

# Hands On – October 2006

Phedišang's Newsletter

## Who we are

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

## What we do

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

Money donated to Phedišang goes directly to feeding and welfare of the children. Administrative costs are borne by the McLean Trust.

R100 FEEDS ONE CHILD FOR AN ENTIRE MONTH

## Infrastructure:

Currently Phedišang provides for 473 children at 6 different centres in Limpopo Province in South Africa. The South African government pays a Foster Care Grant to orphans, currently R590 per month, once certain quite rigorous conditions have been met. Phedišang helps negotiate a formidable bureaucracy – gathering documents, obtaining birth and death certificates where necessary, and deals with the Social Welfare Department to obtain grants. The first step is getting a Court Order declaring an individual the Foster Carer of one or more orphans. Once this is done, the major hurdle is passed, and the application for the grant is easy. Phedišang measures success in this area by the number of Court Orders obtained (the final hurdle before a successful grant application & payment).

To date, Phedišang has obtained 52 court orders, and paperwork completed for a further 61. Apart from the huge benefit to the orphans who qualify (R590 goes a long way to caring for an extra child in rural Limpopo), there is a massive spin-off benefit of government money flowing directly into the community. 52 Court Orders translates into over R30 000 per month (a huge sum in rural Limpopo Province).



## **Phedišang News:**

### **Social Development**

Phedišang Enable hub has appointed a new Facilitator, Charity Monyela. She was previously the bookkeeper for the hub serving 4 centers, and is fully computer-literate and fluent in English. Charity, despite her appearance (young and petite), is also feisty and fully up to ready for the on-going war with the bureaucratic Government Civil Servants. The previous Facilitator, Johannes Maanaso, has been co-opted onto the local committee of Phedišang Enable, so that his wealth of experience and contacts are not lost.

The relevant Government liaison offices have been moved from Tulamahashe to Giyane, which meant going through the process of establishing working relationships again. Phedišang has already established links with the Social Workers of Giyane, and Charity has started applications for the very necessary birth certificates. We hope that in the long term, the move will speed up the bureaucratic process - to Phedišang's advantage.

### **Sekororo**

Two new Phedišang centres opened this year in March, attached to a new hub, at Sekororo. These cater for 168 orphans and vulnerable children. The 2 centres, Moshate and Mankgonyane, are now organized and the staff is committed to their work. They have also started negotiating with the Social Workers for children who have no birth certificates, and submitted applications for government grants for eligible children. The Facilitator of Sekororo is Maria Motupa.

### **Dr Lawrence**

Phedišang is proud to announce that Lawrence Moakamela, a child involved with Phedišang since its inception 2003, matriculated with University exemption and is now enrolled in 1st year medicine at University of KZN. With great thanks to some special individual Phedišang donors, who enlisted corporate support to cover his tuition. Lawrence is passing all his courses and doing very well. Moving to the University of KZN was the first time Lawrence had ever left Limpopo Province, and he flew down on Kulula.com, another first. He has just been home for the mid-year vacation and is thrilled, inspired and moving forward in the world.

### **Volunteers**

Michaela Leiss, an under graduate from Spangenberg in Germany, assisted at Phedišang from 9 May to 5 August 2006. During her stay she helped streamline the administration at the Enable center; taught many of the children computer skills; entertained the children with games and sports, introduced the hot new game of Fireball; and held a sports competition between the centres. Picture of Michaela will follow – none to hand at present – sorry!

Results were as follows:

**WORCESTER vs ENABLE**

Enable, winner of netball.

Worcester, winner of fireball.

## TURKEY vs BUTSWANA

Turkey, winner of all games, netball, soccer and fireball.

Many thanks to Michaela for her enthusiasm and hard work. Further thanks to the Investec Cradle Project for the sports equipment which she distributed and used.

## US Peace Corps

Starting 21 September 2006, Phedišang is rolling out a new initiative with the United States Peace Corps. The volunteer, Christy Hotard (pictured - left), will be based in Limpopo for two years. She will continue where Michaela has left off. She will start girls talk, discussion groups, lectures occasionally, workshops on HIV/AIDS, social issues and sex.



Also in the picture are Emma Papi (back), and the hub staff from Enable – Facilitator Charity Monyela (far right) and book-keeper, Susan Mogale (front) – the computer stand just donated by someone in Johannesburg

## Projects:

### Water & Vegetables

There is a very real need for water and the creation of vegetable gardens, which produce supplementary food for the Phedišang kitchens. These projects provide valuable creative and constructive activities for the children and greatly needed employment opportunities for adults, in these communities. However these projects are not done within the Phedišang infrastructure. Phedišang functions as a conduit between donors who would like to fund these projects, and volunteers within Phedišang who wish to develop water and agricultural services within these communities. Produce can then be sold to Phedišang and well used, with the proceeds going into the community.

## Fund Raising:

### Anna's Party

On 31 May, Phedišang's U.S. fund-raiser, Anna Kanarek, held a dinner function at her home in Boston. She and celebrity chef, Jody Adams cooked South African food for 106 people raising US\$25,000. Anna was thrilled with the response, and so were we, the money going directly to feeding and caring for the children.

### **Imperial Logistics Golf Day**

On July 7, 2006, Maria Kgabo, co-ordinator of Enable from Limpopo, was a guest speaker at the dinner hosted by Imperial Logistics for their golf day for their charity drive "Wheels of Hope". Phedišang is one of the beneficiaries of that tournament.

### **Fundraising Cocktails**

In October 2006, Phedišang will host a fundraising cocktail party at the McLeans' home in Westcliff, Johannesburg, to give feedback to our donors. We are hoping that both Maria Kgabo (one of the real dynamos behind Phedišang) and Ledile Mphahlele, the Co-ordinator for Phedišang Sekororo as well as both Board members will be there to speak (briefly), answer questions and meet the donors. Each donor will be requested to bring a friend, so it should be quite an event.

### **Donations:**

SAA Logistics donated 161 boxes of noodles (24 cups per box). These were a real hit with the kids, and the donation was greatly appreciated. They then followed this with a donation of a huge number of blankets – all children received one.



Many local farmers have been donating tomatoes & other surplus produce.

We need clothing, books, games, toys and computers.

Donations of food-stuffs are always welcome, provided they are not perishable and tricky to transport.

Phedišang collects, sorts and transports all such donations.

### **What we need in Johannesburg**

- Organizing cocktail parties
- Corporate fund-raising
- Help with content of the web-site
- Government liaison
- Monitoring & assisting volunteer workers

The Johannesburg staff consists entirely of volunteers, except for the part-time administrator, Emma Papi.

We have offers from Oxfordshire, U.K., and Michaela Leiss is determined to raise funds in Germany. We have a volunteer in Dubai, who is working flat out, but who also does some talking and fund-raising in her very over-booked spare time! Any other similar and complimentary efforts are warmly welcomed.

Please send cash – debit orders or straight donations - all most welcome - check the web-site, which makes donating very easy. [www.phedisang.org](http://www.phedisang.org)