



Newsletter November 2008

Sew far, sew good!

Jabulani is delighted to have helped a group of enthusiastic local women to start their very own sewing business. As part of our new micro-finance project, we are providing the 13 ladies with small interest-free loans to help with start-up costs, as well as ongoing support and training in essential business skills.

The group of women, who have called themselves ‘the Jabulani Women’s Sewing Project’, have formed a collective, sharing resources and recruiting a teacher to coach them in the basics. Since they started in September, the women have learnt to make aprons and skirts, which are selling very successfully outside Zithulele Hospital.



Sewing teacher Nokwanda threads up an old Singer

Motivated by their achievements and the supportive environment they have created, the women already have plans to expand their business. “We want to become a bigger group and to sell to tourists as well as the community”, says Nolzwi Ntlatywa, whose idea it was to start the business and who hosts the women at her home. “We also want to learn to make traditional dresses, school uniforms and baby clothes.”



At 76, Mama Salmina is the eldest of the group

Through our micro-finance project, we hope to provide more community members with the opportunity and the means to help themselves.

Great Expectations

Jabulani and Zithulele Hospital have teamed up to provide accommodation on hospital land for women near the end of their pregnancies. Aiming to reduce avoidable risks associated with unattended home-births, the Waiting Mothers’ Accommodation will give more pregnant women access to hospital facilities and skilled care during labour.

With a catchment area of 1000km², just three ambulances and poor roads (which can become impassable in bad weather), many patients including women in labour, find it very difficult to reach Zithulele Hospital. As a result, the hospital’s maternity department estimates that around 50% of women give birth at home.

While some home-births can be complication-free, Chief Medical Officer Dr Ben Gaunt has some worrying statistics: “Delayed presentation to the hospital accounts



This mode of transport is often a reality for women in labour!

for almost one third of avoidable perinatal mortality,” he says. “No data exists for how many babies die at home”.

Ben continues, “Here at the hospital, we have facilities for resuscitation and Caesarean sections and can provide drugs to help prevention of mother to child transmission of HIV”.

Fundraising for this project is almost complete, and building is due to start this month.

Vehicle and Park home donation

Zithulele Hospital's ARV outreach programme has been given an extra boost, thanks to two recent donations to Jabulani — R200,000 for a vehicle and a state-of-the-art park home for Ngcwanguba Clinic.

The lack of space at Ngcwanguba Clinic has meant that the weekly support groups and counseling have been taking place outside, which often becomes impossible during heavy rain. Inside the clinic, conditions are extremely cramped, with patients being seen two to three at a time in a tiny room.

"A park home really will make all the difference," says ARV doctor, Dr Sally le Roux. "We'll be able to provide a much more appropriate, inviting environment, and greater privacy for patients".



The support groups at Ngcwanguba have been taking place outside

The ARV outreach team are also very excited about getting the use of their own vehicle to transport them to the clinics each week. "It is such an essential," says Sally. "Until now, we have been sharing hospital transport, which is often unavailable and so we end up using our own cars and public transport. With a dedicated vehicle, we'll be able to guarantee our regular attendance at the outreach clinics, which is vital for patients who rely on us for life-saving treatment."

Seeds of change

After some initial challenges, the Masikhule Garden & Nutrition project has got off to a flying start. Having received training from Professor of Nutrition, Spinney Benade, nutrition monitor Notandikile held her first meeting in October, which was met with an enthusiastic response by the community.



Spinney and Notandikile at the demo garden

Masikhule, which means 'Let's Grow' in Xhosa, suffered a set-back in June when the demonstration garden was relocated to make way for road-works. Undeterred, Notandikile negotiated a new spot for the garden and meanwhile has been teaching the mothers of children in Zithulele Hospital's paediatric ward about growth monitoring and nutrition. In fact, this initiative has been so successful that we are in talks with our funder, Stichting Zithulele, about a further demonstration garden outside the paed ward!

Our thanks to Prof Benade and Louise Koch for their hard work, time and effort during the training week.

STOP PRESS!...STOP PRESS!....STOP PRESS! We have a website!

Due to go live on 21 November, www.jabulanifoundation.org has information about us, our projects and our community. You can download back-copies of our newsletters and find out how to make a donation or become a volunteer. Thank you to Zithulele Hospital's resident doctor/web-designer, Simon Chappell!

We would like to thank all the donors who contributed to the projects mentioned in this newsletter: Fabricated Steel Manufacturing Company, Rotary Clubs of Mthatha and Hannut-Waremme (Belgium) and their matching grant partners, and Stichting Zithulele.

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