



## Phedišang's Newsletter - Hands On October 2008

### WHO WE ARE

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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

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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 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.

### ACTIVITIES

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#### NEW FACILITATORS

The afternoon activities continue to be successful and a huge benefit to the kids. After Charity was appointed Manager : Limpopo and Suzan took over as the Financial Administrator, we needed facilitators who could monitor the centres closely. Again, we decided to look at those already involved in Phedišang and we

opened the position up to any of the carers who were interested. Following a stiff interview process, Hazel Shai from Moshate centre and Olga Masete from Turkey centre were promoted and started work as the facilitators in August. Their job is to monitor the cooks and carers and ensure that the daily operations at the centres are continuing. These two women have shown great enthusiasm in their work with the children at their centres and we hope that they will be able to bring that to the other centres and carers.



Welcome Hazel Shai



Welcome Olga Masete

## **2ND ANNUAL ROEDEAN SCHOOL VISIT**

During the first weekend of August, another group of students from Roedean School in Johannesburg volunteered their time to help Phedišang. Last year's successful weekend proved to be a good learning experience and this year we were able to host a total of 18 girls and involve all 6 of our centres. The girls worked with the Phedišang kids painting murals and making Phedišang posters to put up around the community, as well as learning how to cook and serve the meals. The Phedišang kids enthusiastically taught their traditional games and dances and even showed their visitors how to make clay pots and other crafts. On the final night, leaders from each of the centres came to the London Mission, where the Roedean girls were staying, for a braai. There was delicious food, dancing, singing, and even a variety show. Everyone had a blast and didn't want the night to end. Thanks to the Roedean girls, staff who worked hard during the weekend, and the Phedišang leaders - their efforts ensured lasting memories for all involved.



## **CIDA CITY CAMPUS VISIT**



On 23-24 August, students from CIDA City Campus in Johannesburg conducted workshops for Phedišang students from grade 10 to grade 12 from all 6 centres on subjects including financial literacy, study skills, career guidance, and applying to university. The students were motivating, engaging, and informative. In addition to the wonderful presentation, CIDA donated resource material for the centres including study manuals, atlases, typing tutor programs, and music CD/textbook sets.

Without a doubt, the children of Phedišang benefited greatly from their visit.

## **HOMEWORK STATIONS**

In line with the emphasis placed on schoolwork and careers following the CIDA visit Nick, with the help of Hazel and Olga, has created study areas at each of the centers to provide a quiet, productive place for the Phedišang children to study and complete their homework. The carers and facilitators have been asked to tutor the students as needed. We believe this a necessary service to provide to these children, given the high demands that they face at home from duties such as fetching water, cooking, cleaning, and taking care of the younger children, which leaves little time to study.

## **HIV/AIDS WORKSHOP WITH GERMAN VOLUNTEERS**

On 9 August, we were joined by two volunteers from Germany : Sebastian Wunderlich and Sebastian Becker who stayed for the month of August. On 6 September two more volunteers from Germany, Melanie Kirsch and Gerdis Marquardt joined us for the month of September. The volunteers devoted their time with us to conducting workshops on HIV/AIDS with all of the children aged 11 and up. The workshop was very hands-on with games, puzzles, quizzes, and a condom use demonstration. We are very thankful for the hard work and dedication of these volunteers who have addressed a critical need in this vulnerable population.



## THANKS TO OTHER VOLUNTEERS

Christy's two younger sisters, Katie and Teresa Hotard, visited Phedišang in July and helped paint another world map mural at Enable centre. They were touched by the people they met, and hope to come and visit again one day. Thanks for your time and effort!

## FAREWELL TO CHRISTY

We at Phedišang, moved through September with increasing gloom at the prospective departure of Christy Hotard, our first volunteer from the U.S. Peace Corps. Christy had lived in the village for 2 years, staying with Anna Mohale, and found her way into all our hearts! It would be easy to think of Christy only in terms of her bubbly, infectious enthusiasm; her enormous compassion for all in need, especially children; or her endless patience in working with the staff, teaching them how to do their jobs better and achieve their goals. Christy is much more than all this, and has really grown with Phedišang, and helped us to grow – to become deeper, and ensure what we do is more sustainable. She listened and observed



carefully for over 3 months and then worked through her thoughts, both with Maria & Ledile in Limpopo, as well as the staff; and with Leigh in Johannesburg. She was at the start of the partnership with Roedean School, and improved the relationships with important donors. She helped with the web-site and the data-base; and all levels of office administration. She wrote fund-raising applications, helped with reports, and compiled newsletters.

When Project Management were talking about a manager in Limpopo, to ensure that what we promise was being done, and that our activities were strengthened, we happened to do an 'exit-interview'/feed-back session with one volunteer, Andrew Kanarek. He said "Sure you need a manager in Limpopo – you already have one – Christy!" We consulted with the Board and Committees, and appointed Christy as Acting Manager at the end of Feb 2008. Her task was to find, help select, groom and train the new Manager : Limpopo; while running the project down there! This she did, taking all in her stride, and has handed on a project much stronger and more vibrant than she found. Christy is going to join her fiancé, Jason, also ex-Peace Corps, who is working in KZN, South Africa, after she returns from her trip home to see her family.

Christy has been a true ambassador for the U.S. Peace Corps, and vital for Phedišang. We will miss Christy, but we won't lose her altogether – we know she will stay linked somehow!

Leigh Mc Lean - Project Manager

## **PARTNERSHIPS**

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### **PICK 'N PAY**

On a chance visit to the new Pick 'n Pay store in Hoedspruit, Limpopo, Sue McLean had the great fortune of having a conversation with one of the managers, Natasha, about Phedišang. Natasha immediately expressed an interest in helping Phedišang and there and then offered a donation of three bags of used clothes for the children, as well as continued support in the form of grocery donations. Since that initial visit, Phedišang has benefited from many donations of bread and vegetables. This gracious offer of assistance from Natasha and Pick 'n Pay is a great example of the generosity of local communities helping those in need.

### **FARMERS**

On the week of 15-19 September Phedišang received generous donations of oranges and tomatoes from local farmers. Spearheaded by Susan and Charity, all of the local farms in the area were solicited for food donations. Fanie Meyer, of Blyde River Farms donated two cribs of oranges, Olifants River Estate donated one crib of oranges, and Frank's Farm in Trichartsdal donated one crib of tomatoes. These donations are an enormous contribution, which eases the cost of buying food for all of the centres. Our thanks go out to these farms, and to Charity and Susan keeping the relationships and momentum going.



## **FUNDRAISING**

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### **CHICAGO, USA FUNDRAISING EFFORTS**

In August, the Phedišang cause was aided by the help of Stephanie Gordon Farsht, her two daughters, and 10 children from their neighborhood in Chicago. They raised money



by selling lemonade, fresh baked cookies, and bottled water. Altogether, US\$246 was raised in one day which went straight to helping the children of Phedišang. Not only did these children half a world a way raise money for a good cause, but they had fun doing it too! Excellent work.

### **UPDATE ON THE RAFFLE FOR JEWELLRY**

An auction was held for the exquisite jewelry set donated by South African jeweller Christopher Greig. We managed to sell R85,000 worth of tickets and the lucky winner was Nirrie Reddy, an occupational therapy teacher at Roedean School. Thanks to those who helped us sell tickets and of course those who purchased tickets – this fundraising effort, as well as others, has helped to ensure that Phedišang operations continue uninterrupted!

### **2008/2009 HOUSEHOLD CALENDAR/ORGANISER**

Don't forget to purchase your 2008/2009 Household Calendar/Organizer, on sale now. The calendars run from July 2008 through December 2009 and are a great gift for the holiday season that is fast approaching. Our beautiful kids grace each page and remind you that your purchase goes towards the cost of feeding them and keeping them healthy. The cost is R200 plus shipping and we can easily 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.

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### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

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