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SMILES ALL 'ROUND

Pumlani was born at Zithulele Hospital in December 2009, with a complete unilateral cleft lip and palate. This is a fairly common congenital condition which not only significantly affects the child's appearance but also causes difficulties with eating and speaking. These difficulties may be overcome through surgical intervention, which should take place as early as possible to reduce the effects on the child's development (particularly in the area of speech-language). Ideally, in cases such as Pumlani's, the cleft lip is repaired at three months of age, and the palate between three and six months of age.

Despite attempts to schedule it earlier, Pumlani went to East London for his first lip repair surgery when a little under 12 months old. Unfortunately, infection set in and the repair broke down, adding scar tissue to his already prominent cleft. Although regular attempts to reschedule a procedure were made, circumstances (including striking health-care workers, transport restrictions and uncharged cell-phones) conspired to prevent Pumlani from receiving the necessary surgeries. The result was that at two years old, Pumlani was unable to speak

intelligibly and was only able to eat soft foods.

In late 2011, the Smiles Train (the Netcare Vodacom Smiles for You Programme) agreed to sponsor Pumlani's surgical procedures but getting to Johannesburg still remained a challenge. Through some generous donations to cover travel, accommodation, food and a translator, together with the dedication of Zithulele's speech therapist, Jabulani were able to make this possible. In January 2012, Pumlani and his mother travelled to Johannesburg to meet the surgical team and complete the first stage of treatment.

Following an hour long surgery involving three surgeons, the effects were immediately clear, and even more evident the next day, when Pumlani greeted his visitors with a smile, and began to say 'mama'. Pumlani's stitches were removed a week later and he arrived home to show off his new smile!

Pumlani still needs extensive surgery (scheduled for May 2012), requiring yet another trip to Johannesburg, so any donations towards this will be most gratefully received.



Pumlani pre-op



Pumlani on operating table with cleft lip repaired

THE HEALTHY VILLAGE PROJECT

One of the foundational reasons for the creation of Jabulani was to address the causes of many of the problems faced by the community in Zithulele and not just treat the symptoms when they present at the hospital. Some of these causes have been addressed through various Jabulani projects, but over the years, the interconnectedness of health, education and the environment and their impact on poverty have become even clearer.

Zithulele struggles with the legacy of neglect that it experienced as one of Apartheid's homelands. Coupled with high unemployment, major healthcare concerns and poor basic education, there is a lack of municipal services, a lack of awareness about how sanitation and the environment affect health, diminishing natural resources, and a loss of agricultural skills. As a result, the community is largely unable to help themselves break the cycle of poverty that holds them captive.

Recognising the interconnectedness of these issues, we

saw the importance of a holistic project that addressed all of these areas. Through the Healthy Village Project (HVP), Jabulani will invest time, skills and resources that will empower and enable members of this community to create sustainable livelihoods and thus a healthier future for themselves. Specific interventions will focus on refuse management and sanitation, responsible natural resource management, agriculture and nutrition, and will all have at their core, education, training, mentorship and job creation.

Most components of this project have already been piloted on a small scale, during which time relationships have been built with schools, community members and leaders. Due to the success of these endeavours, we are confident that by bringing these components together and running the Healthy Village Project on a larger scale, a significant impact on improving health, wellbeing and the upliftment of the community in general will be achieved. If you are interested in finding out more about this project, or may be able to consider funding part of it, please contact us.



A make-shift dump-site on hospital's doorstep, posing a health risk



One of many new trees planted around Zithulele



Banele – potential apprentice learning carpentry

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE “INSIGNIFICANT”

Although the work of Jabulani now involves far more than healthcare support, the organisation was originally set up to support Zithulele Hospital and so this remains as one of our core focus areas. Beyond the major areas of assistance, such as providing support staff, there are a myriad of ways in which Jabulani continues to aid the hospital. The experiences of two of our most recent volunteers highlight this variety. After arriving in Zithulele in December 2011, although also being involved with the community library and the Jabulani preschool, Emily and Bernadette have supported the hospital in diverse ways.

They took on the daunting task of restocking the resuscitation trolleys throughout the hospital, a task made challenging due to limited resources and often poorly kept stock check sheets. They also spent time in the ARV Unit. Although an essential part of female healthcare, regular pap smears are often overlooked by the pressing need to ensure effective monitoring of ARV patients' treatment. However, making use of the girls' nursing experience, the ARV Unit has been able to offer women pap smears over the last few months.



Emily and Bernadette

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE “INSIGNIFICANT” cont.

They were also instrumental in securing donated items to make up relief packs for rape victims and mothers of newborn babies. A simple pack can make a big difference, whether as a small alleviation of some of the horror and indignity of rape (through providing soap and clean underwear once existing underwear is taken for submission as police evidence), or to support a mother with the positive yet life changing event of having a newborn by giving a blanket, some toiletries and clothes.

With their time in Zithulele drawing to a close, Emily and Bernadette will be returning to Scotland where no doubt they will struggle to sum up their experiences here! It is often only when you have been exposed to the realities of life and work in a place like Zithulele that you realise how life changing and important many of the seemingly insignificant acts of support can be.



Mother and child receiving relief pack

AT A GLANCE

Our Patron Turns 80

Jabulani, in partnership with Philani Trust and the Desmond Tutu TB Centre, hosted a performance of The Magic Flute, in honour of Archbishop Tutu's 80th birthday in Cape Town towards the end of last year. The Archbishop enjoyed the performance and a great evening was had by all. Congratulations Archbishop Tutu!



Tutu saying thanks for the birthday celebration

Support Down Under

We find it humbling to see how our network of supporters has grown to include so many people around the globe. Recently, money was raised to support our ARV project, develop accommodation, supply relief packs, and contribute to translator salaries, at a jazz evening fundraiser led by a previous Jabulani volunteer and his church all the way down under in Perth, Australia. A huge thank you to all involved!

Revolving Doors

The New Year has once again brought changes to the staff and volunteers of Jabulani. Although our team has grown to the point where we now have 24 permanent staff, we bid a sad farewell to Athini and Siphokazi, two of our longest serving staff members, although this provided an opportunity to promote from within and develop existing members of the team. Thanks to all the volunteers who continue to support this staff team. While we've said goodbye to Linnea, and Emily and Bernadette will be returning to Scotland soon, in March we will be welcoming another Emily, from the States, and look forward to the arrival four German volunteers later in the year.

1000 from a 1000 Challenge Update

As of the end of February, the grand total raised so far stands at R 177 964.86. While our main intention is to build new accommodation, the money raised so far will enable us to alleviate the immediate crisis by renovating uninhabitable structures into accommodation units. Thank you to all who have contributed so far, it is incredibly encouraging how much has been raised in such a short space of time. We still have a long way to go, however, to reach the R1 million mark, so please continue to spread the word about this important initiative.

1000 from a **1000**
CHALLENGE