

Hands On – June 2007

Phedišang's Newsletter

WHO WE ARE

Phedišang is an organization that contributes to the care of orphans and vulnerable children (OVCs) by providing meals, health monitoring and access to available government funding. We endeavour to provide the nurturing and support that a child's own family would give it.

WHAT WE DO

- Provide the OVCs with 2 meals a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year
- Monitor their health
- Liaise with healthcare professionals and provides
- Obtain available government grants

Phedišang uses existing infrastructure to provide its services. It does not spend money on buildings and vehicles, but rather on caring for orphans. Administrative costs are borne by the McLean Trust.

R100 feeds one child for an entire month.

CONDOM DISTRIBUTION WEEK

The South African Department of Health designated the week of February 12 – 16, 2007 as Condom Distribution Week. Phedišang used this time to educate children about condom use in four centers. The children were divided into two age groups: age 11 and under and age 12 and older.



The younger kids participated in discussions about HIV/AIDS and myths surrounding them. We also discussed sex and the ABC (Abstinence, Be faithful, Condomize) method for prevention of disease and teenage pregnancy.

The older kids had a Q & A session and a demonstration of how to correctly put on a condom. There were some giggles but this was a good sign that we had their attention.



These sessions were successful and also demonstrated that the children had a support system and a place to go with future questions. Many thanks to *Imperial Logistics* for providing pens which were given out as prizes to children correctly answering question.

VOLUNTEERS



Phedišang is very fortunate to have a number of high-calibre volunteers. Christy Hotard, our US Peace Corps volunteer, is still living and working on site in Limpopo. She is making a significant impact with her organizational skills and hands on time with the kids. Christy has begun implementing various life skills trainings (including the discussions during Condom Distribution Week.) She will be joined by a new volunteer from the German South African Youth Association (GSAYA), Corinna Muschner, in July. We are also looking forward to the return of Michaela Leiss, formerly with the GSAYA, for a period of six weeks beginning in August. Michaela worked with Phedišang for three months in mid 2006. Andrew Kanarek will be coming

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from the USA in September for an indefinite length of time.

We have never had more than one volunteer at a time at one time, but the two women we have had were so useful and successful, building capacity with our workers on the ground, that we are thrilled to be able to welcome so many people. It comes with a challenge of course - how to keep them optimally employed, useful and busy! We at Phedišang believe that our people will rise to this challenge.

CENTER FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP

Phedišang sent staff member Charity Monyela to Grahamstown for this train the trainer seminar to learn how to perform things such as social visits to families and teaching parents early childhood development techniques. This seminar was presented by Rhodes University's Centre for Social Development.

Upon completion, Charity was able to identify some challenging areas for Phedišang (such as lack of storage space) as well as positive outcomes that are currently being attained (such as weight gain of our children.)

Charity will receive additional training this winter. We will report more on this in our next newsletter.

V.I.P. VISIT

In February this year, we were honoured to be visited by Theo Epstein and Marie Whitney from Boston, Massachusetts in the U.S.A. They were on their honeymoon in South Africa, and we were thrilled to have them visit us in Limpopo. (Theo is the General Manager of the Red Sox baseball team, Boston.)

They first visited Worcester centre where the children were waiting. The kids were shy but were able to sing a welcome song which made us most proud. Theo and Marie then spent a bit of time with our staff

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at Enable and then set off to see the 74 eagerly awaiting children at Turkey Centre. These kids were clearly ready to perform!



They were welcomed at Turkey centre with greeting signs and songs. The children danced for our visitors who were so thrilled with the interaction and the experience that they were talking of funding for Phedišang. It was a fantastic day for all!



PHEDIŠANG KIDS

Phedišang is currently providing meals to 438 children in total at six centres in the Limpopo province of South Africa. We have obtained 76 government grants. These grant amount is now R620 per child per month.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Phedišang Project

PO Box 631

Moetladimo 0891

SOUTH AFRICA

Tel: +2711 486 4266

Fax: +2711 486 1319

E-mail: phedisang@mclean.co.za

<http://www.phedisang.org/>