our houses all stood up to the incredible storms very well and our Housemothers and children all remained warm and dry.

### Children

We have had several comings and goings from the houses, but all homes are now full, with a total of 36 children in our Khayelitsha houses. Patience, our newest Housemother, just last week admitted three sisters, the oldest of whom is 12 and who had been caring for her siblings since their mother passed away. With Patience as her new 'mom' she can now get on with being a little girl again herself.

Since our last newsletter, three children have returned to their families, which whilst always sad for our staff and the other children, is the best place for them to be. In fact, out of the 55 children who Home from Home has cared for since opening in 2005, 13 have returned to their families. We regard this as a success of Home from Home, providing a safe and loving temporary environment whilst their family life is being sorted out.

Four of our boys have been playing soccer at a local club and, thanks to donations, we have managed to arrange for them to have soccer equipment and shirts.

Several of our children are underweight and although we do know that this is often the case with immune deficient children, we have been in contact with Philani – an organisation that gives support and advice about nutrition to families. They will be monitoring our children's weight, and we hope to see an improvement in the children's health.

### Staff

Our Housemothers have now all undergone Red Cross First Aid Training and Portia, our Community Worker, and Ellen from the crèche attended a Child Safety Course, which we're hoping to send all our staff on.



Washima Fischer and our Housemothers at a training session

### Psychosocial support

Home from Home has been very fortunate to be offered the expertise and experience of Dr. John Gosling, a psychologist, and Wasima Fisher, a clinical social worker. They have set up an organisation that will run training courses for people who are looking after children.

Caring for vulnerable children who have been hurt, abused and often abandoned can be a difficult job. When those children are also H.I.V. positive and sick, the emotional and physical stress on the caregiver is even greater. John and Wasima ran their training course with all the Housemothers from Home from Home in May. They concentrated on self-awareness, emotional awareness, communication and staff support. All the Housemothers learnt so much from the course and we are so grateful to John and Wasima for their commitment to Home from Home.

### Lizo Nobando crèche

We now have 40 children attending the crèche and have divided the children into three groups. The children are really settling into their routine and love all the fun activities that are planned.

We have started having monthly parents meetings and our first open day. The children have prepared lots of songs to perform for their parents.

At Lizo Nobanda we've been very fortunate to have the services of Amy, an educational psychologist who was visiting from the USA. Amy spent time at the crèche, helping set up a programme for the edu-carers. Amy also visited our older children's school and took the children on outings to the library and the beach.

We would like to take the children on outings, but don't have any transport. If you know of anyone with a bus, or have contacts with bus companies, please let us know!

We are also looking for someone who could come to the crèche once a week to do creative work, singing or dancing with the children!



Happy children at Lizo Nobano crèche

## New Homes

We have been very busy setting up partnerships and working towards setting up a number of new homes.

**Sibongile** – we have appointed an architect and are working on plans with her for this new home, which will be for 12 disabled children in Khayelitsha. Nomasango and her staff are looking after these precious children in a shipping container, which is far from adequate. They do not have running water, toilet facilities or adequate cooking facilities. Despite this, the children are as well looked after as possible. Home from Home is helping Nomasango set up a more professional service to ensure that the children receive stimulation and physiotherapy.



Nomasango outside her current facilities

**Kayamandi** – we are working together with the Vineyard Church, Stellenbosch and Gaussian Developers to establish first one, then later, two more homes in the Kayamandi community just outside Stellenbosch. Plans are nearly finalised to go before the council.

**Goodwood** – we are hoping to enter into a partnership with St Alban's Church, Goodwood where their currently unused Rectory will be used as a Home from Home – which we will run in conjunction with them.

**Hawston** – we are working with St Andrew's Church in Hawston and hoping to build a home alongside their currently running Care Centre. At the moment, if H.I.V positive mothers have children and no family to care for them, they are placed far away and are unable to see their children. When the home is opened, they will be able to have their children looked after and still be close to them whilst they are receiving treatment.

Negotiations are under way with several other communities about the establishment of further Home from Homes.

## Christmas Party

Following the success of our first Party in the Park, we are pleased to tell you that our second party will be held on December 12th 2007 at noon. This is a great opportunity for all our children, staff, trustees and supporters to gather together to celebrate Christmas and the end of the year. This year we're thrilled to have Spot on Promotions organising our party for us. Diarise this date and we hope to see you there!

## Wishlist

- Shoes
- Microwave
- Vacuum cleaner
- Nappies
- Shoes from 1 year to 12 years
- Toiletries



### CONTACT DETAILS

Tel : +27 21 761 7251 | Fax: +27 21 761 1581 | Web: [www.homefromhome.org.za](http://www.homefromhome.org.za) | email: [info@homefromhome.org.za](mailto:info@homefromhome.org.za)

### BANKING DETAILS

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