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NEW YEAR – NEW TEAM

The arrival of a ‘new’ year has a whole new meaning in Zithulele. For the hospital it means a big change in the clinical team; goodbyes are said to foreign doctors, who came to support our work for a year, as well as to the growing team of community service professionals. At the same time a whole new team is then welcomed in. This has a knock-on effect for Jabulani, whose volunteer base has historically been made up of healthcare professional’s partners, who have come to join them for their year here.

A huge thank you must be said to our exiting volunteers who did an incredible job of expanding the work of Jabulani in 2010. Anita,

a Private Investigator by trade, helped develop our pre-school programme while Sarah, who was taking a career break from International Finance, did an excellent job of leading and managing our growing team. A special thank you to both.

While having a new team brings with it new ideas and enthusiasm, it also brings the challenge of a lack of continuity and loss of momentum. We have therefore decided to hire an administrator, someone who is local and will be here for the long term. This will have the dual benefit of improving continuity while creating an employment opportunity for someone from the community. We are praying for the finances to be able to do this and will update you on this in a later issue. We are also particularly excited about the new recruits for this year. John, our new General Manager, has committed to a minimum of three years and Yolisa, an expert in Early Childhood Development will bring enormous experience and value to our education projects.

January also saw the arrival of three Swedish volunteers who are here to work for three to six months. Mia is volunteering in the ARV clinic while Julia and Elisabet have been tasked with doing all the planning for the opening of our brand new library (see library article).



Jabulani team 2011

THE POSITIVE SIDE OF ARV’S

As you may have read in our November newsletter, one of the big areas of need in the community is the provision of HIV services. Informed estimations put the figure for infection with HIV in our area to be between 7000 and 8500 people. It is therefore invaluable, that Jabulani has been able to support the ARV programme by pre-packaging and distributing ARV’s. Throughout 2010, huge steps were taken to increase the number of patients receiving pre-packaged ARV’s, and over the first two months of 2011, this service has continued its expansion to the point where all clinics

within the Zithulele Hospital catchment area are now receiving this service.

With the arrival of the Donald Woods Foundation, an NGO working in partnership with the Eastern Cape Department of Health, the ARV programme is set to expand even further, with attention and resources being ploughed into all aspects of HIV as well as TB care. While Jabulani will continue to work in partnership with the hospital, providing the valuable pre-packaging service, we are pleased that there is

THE POSITIVE SIDE OF ARV'S cont

now additional support for this important area of work, because one really cannot stress enough the importance of people receiving and adhering to their ARV medication.

This really is a life-saving medication, but it has strict adherence criteria – you must take your medication every day and at the same time each day. If you don't take your medication, you will get ill and die, and if you continue to take it but don't take it properly you can build resistance to it which has dangerous consequences. We encounter this reality on a daily basis, but sometimes it is brought closer to home and recently this was the



ARV support group

case when one of our hospital colleagues stopped taking her medication. With a lowered immune system, coupled with working in a hospital, she unfortunately contracted TB (a common dual diagnosis for people in the area). It had reached the point where colleagues and friends had essentially said their goodbyes, when the desire to live kicked in and she continued taking her medication. As Dr. Ben Gaunt, Jabulani Director and Zithulele Clinical Manager said "This is why I love the ARV programme! The nurse was at death's door, in fact we had basically said our goodbyes to her...and yet she started work again today. It's a miracle".

With more partners and more resources dedicated to the fight against HIV/AIDS, we hope to see more and more of these miracles in Zithulele!

READING, THE WAY TO CHANGE

For many people, books are an integral part of growing up and learning, but for the community in and around Zithulele this is not the case as books are an unaffordable luxury, most schools in the area have few educational resources or literature, and the closest public library is in Mthatha, about 85 km away. This means that although children are learning basic reading skills at school, most are growing up without access to adequate, appealing or appropriate reading material in either English or isiXhosa. Amongst the adult population, there is a very low standard of literacy - only 7% of the population is in possession of a Matric



Thandeka & pre-school children in front of our new library

certificate and 46.5% of the population within the district is considered functionally literate - which affects their chances of gaining skilled employment and limits the influence that they can have on their children's education.

In order to work towards addressing these problems, it has been a long held dream of Jabulani to open a community library. Through a donation from Rumdel, who recently built the tar road leading to Zithulele, we have a newly renovated rondavel in which to house our library, and are therefore able to make this dream a reality. We are also in the fortunate position of being able to learn from the experiences of two other libraries in neighbouring communities, who have witnessed the clear impact that having a library has had on their communities.

The purpose of opening a library will be to promote education, help increase adult and child literacy rates, and in general to develop a culture of reading. Through working closely with Thandeka, our pre-school teacher who will use the library for pre-school story times, pupils will learn how to relate to books from an early age. The facility will also be used for after-school classes for primary and secondary school students and afternoon computer classes for beginners. Craig Paxton of Axiom Education, an NGO operating in partnership with Jabulani in Zithulele, says that "the library is an ideal environment for students to learn in and will be perfect for after-school programming".

For now, our focus is on equipping the library with books in both isiXhosa and English, furniture, computers, internet connectivity and stationery as well as finding a librarian to be trained to run the library. While donations of all suitable and educational books will be welcome, the remaining challenge will be to source isiXhosa books, as there is still a general shortage in this area. Our long term plan is to engage the whole spectrum of the community, encouraging parents and other adults to use the library, with a view to cultivating a love for reading.

IMPROVING EDUCATION IS ON THE CURRICULUM



Craig & the Axiom team with pupils at a maths boot camp

The number of organizations working in partnership with Jabulani is growing steadily and January saw the arrival of Axiom Education, led by Craig and Michelle Paxton. Jabulani really has a vision for Zithulele being a centre of learning and Axiom's arrival is a real step along this path. Axiom Education's mission is to grow talent and opportunity in rural communities by working with students and educators to raise student achievement. The organization aims to see dramatic improvements in the quality of rural schooling through its partnerships with teachers, principals and school communities. Axiom uses science, mathematics and language teaching as key levers for success and during 2011 will be working with four senior secondary schools near Zithulele.

Sixty grade 10 and 11 students will receive after-school support in these critical subjects. They will also be responsible for ploughing back their newly acquired knowledge and skills through peer-tutoring groups, which they will initiate and run at their schools. With so many schools struggling to find qualified maths and physical science teachers, Axiom will also be doing whatever they can to assist and encourage teachers.

Axiom will be making use of the new Zithulele community centre and library to provide some of their after-school activities, ensuring that these facilities are used to their full capacity for the local community. We are really excited to have Axiom working in Zithulele, and are looking forward to seeing growth in the educational arena! For more information on Axiom Education, go to www.axiumeducation.org

SEWING HIS WAY TO SUCCESS



A selection of James' creations

With lots of fluff and a variety of colours, it is hard not to notice James Jamela's shoes. This local entrepreneur makes a variety of leather products including cell-phone and ID covers, wallets, blinkers and harnesses, belts, and shoes – the latter being his best-seller and flagship product.

James and Jabulani first connected in March 2010. Jabulani wanted to establish a micro-finance project and James was seeking funding for a sewing machine. Whilst it was tempting to rush the process, Jabulani invested significant time in the relationship and over the course of the next eight months, over 15 meetings were held to discuss James' business in more detail. We explored who his customers would be, how much product he could sell each month and at what prices, as well as

the viability of the business in general. Furthermore, as the answer may not be as obvious as it seems, we also had to determine what impact a loan would have on his business – would it help or hinder?

After much thought and discussion, and after consulting with Transcape and The Warehouse (NGO's in the Transkei and Cape Town respectively, who have run successful microfinance projects), the decision was made to grant a loan to buy a machine and a sufficient amount of raw materials. Jabulani contributed the majority of the business loan, however James was required to contribute a percentage in his personal capacity thereby ensuring that he had "some skin in the game".

Subsequent to the loan being granted in November, James has met all of his repayment deadlines (R500 a month) and has generated good sales, particularly over the December period. The hotel in Hole-in-the-Wall now stocks his shoes, and we are looking to approach shops in Coffee Bay to see if they will be interested in selling his products.

Next stop...the catwalks of Paris, Milan and London? Maybe not, but there is no doubt that a good product coupled with sound business principles has gone a long way to helping James establish a sustainable business that can carry on well into the future.

AT A GLANCE

A FIRST FOR ZITHULELE HOSPITAL

In a previous newsletter we introduced you to the work of Hear Now South Africa who in conjunction with Jabulani and Nelson Mandela hospital facilitated the bringing of audiologists to Zithulele for clinic days. Well this year for the first time, in a very exciting development, Zithulele has been allocated a community service speech therapist / audiologist. In addition to this Jabulani has been donated audiology equipment to the value of R250 000. The combination of these two factors means that many more patients can now be tested and treated onsite without the need to refer to Mthatha.

GENERAL HOSPITAL SUPPORT

The continual growth of the hospital's professional clinical team has meant that Jabulani has had to hire three new translators for the hospital. In addition to our unpaid volunteers, Jabulani now has 17 paid staff on the books.

SEEDS 4 SCHOOLS

The program has been successfully implemented in two schools in the area, Sea View High and Putuma JSS. This year we are collaborating with a school in England and are facilitating discussions between students using Skype.

GARDEN PROJECT

Jabulani has received funding to expand our garden project by starting a vegetable garden at the Zithulele pre-school. The garden will be incorporated into the pre-school curriculum, will be used to teach parents about growing vegetables and cooking nutritiously, and the vegetables will be used for pre-school lunches.

