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ACCOMMODATION UPDATE

“Siphenathi learnt to walk again with the help of our therapists. Junior is alive because his mom got an emergency Caesar and an experienced doctor was on hand to resuscitate him. Philiswa collects her life saving medication at her local clinic thanks to our pharmacists. Andile can hear again because he got a hearing aid.

There are many others like them requiring the help of qualified, committed health workers. All that is needed is somewhere for the dedicated professionals to live”.

This is how the ‘1000 from a 1000 challenge’ was launched in November 2011 in an attempt to raise one million rand to build much needed accommodation for professional staff in Zithulele. Obviously this amount of funding was not going to be raised overnight and so the first phase of the project entailed converting a set of garages in the hospital accommodation complex into a three-bedroomed home in order to solve the immediate accommodation crisis at the start of 2012. The next phase of the plan was to build another three-bedroomed unit on the church’s land with the final phase being an accommodation block consisting of three self-contained units to be built on community land.

It is has been exciting to see how things snowballed from there with the accommodation vision growing from the point where the initial plans for a seven-bedroomed complex have now become a mini-suburb in Zithulele with six new houses and a total of fourteen bedrooms. This increased vision brought with it an increased budget requirement and will cost R2.8 million. When we launched the challenge in 2011, we would never have dreamed that this would be within our reach.

But, we are delighted to announce that we have raised R2.05 million thus far! Adding to the incredibly generous donations from many individuals and organisations (each giving their R1000), we have been awarded grants from the Anglo American Chairman’s Fund and the Discovery Foundation’s Rural Fellowship Award. We are so thankful for each and every cent that has been donated. This means that we only need R750 000 to hit our target and solve Zithulele’s accommodation needs (for a few years at least) so please continue to spread the word. To donate please visit www.jabulanifoundation.org



Before...



...after



View from the new accommodation site

FUNDISWA'S STORY

Most of the news we give is of the progress that is being made with particular projects and programmes that Jabulani is running, and not a lot of attention is given to the progress that is being made by the people who Jabulani employs to work on these programmes, without whom there would be nothing.

One such person is Fundiswa Mbongwana, who was born and raised just a stone's throw from the hospital entrance gates. Fundiswa made an impression on Jabulani from our first contact with her, when she broke the mould by wanting to volunteer rather than sitting at home doing nothing after her job in Mthatha came to an end. What follows are excerpts from a recent interview with Fundiswa:

JHRF: Fundiswa, you first approached Jabulani with a most unusual request, to volunteer without pay.

Fundiswa: Yes, it was early 2011. I had been retrenched from my job working at a butchery in Mthatha. I didn't want to just stay at home doing nothing...I told John I was willing to volunteer anywhere, and began volunteering in the library and preschool.

JHRF: What happened next?

Fundiswa: After working in those roles for a while, Jabulani advertised for a paid position working as a translator in the Hospital Therapy Department. I applied for the job, went through the interview process and was successful. I began working as a translator in September 2011. The work was challenging, especially having to learn a lot of new vocabulary, but it was wonderful to be working in the hospital and earning an income. Then, in April 2012, Jabulani advertised a post for Pharmacy Helper, and I applied and was successful again. In this role I now work supporting the Pharmacy and ARV Clinic. It is a very busy role and I have to work hard, but I enjoy it.

JHRF: And now you've begun studying?

Fundiswa: I asked the head Pharmacist if there was any way I could become a Pharmacy Assistant [a role with a professional qualification]. She found out about a two-year course in Mthatha. On 8th May I went to Mthatha to write the entrance examination, and was accepted onto

the programme. Now every Thursday I go to Mthatha to attend the course. During the week after work I have to study, and submit my work the next Thursday. So now I am even busier! But I am so happy. If I work hard, in 2 years time I will be a professional!

JHRF: And where do you hope you will be in five years time?

Fundiswa: Right here, working as a Pharmacy Assistant. I do not want to move anywhere. I want to stay to serve my community.

JHRF: You can be very proud of yourself.

Fundiswa: Yes, I am very happy and excited. And I am so thankful to Jabulani because Jabulani opened a door for me and now I can see my future.

One of Jabulani's values is that we don't just want to create employment, but also invest in our staff and Fundiswa's attitude and work ethic made this easy to do. We have thoroughly enjoyed watching her progress from doing unpaid volunteer work to working towards a professional qualification and she is a fantastic example of how one can serve one's community while also changing your own life. We hope to profile more of our inspiring staff in future newsletters.



Fundiswa in the pharmacy

LEARNING THROUGH FUN

When you think about it, who wouldn't prefer to have fun when doing something if that option exists? Certainly young learners would, and research into Early Childhood Development (ECD) has shown that young children learn best by having fun. For ECD in Zithulele, that has meant identifying what fun learning activities can be implemented given our resources and opportunities.

This was hugely helped by Kirsty Paxton who recently spent time in Zithulele volunteering with Jabulani and Axiom Education. Her experience of being both a qualified teacher and a children's party planner (the

business of fun!) introduced us to new, fun learning options.

After securing a generous donation of LEGO and DUPLO from 'LEGO Care for Education and Hands on Technology' at the start of this year, Kirsty was then trained on how to use these resources in an educational capacity, learning that she then passed on to the preschool teachers and mothers from the area. The preschool has some sets, there are sets in the toy library and a weekly LEGO day is run for any kids in the community who are interested. In true kid style, there are

LEARNING THROUGH FUN continued...

regular choruses of “just 5 more minutes” before they have to pack it away (although there are some adults in Zithulele whose enjoyment levels rival the kids!). We are really excited about the potential these sets have for creative learning.

Other initiatives that Kirsty was able to implement during her time here were her famous puppet shows and story times, that held the kids in rapt attention and elicited much laughter, both of which Mbsa has continued. Kirsty will

be back towards the end of the year, and we look forward to her continued impact on ECD in Zithulele.

Another exciting development is that Philani’s Mentor Mothers’ Zithulele programme will now be running regular playgroups in areas located far from the closest preschool. We hope that this, together with the ‘ECD in the Home’ initiative, will create more awareness amongst parents of the importance of ECD and their role in it...and that learning can be fun!



Pre-school teachers receiving DUPLO educational training



Lego day at the community centre



AT A GLANCE

MEASURING OUR IMPACT

Jabulani had the pleasure of having Lauren Kinderknecht volunteer with us while her husband did his elective in the Hospital. With experience in monitoring and evaluation in the NGO sector, she was able to put in place measures that will help us to more effectively monitor and evaluate some programmes moving forward. Thank you Lauren, for your invaluable input

GOING WILD FOR CHARITY

Dr Alan Kourie, brother of one of last year’s hospital Physiotherapists, and Dr Andy Stewart, a current doctor at the hospital, ran the 120 kilometre, 3 day Wild Run and raised funds for the Hospital’s therapy department. The specific aim of this fundraising effort was to be able to erect a secure storage facility for the hospitals basketball wheelchairs. Well done guys and thank you to all your sponsors!

HEADS AND SHOULDERS...TEETH AND EARS, TEETH AND EARS!

With our pre-school being on the hospital’s doorstep, it is easy to make health checks part of the learning experience. This years group of pre-schoolers have paid a visit to the dentist’s chair in the hospital and have received a visit from the hospital’s audiologist.



Visiting Jo the dentist...



...and Dineo the audiologist