



Phedišang's Newsletter - Hands On - March 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.

Sub-projects are therefore centered around achieving these aims. Money donated to Phedišang is applied to the "core business" and directly used for feeding and welfare of the children.



DONORS

Imperial Logistics November visit/Donations

Imperial Logistics continues to be a major supporter of Phedišang and came to visit the project for the third time in November 2007. Sanet Momberg and Doug Truter, our contacts for the company, visited Butswana, Mankgonyane and Moshate centres during their trip. They also managed to secure a large load of donations on behalf of Phedišang, which were delivered to the centres on 21 December via one of their delivery companies. A few of the items included 2 very large freezers, 2 shelving/storage units, 19 x 25 kg tins of jam, 720 kg of mayonnaise, 456 kg peanut butter, 650 kg of Weetbix, 40 litres oil, 1 carpet and various other items. The food donations are greatly appreciated and help to ease the monthly food costs for Phedišang.

FNB December Braai/Workshop

In December 2007, members of the IPH department from FNB came to visit Phedišang for a couple days. On the 7th all of the Phedišang children gathered together for talks geared towards empowering the girls and encouraging the boys to be responsible role models in their communities. Despite the rainy weather, the kids were happy to perform their traditional and modern dances for the visitors. The FNB team sponsored the entire day and covered the costs for transport as well as the delicious braai. The FNB group has expressed interest in returning for a follow up event in a few months and we are eager to have them back – hopefully this time the weather will be sunny and clear.

Roedean School matrics donate their shoes



Our relationship with Roedean School (SA) continues to grow. At the valedictory service, the last day of the year that students have to wear their uniforms, the Executive Headmistress, Mary Williams, encouraged matric students to donate their school shoes to Phedišang. As the girls filed out, 52 of the matrics, who were all leaving school for the last time, left their shoes at the door and filed out in only their socks. The shoes were taken down to Phedišang along with a brush and a tin of black shoe polish per pair – the government school uniforms require black shoes (Roedean school shoes are brown).

The kids at Phedišang were happy to receive the shoes and had a good time in a group polishing effort. We made quite a mess but it was all in good fun. Thank you Roedean, and your 2006 matrics for a wonderful gesture and ongoing support.

Investec donate art boxes for each child

Investec Cradle Project, another supporter of Phedišang, donated 450 art sets, enough for each child to get one. The sets were given out at the beginning of this year and were a huge hit. The kids love having their own set of crayons, markers, water colours, and colour pencils. They are already busy designing their favourite cars and dream homes and decorating the centres with their art work. Phedišang hopes to produce a new generation of young South African artists soon. Watch this space.



ACTIVITIES

Map Mural Project



The first world map mural was painted at Mankgonyane centre in December. It was completed in just a few short days with the help of Monica and Hershey Dalwadi, volunteers from the USA, who spent part of their honeymoon with us at Phedišang. Katherine McLean, Leigh's daughter, was also volunteering for the project and was a huge help in the process. The first map is a masterpiece and we believe the next ones will be even better. We learned a lot during the process and our geography skills are well on the way to being superb! The children at the centre love the map and workshops are being designed to incorporate the map into the afternoon activities. We would like to thank Patricia Anderson, a friend of Christy Hotard's, for sponsoring this project – we were able to buy enough paint for murals at all 6 centres. We will hopefully start the next one in April.



Scenarios from Africa

Scenarios from Africa is an educational contest that encourages youth ages 12-24 from around Africa to create stories about HIV/AIDS. Each year the contest winners have a chance for their stories to be adapted into a short film by a leading African director. These films are then used as educational tools to promote positive discussions about HIV. Throughout the month of February the kids worked in groups or as individuals to develop their own stories. At the end of the month, all of the centres got together in one spot and performed their scenarios. We hope to gain a lot of insight about how HIV is affecting their lives, which will help us with the activities we do with them as well as how we do them. The most exciting thing about this project is that the kids are able to drive the discussions and we, as teachers and facilitators, can listen to them and hopefully better understand their needs. This is the first time youth from South Africa are participating in the contest.

PARTNERSHIPS

CIDA City Campus

Phedišang has formed a relationship with CIDA City Campus in Johannesburg, a donor funded university that allows disadvantaged youth a chance to receive tertiary education. We recognize the need to prepare Phedišang children for life beyond our cut off age, which is 18. Many of these kids do not believe they have the possibility of further education. In terms of direct benefit, the relationship with CIDA will bring students currently enrolled in classes to Phedišang communities as volunteers where they can be positive role models for our youth. In late January CIDA staff visited the project to get an introduction to our area. From here we hope to build the relationship and create meaningful ties between the CIDA students and our OVC.

FUNDRAISING

USA Fundraising efforts

In December, Boston-based Anna Kanarek hosted a fundraiser dinner party with celebrity chefs from local restaurants. We thank all those who braved the weather to attend because the event brought in over US\$57,000 – enough funds to keep Phedišang running smoothly for 6 months. In addition, during Christy's visit home to Texas, she was able to raise a small amount of funds thanks to her family and friends. Both these efforts contribute a great deal to keeping Phedišang operational. Other fundraising efforts are picking up momentum. We hope to have fundraisers in Chicago hopefully sometime later this year.



If you are interested in fundraising from the States, please contact us – all efforts big and small are welcome and greatly appreciated. And remember, all the money goes directly to helping our kids.

Phedišang Family Fun Day – 18 May 2008

Phedišang will be hosting a Family Fun Day fundraiser on May 18 at Roedean School in Johannesburg. We are still in the midst of planning but the day will be filled with jumping castles, face painting, crafts, food and live music which will include the impressive Roedean choir. We encourage all in the area to come and bring their family and friends to enjoy the day. Stay tuned for more information as we finalize the details. If you are interested in tickets, please contact Catherine Hall, 082 479 1985.

PROJECTS

Cooking Shelters

As part of the culture of the community Phedišang operates in, many people cook on open fires outside. Although this method is effective for cooking large amounts of food for our kids, this can prove to be a problem during inclement weather. Most of the centres do not have an adequate shelter that can be used in all weather conditions. After discussion with the local committees, we have been able to identify men from each village that can help us build a structure. Although these structures are not expensive (estimate cost of R2,100/shelter), they do add financial stress for Phedišang. We believe these structures are necessary and important to the sustainability of the project. If anyone is interested in helping to cover the costs for these structures, please email us at phedisang@mclean.co.za.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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