



Phedišang's Newsletter - Hands On March 2010

WHO WE ARE

Phedišang is an organization that contributes to the care of orphans and vulnerable children by providing meals, health 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 centered on achieving these aims. In addition, it is very important that we provide a nurturing and loving environment for these children so they can thrive.

ACTIVITIES

LINKS WITH LIMPOPO GOVERNMENT

Phedišang is thrilled to inform our donors that the Limpopo Provincial Government is really coming forward to fund Phedišang. There've been discussions with Government since December 2003, and intensive

applications for support since January 2009. At last, Government recognises both the good that we are doing for the children, and the need of support for those efforts. It isn't always easy -- Government requirements can be at odds with Phedišang priorities. (As an example: in the interest of building extra capacity, Government would like more staff, whereas Phedišang would prefer to save money for other needs.)

We are having to jump through many hoops and change many systems to make Government happy, and are certainly prepared to do so if it is in the long-term interests of our children. We have a responsibility to donors to get all available funding from Government, allowing us to apply donor funding to fill in the remaining cracks and provide for the additional needs of the children.

Phedišang has received direct Government support for the months of April to December 2009 to date, and intends to keep Government happy while enjoying the ongoing support!

NEW PROJECT MANAGER

All organisations change and Phedišang is no exception! Leigh McLean, who has lived in Johannesburg almost unbroken (other than boarding school) for 52 years, has moved with his family to the Western Cape. This follows a move of family and good friends over time, but leaves many close and special friends behind in Johannesburg.

Phedišang has a strong existence in Johannesburg and the Johannesburg office is essential for operations to continue. The McLean Trust is making it possible for Phedišang to continue to have a Project Manager by committing to cover the initial salary package. Pru managed to find Judy Bassingthwaighte, who has filled the Project Manager role since mid-November 2009. While this is a huge relief to all, especially to Leigh; he is not rushing off without a backward look. He has agreed to change his job title and description to that of Project Director, and move on to the Phedišang Board. The marvels of modern technology make it possible for Leigh, Judy and Charity to be in close



communication to make Phedišang run better than ever. Judy has really plunged into Phedišang commitments – site visits, monitoring and support of Charity, and much involvement in the leaders’ visit to Johannesburg (see below). We are delighted to welcome Judy to the Phedišang family and support her in managing the project... and Leigh at the same time (an unenviable task!).

ON THE GROUND IN LIMPOPO

NEW OFFICE LOCATION FOUND

Charity, our untiring manager in Limpopo, has secured the perfect plot of land to build our new office. It is located in Turkey village on the main road, across from the clinic on one side and the secondary school on the other. It is already fenced and has pit latrine facilities in place. All we need now is a generous donor to help us break ground on the building. This office will make all the difference for Phedišang. It will be centrally located and easy to access with storage for the donations that come from Johannesburg, including Tiger Brands. Having the office in a visible location will build awareness of our hard work in the community, which will yield greater local support.

PHEDISANG LEADERS VISIT JOHANNESBURG!



On December 13th-15th, 11 of the hardest working children from the 2009 Phedišang leaders program journeyed to Johannesburg for a field trip as a reward for all of their efforts over the past year. They visited O.R. Tambo Airport, the Johannesburg Zoo, CIDA City Campus, Constitution Hill, Soweto and the Oppenheimer Tower, Sandton City and Carlton Centre. They were also treated to a movie, pizza, and bumper cars at a Rosebank mall. None of these kids had ever left Limpopo; most had never left the greater Sekororo area in which Phedišang operates. This trip had a profound impact on all of them and gave them an opportunity to see another part of their beautiful country!

TABLE TENNIS AT MOLALANE

Leigh was talking to Michael Moore, the CEO of Merison BV, about how the staff at Bunschoten in the Netherlands could feel closer to, and more a part of, Phedišang. Plans are afoot for a few things, but one of those which is already in place is table-tennis! The Merison staff are passionate about table-tennis, and play in their breaks as well as before and after work. When approached by Phedišang, they offered to hold a tournament in the Netherlands, the total playing fee of which went to buy a table-tennis table for the Phedišang Merison Molalane centre. (The fee did not quite cover the cost, so characteristically generous Michael made up the shortfall!) Nick and another volunteer, Rosen, have been teaching the Molalane children to play table-tennis, and they are clearly having a blast learning this new game. Thank you Merison!



HOEDSPRUIT AIRBASE TRIP



Twelve ambitious secondary school students from Phedišang had the great fortune of touring the local military airbase in Hoedspruit. Their tour-leader was a Sepedi-speaking Major who is a helicopter pilot, which meant that the children could ask questions and understand easily. While at the airbase, they were able to tour the hanger and explore one of the helicopters, followed by tours of the control tower and fire station.

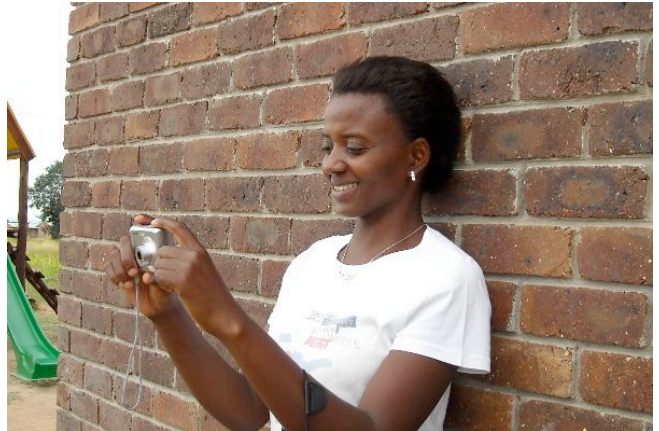
Most of the children chosen for this trip had expressed interest in serving in the military and this allowed them to get a first taste of what they might be able to do if the study hard enough. Trips like this make all the difference in expanding the minds of these promising children.

CAMERA IN LIMPOPO

Historically, Phedišang has relied on pictures taken by donors and volunteers, which have then been collated and maintained by a special volunteer in Gauteng, Laura MacGregor. This has gone on for some years, and has been satisfactory for our purposes, at no cost! However, we felt that the time had

come to move the responsibility of picture taking to Limpopo, even if there is a small cost attached. (although we'd prefer a generous donation if possible!)

We have purchased a small digital camera for Phedišang Limpopo, and have put Suzan in charge of taking pictures and e-mailing thanks (under the direction of Charity) to donors. Donors! : expect to see e-mails of thanks, with relevant pictures, in your in-box directly from Limpopo. In addition to freeing Phedišang from reliance on volunteers and visitors for our photographs, the purchasing of this camera is promoting further development of the Limpopo staff and increased self-sufficiency of the Limpopo office. The volunteers are finishing up storing the pictures on the Internet, using Picasa – watch this space!



TIGER BRANDS

We have been bowled over by the most generous donation of Ace Mealie-Meal, Jungle Oats, Tastic Rice, Koo tinned goods and many other wonderful dry grocery goods from Tiger Brands each month for the past four months. All these nutritious goods are delivered right to Phedišang. As would be expected, this is a huge relief and makes it possible for more donor funding to go towards other enriching activities for the children. To show our appreciation, Phedišang will be hosting Tiger Brands in Limpopo for a grand re-opening ceremony where we will be renaming the Butswana centre the Tiger Brands centre. It's the least we can do to honour such a huge commitment to the community.

STEPHEN LEWIS FOUNDATION

Following the truly wonderful support and co-operation which we experienced from Stephen Lewis Foundation (SLF) in Toronto from July 2008 to end June 2009, we applied for, and were granted, further support from October 2009 through September 2010. No sooner had we received confirmation of this grant approval when we obtained South African government money to pay for much of what SLF had already agreed! Too much funding is not a typical problem for Phedišang and SLF were extraordinarily tolerant in agreeing to a solution, by inviting us to make a

proposal for the redirection of those funds. We did so, with part of the proposal funding requested for our five 2009 matriculant students to attend tertiary education institutions. Alas, none of them passed the matriculation exams, so we are again going back to SLF (four of the students are studying for supplementary exams in March, one is attending a local computer academy). None of this detracts from the merits of the ongoing support from SLF, which includes paying for the monitoring visits and mentoring from Phedišang Johannesburg -- vital for our operations.

FUNDRAISING

Judy is fully aware that fundraising is one of the most important components of her job description. She has been busy researching new funding opportunities, meeting with existing donors, and has already managed to submit a major application to South African Lotto. We believe that Phedišang absolutely qualifies for full support from Lotto to build and equip a new office in Limpopo, So here's hoping! We are also re-applying to many of our current corporate supporters, and hoping to get more corporate support like the wonderful, on-going support from Merison BV.

STUDENT FEEDBACK

1. LAURENCE MOAKAMELA

Laurence is Phedišang's first university graduate – he obtained his B.Sc from the University of Kwa-Zulu Natal in 2009, and is looking forward to climbing further up the ladder towards becoming a medical doctor. Phedišang has been over-blessed in this, by having loyal donors and supporters Kgosi and Mpho Letlape, who have supported Laurence since 2003 at Phedišang, taking an even more direct role during his under-graduate years: counseling, mentoring, guiding, helping with bursaries and taking Laurence into their own home. Laurence has not been accepted into a medical school yet, so is likely to spend 2010 registered for study by correspondence for Physics, Chemistry and Zoology, readying himself for University next year. He is also going to volunteer to help at the SciBono Science Centre in Newtown, Johannesburg, a dynamic centre focused on science and maths for school-children.

2. TEBATSO MAUWANE

Tebatso has just completed her bridging or foundation year at CIDA University in Johannesburg. We asked her to write her impressions, and this is what she produced:

- Life is full of great moments and challenges that a human being has to encounter to be successful in life. The great moment that I've experienced is to be the first girl from Phedišang to be at tertiary (educational institute).
- Living life without my family and friends was quite difficult. I never thought that in my life I will be able to stay without my family and to meet new friends, but it has taught me to realize that I'm no longer a child.
- The most challenging part is that I'm learning new subjects, that I never did at school, it shows me that I have the potential and ability to make things work for me. I have built a friendship with people from different provinces and countries.
- I'm hoping to be a motivational speaker at Phedišang and in my community this year. The other thing that I keep telling myself is that I don't want to disappoint anyone by failing or supplementing my first year.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Phedišang Project

PO Box 631

Moetladimo 0891

SOUTH AFRICA

Tel: +27 10 590 1385

Fax: +27 865 499 440

E-mail: phedisang@mclean.co.za

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