

3RD TERM NEWSLETTER

DEVOTIONS

Devotions are still seen as one of the important aspects by our care givers. They believe that their prayers are being answered when they pray together. One care giver once shared that she once asked the group to pray with her for her son who was hospitalised as she was told by the doctors that she must expect the worst - there was no cure for his illness. She then thanked the group for lifting her up with prayers & her son was discharged from hospital two weeks after, and he was now back to work. She further mentioned that she was so hopeless when she came to Phakamisa but after sharing her pain with the group she got some strength and hope, further saying that nothing is impossible with GOD.

68 MINUTES MANDELA DAY

During the 68 minutes Mandela Day celebration, Phakamisa, with the help of Thompson Travellers was able to give away more than 100 blankets to our orphans and also distributed some toys into two crèches that are being monitored by our ECD monitors. The smiles that were seen in those little faces when receiving their blankets and toys was very touching. The way one child gets excited when receiving the blanket, the wandering school teacher just shared the background of the child mentioning that the excitement is solely from that it is for the first time that the child is having a blanket for himself.

TOUCHING LIVES

With the help of the Pinetown Methodist Church and Steve's kitchen, Phakamisa was able to identify twenty needy families and they were able to receive food parcels with some bag of vegetables. Clothes received from Pinetown Senior Primary School were also given to the children of these families as well. Through this "touching lives" campaign, Phakamisa has been able to reach out and make some difference into our needy families and orphans

STAFF DEVELOPMENT

Fifteen staff members, field workers and trainers received training in community programme facilitation from Diakonia Council of Churches, a big thank you goes to Mr Mwandla of Diakonia for making this training possible. In this training, Phakamisa staff has been equipped with facilitation skills to assist the communities in initiating the programmes that will empower and bring positive changes in the community.

THOLUTHANDO WORKSHOP

A one day workshop was done with our support Tholuthando "support group". The workshop was facilitated by **SIYANQOBA** - "LET'S BEAT IT". The workshop was about saving water and breast feeding. The promotion of healthy living lifestyle was also promoted during this workshop.

ECD GRADUATION

Hundred and seventy five pre-school/ crèche teachers graduated in Early Childhood Development Training this term. A Hundred completed their six months course and graduated in Child- Minder training. The Child Minder training is for 0 -3 years old. The other group of teachers completed and graduated in the Edu -care training. The Edu-care training is for 3-5 years of age.

When one of the teachers gave speech at the graduation day, she said since the teachers of her school attended the Phakamisa ECD training there's been a huge change seen by her school. The enrolment of children has increase and they have received some recognition by Department of Social Development, further thanking Phakamisa for the good work done in their crèche through ECD Monitors.

HERITAGE DAY

Phakamisa operates in different areas (rural, semi-urban and urban), therefore the communities have different cultural beliefs and practices. During this day, group members get the chance to learn from each other's culture through dancing, poems and sharing of different food and singing. It was also good to see, hear and learn from the three group members from Tanzania sharing with the other group members the differences and similarities about their culture to the Zulu culture. In celebrating the heritage day, it was good to celebrate it jointly with Sizanani which is also one of the missions of Pinetown Methodist Church. The students from Sizanani also performed for the Phakamisa groups, they sang traditional

songs and also performed various traditional dances.

There was lot of entertainment from different groups and it was also interesting to our men group performing on stage doing Zulu dance and singing traditional songs

A lady from one of our groups also gave the talk on how the different types of traditional

Attires are worn, for instance, an outfit for a married woman and a young girl. Nelie our beadwork trainer also gave talk about different style of beads and how are worn in different occasions. The event was successful and it closed in a high note.

CONCLUSSION

Full participation with all the programmes and projects of Phakamisa is maintained with all our beneficiaries. Happy and conducive environment is also maintained. Phakamisa is seen as their second family by our care givers.

PRAYER REQUEST

- Almost each and every group requests prayer regarding suicidal attacks happening within their families.
- About five care givers from different groups reported being attacked by severe strokes.
- Family sickness/ illness
- Two members from Tholuthando support group in hospital