

IN THIS ISSUE www.jabulanifoundation.org

- **ADVOCATING FOR ECD**pg 1
- **REFLECTIONS FROM KAREN**pg 2
- **BIG BANG TO THE END OF THE YEAR**pg 2
- **AT A GLANCE**pg 3

ADVOCATING FOR ECD

“Knock, knock, knock!” calls the ECD in the Home advocate as she enters the homesteads of parents in our community. “I would like to speak to you about your role in your child’s education”.

It is supporting parents to better understand their role in their children’s early development that is at the heart of the ECD in the Home programme. Since a survey in our area in 2012 highlighted a lack of understanding of Early Childhood Development (ECD) and showed that many parents believe their children only start to learn when they start to speak, Jabulani have been trying to fill this gap. Many parents have not been able to maximise the rapid learning and development that happens in children between birth and when they start to speak, and we are trying to give parents some skills and understanding to close the gap left by this missing vital ingredient in education in our area.

We have two ECD in the Home advocates who go into homes in the wider Zithulele community. We start each year by visiting the homes of our pre-school children and engaging with their parents, to support them to reinforce the learning that their children receive at school, and from there we expand our visits to other homes where there are children between the ages of 0 – 6. We worked hard to maximise the fact that many parents were home during December and many were still thinking about plans for their

children for the new year, and we undertook as many home visits as possible during the school holidays. Our hard work saw results when 8 children registered at the Zithulele Pre-school for 2016 from a specific area where parents had previously not understood what pre-school is nor why they should enrol their children. This was a great breakthrough for us!

The ECD in the Home advocates also facilitate teacher/parent workshops where parents come together in the pre-school to learn a certain skill. These skills range from teaching parents to make toys out of recyclables, building blocks, puzzles from cardboard and skills like cutting and tearing. More importantly though, the parents are taught how to use these toys and skills to play with their children at home. As an incentive last year, we introduced resource boxes containing bean bags, crayons, a pair of scissors, puzzles and other hand-made toys, for parents who attend four or more workshops during the year. The first workshop for this year was held at the end of February and 24 parents attended.

Our two enthusiastic and hardworking advocates, Minikazi and Athini, who tramp the hills and valleys seeking out parents of young children, are hoping that in 2016 they will be able to visit even more than the 300 homes that were visited during 2015.



REFLECTIONS FROM KAREN

Instead of our usual staff profile article, we'd like to take this opportunity to share with you some reflections from Karen Galloway, who has been based in the Physiotherapy Department at Zithulele Hospital since 2009.

“For the last 7 years, I have woken up each day and looked forward to doing the 600m commute to work. I know that I have been instrumental in making people less disabled, in making them understand the potential they have, in helping them to understand their injury or illness, and in encouraging them as they face the challenge of overcoming illness or injury. I love to partner with people to find solutions to physical limitations, to try to understand their world and especially their world as they might be experiencing it for the first time from the perspective of not having the same strong body they had before. I have loved being part of a caring team of health professionals who, in the big and small ways, invest in improving the lives of everyone with whom they have contact.

However, despite the amazing team of staff at the hospital, there are still some structural difficulties, things that can be intensely frustrating, including HR processes within the province that make it difficult for me to have peace that my Chief Physio post will be filled as I vacate it; and the mind-bogglingly impossible procurement process that we optimistically tackle every year to try to get basic things like crutches.

Working here without the Jabulani employed translators would have been SO very different (read lots of smiling and nodding from my side, and lots of unheard needs from the patient's side), so I firstly want to express deep thanks for their help. In the past we have also been so grateful to receive a number of items via Jabulani, ranging from rehab consumables and the building of a therapy storeroom, to R500 000 worth of wheelchairs through funding from the IDC. There is a wonderful joy when receiving donations of things that make our care so much better.

There is a small and scary possibility that in June, Tash who is our community service Physio for 2016, might be the only physio who remains, as a result of posts not having been filled. In order to make her life easier, I have put together a list of items [see below], that should she receive them in amongst her crazy workload, would make her treatments so much more effective and exponentially increase her happiness on that day.”

One of Jabulani's primary roles is to support the hospital and specifically the work of the clinical professionals, assisting them to access the support and resources required to enable them to focus on providing excellent clinical care to patients in sometimes very trying circumstances. If you are able to provide any of these items or contribute to funding, please email Cath at cath@jabulanifoundation.org: any adult aluminium crutches (or money to buy them privately); any knee braces (ideally long leg hinged ones - like the Medac MED 315); arm body slings; fibreglass casting for older kids with clubfeet (Deltalite or equivalent); Tensopress for stump bandaging for people with limb loss; Theraband for strengthening exercises; paper for the printer or cash for stationary; lumbar corsets; finger pulse oximeter; 20cm goniometer.



BIG BANG TO THE END OF THE YEAR

The end of last year saw us holding our first ever event for all Jabulani staff and volunteers, with 68 people gathering in the Zithulele Community Centre for some fun and games! As our work is so diverse and we are all based in different locations, ranging from the community garden, to the pre-schools, Zithulele hospital, the Jabulani office, and the community-based disability workers and building services team who work all over, we realised we had reached the size where people within Jabulani were not even aware of

other staff members or some of the projects that we are involved in. This event was a fantastic opportunity to give an overview of the entire organisation and showcase the work of the different teams and projects. Mixed teams for what ended up being some highly competitive games also gave people an opportunity to get to know and interact with others within the organisation with whom they might never have come in contact before.



BIG BANG TO THE END OF THE YEAR continued....

From the big bangs of balloons popping in a competitive three-legged balloon popping contest, to chocolate eating with dress-up gear and cutlery, the event was fun and energetic. Some usually quiet employees suddenly became loud and competitive and there was good natured teasing and laughing from all sides as we enjoyed the antics of our colleagues. It was also a great opportunity to recognise once again the growth of the organisation, reflect on the impact that we are able to have through the work that we do, and end the year on a high note. Thank you once again to all of you who make our work possible.



AT A GLANCE

DECEMBER WORLD AIDS DAY

To mark World Aids Day last year, Jabulani were involved in a community initiative called Imbumba Yamakhosikazi Akomkhulu-Elliotdale (Chief's wives), aimed at reaching out to the community. The main purpose of the event was to bring services closer to the people and to provide education about HIV/AIDS. Jabulani were involved in planning this event, and advising on how the day could be run and publicised to the community. A small team of four Jabulani employees from our ARV and TB programmes attended the day to educate attendees and provide HIV Counselling and Testing (44 people took the step to get tested). Despite now having a large ARV programme with more than 5500 patients on treatment, there is still a significant amount of work to be done to combat the spread of HIV in this community and these kinds of events go a long way towards eliminating the ongoing stigma surrounding HIV/AIDS and creating a general awareness about prevention and management of the disease.



SANTA SHOEBOX PROJECT

We'd like to thank the Santa Shoebox project, who made 90 pre-school children very happy in December when they received a Christmas box. This organisation gets volunteers to pack and sponsor shoeboxes full of clothes and educational toys. For some, it may have been the only Christmas present they received and the parents and children were so grateful for the effort put into this project, as were Jabulani.



LIKE US?

If you haven't already "Liked" the Jabulani Rural Health Foundation Facebook page, do so now to receive regular updates on the work and daily goings-on of what we do in Zithulele. You can also specifically follow the Jump Start programme by liking the 'Jump Start, Wild Coast' page too.

