



Phedišang's Newsletter - Hands On - June 2008

WHO WE ARE

Phedišang is an organization that contributes to the care of orphans and vulnerable children by providing feeding, monitoring and access to available government funding.

WHAT WE DO

Phedišang's mission is to provide orphans with:

- 2 meals a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year
- Monitor their health and liaise with healthcare professionals and providers
- Obtain available government grants
- Keep the children living with a family member

Projects are centred around achieving these aims. In addition, it is very important that we provide a nurturing and loving environment for these children so they can thrive.



ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE

Over the last four months at Phedišang, we have been consciously tightening administration to ensure that things happen smoothly and efficiently, focusing on the children and not on bureaucracy and pushing paper. We have been guided by a couple of our donors and potential donors in areas needing attention and we were able to fix those.

In September/October 2007 we identified the need for a local manager in Limpopo, who could make decisions, take action, and ensure that all the centres at Phedišang were operating optimally. This was driven by wanting to take the day-to-day load off Maria and Ledile who have done a lot for Phedišang; but who also have their own full-time jobs to contend with, as well as family and community demands. We carefully formulated a job description, and as an interim step, our volunteer Christy Hotard was appointed Acting Manager in February 2008.

Leigh's concern with some of the numbers and the reports coming from the Sekororo hub led to a detailed investigation by Christy, and we uncovered some minor irregularities and unaccounted for money. We cannot live with this kind of thing at Phedišang – we pride ourselves on the fact that we are honest and open with our donors and we can truthfully say that every cent is accounted for. Sadly there were two culprits involved, both of whom have been dismissed after following due process and consulting with the local committees. We ensured that the Board was kept up to date at all times and nearly all the money has been recovered.

The staff of the Enable hub, Suzan Mogale (Bookkeeper) and Charity Monyela (Facilitator), were absolutely outstanding, supportive and helpful. Both of these staff members were being considered for the position of Phedišang Manager Limpopo and in a series of discussions around the position and who should fill it, the issue of the Sekororo hub kept coming up. In joint consultation with the hands-on Board members in Limpopo – Ledile and Maria – management tested the idea of combining the two hubs into one. We presented it, with all the pros and cons, to the two committees and they seized on the idea and agreed to amalgamate.

Now we have only one administrative office in Limpopo that is well staffed and on top of getting all the reports and the numbers 100 % right. The logical conclusion to this major administrative shuffle and tightening up exercise was to appoint the new manager, which we have done: Effective 1 July, Charity Monyela will be assuming the position of Manager Limpopo.

STAFF VISITS TO JOHANNESBURG

Charity touring the airport



Suzan clowning at the Family Fun Day

As part of the interview process for Suzan and Charity, we decided to bring them up to the Johannesburg office to experience the work atmosphere at this end. Charity visited Johannesburg in February, met with some of the Board members and spoke at the Roedean School with Christy during a presentation. Suzan visited in May and helped at the Family Fun Day fundraiser. Each of them had a great experience and worked hard while they were here. They also got to see some of the sights around town including OR Tambo airport, The Apartheid Museum and the Zoo. We believe that having them see the office in Johannesburg helped them understand the process of fundraising and it continues to open the channels of communication.

DRIVER IN LIMPOPO

Monthly trips for grocery and meat deliveries, as well as transporting staff and children between centers, has presented logistical challenges. To overcome these, we enlisted the help of Beshu Motupa, a volunteer from Madeira village, as driver for Phedišang's transportation needs in Limpopo. From our first conversation with Beshu he stated that he is "a socialist not a capitalist" and is happy to help a community organization like Phedišang and accept the prearranged standard cost per trip (with some negotiation). Beshu has been with us for over a month now, and he has proven most helpful. He has reliable transportation and has been available for every trip we have needed. Thank you Beshu!

COOKING SHELTERS – UPDATE

In the previous Phedišang Newsletter (March 2008), we discussed the need for cooking shelters at each of the six centers – proper brick enclosures to protect the cooks from the elements. We are delighted to be able to report that four gracious donors responded: Andrew Stuart-Reckling, Kirstin Otten, Michael and Kathie O'Malley, and Imperial Logistics all came through to provide the funds for the 6 shelters. Thanks to these generous donations, we have been able to purchase all the necessary materials, construction has commenced and will be completed by the end of June 2008. The children and staff of Phedišang as well as they communities they serve are most grateful.



PARTNERSHIPS

US PEACE CORPS

Starting in March, the staff and kids in Limpopo were joined by another US Peace Corps volunteer, Nick Redding. He, like Christy, is dedicating the next 2 years of his life to helping provide sustainable solutions for Phedišang. Nick hails from Seattle, Washington and has an undergraduate degree in Psychology and a masters degree in Clinical Psychology. He has a lot of experience in management and will be able to provide support and guidance for our new manager in Limpopo. He already hit the ground running and has managed to set up a working computer at each of the 6 centres and already started lessons for the kids. Nick is happy to devote two years to this project and looks forward to what else he will be able to contribute.



FUNDRAISING

FAMILY FUN DAY

On May 18th, Phedišang hosted a Family Fun Day fundraising event at Roedean School in Johannesburg. The weather was beautiful and visitors enjoyed live music from Ed Jordan (from Beautiful Creatures) and Jason Hartman as well as various music ensembles from Roedean and the Roedean Choir. Food, complementary wine, jumping castles, clowns and face painting were all part of the activities. An auction of high profile donations including original works of art and accommodations at popular lodging destinations added to the fundraising and the fun. In total we brought in approximately R54,000. We would like to thank all of those who attended the event, and those that provided a helping hand including the Roedean School for allowing us to have the event on their lawn, the girls who comprised the different Roedean music ensembles and the Roedean Choir for yet another stellar performance. Special thanks goes to Cath Hall for all the hard work she put into organizing the day. Preliminary plans for the next event are already in the works so if you missed us this time, we hope to see you next year!



RAFFLE FOR EXQUISITE JEWELLERY

The well known South African jeweller Christopher Greig from Charles Greig designed a magnificent suite of jewellery using 14 Thai-rubies (total weight 15.15 ct), 13 small diamonds (total weight .315 ct) and rose gold. The set is valued at R85,000 and is the perfect gift for one of those special women in your life. Tickets are on sale now and cost R200 and only 500 tickets being sold! A function will be held in Johannesburg on 24 July 2008, and Sue Greig will draw the winning ticket promptly at 7 pm. You do not have to be present to win. If you want to buy tickets, please email us at phedisang@mclean.co.za or call Sue McLean at 083-267-4986.

2008/2009 HOUSEHOLD CALENDAR/ORGANISER

In another fundraising effort, we have created a 2008/2009 Household Calendar/ Organizer, which is on sale now. We have approximately 2000 calendars to sell and we truly believe that every family could benefit from ordering one. The calendars start from July 2008 so you can purchase now and use immediately. Our beautiful kids grace each page and remind you that your purchase went to helping feed one of them. The cost is R200 plus shipping and we can even ship overseas. Please order through our secure website at <http://www.phedisang.org/purchase.html>. Note: only credit card donations are accepted – international cards are fine to use but it will be processed in South African Rand.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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