



Annual Report Year ended 29 February 2008

Objectives

The Phedišang project was established to care for orphans and vulnerable children. It is based in the Maruleng municipality in the Limpopo Province of South Africa. Phedišang aims to provide the nurturing and caring that these children miss in their lives. It has been established as an organ of the community, funded by private donors (individuals, corporates and non-governmental organisations – both foreign and South African); and the South African government.

Phedišang is built on four pillars:

- Leave the children where they want to be, within the broader family network and community.
- Feed them twice a day, before and after they go to crèche or school.
- Liaise and interact with the health authorities to ensure that they are receiving required medical care.
- Collect all the documentation and attend to the bureaucratic processes to ensure that the children receive the grants provided by the South African government.

Project Progress

For the year ended February 2008, Phedišang focused on training inputs, mainly from volunteers, to strengthen the activities and the efforts in Limpopo. This led to more vibrant, caring centres in all of the six villages in which Phedišang operates.

Phedišang – Help them to live

Board: P.L.A. Davis, M.M. Kgabo, E.M. Letty, L. Mphahlele, P.J. Ramsey
Project Manger: L.S. McLean

Administrator : E.Papi

McLean Trust – IT 9711

NPO No. : 036-863 P.B.O. No 930007526

www.phedisang.org

Tel +27-11-486-4266

U.S.A. – A. Kanarek

In particular, the following areas received attention during the year under review:

- Making sure that information coming from Phedišang is accurate and meaningful – fully informing project management, the board and existing and potential donors.
- Actively maintaining relationships with volunteer organisations thus ensuring a steady stream of volunteers to work at Phedišang centres in Limpopo as well as in donor and funding centres in Johannesburg, Boston, London and Germany.
- Making sure that volunteer projects are desirable, sustainable, meaningful and fulfilling.
- Ensuring that the directives of the Phedišang Board are implemented, and then reporting back to the board to enable it to exercise effective governance.
- Interacting with the many South African corporate bodies that have become supporters, based on Phedišang's track record for spending money effectively.
- Improving foreign efforts at fundraising and links with organisations in foreign countries – specifically the United Kingdom, United States of America and Germany.
- Continuing to interact with government at all levels, including regular meetings with officials at provincial and district level as well as social workers on the ground.

Activities

The main focus of the year's work at Phedišang included streamlining the activities in Limpopo and using volunteers to ensure that these were carried out to the satisfaction of project management, and ultimately of the Phedišang Board and donors.

Specific achievements in Limpopo included:

- The deployment of a large number of volunteers who spent time working in Limpopo. The important part of this initiative is to ensure that what the volunteers do and implement in Limpopo is what Phedišang needs and is sustainable on an ongoing basis. Projects must also be fulfilling for the volunteers, so that they become ambassadors for Phedišang. Our US Peace Corps volunteer, Christy Hotard, was in residence in Limpopo throughout the year. Christy helped to organise and manage other volunteers and we were able to welcome the following :
 - Two young German volunteers -- Michaela Leiss (returning after her sojourn at Phedišang in 2006) and Nina Meyer-Sipp -- worked on afternoon activities, particularly at the two Sekororo centres, bringing them up to speed with the four Enable centres. They established links with local farmers' organisations in Hoedspruit, and organised for

Phedišang – Help them to live

Board: P.L.A. Davis, M.M. Kgabo, E.M. Letty, L. Mphahlele, P.J. Ramsey
Project Manger: L.S. McLean Administrator : E.Papi

McLean Trust – IT 9711

NPO No. : 036-863 P.B.O. No 930007526

www.phedisang.org

Tel +27-11-486-4266

U.S.A. – A. Kanarek

donations of agricultural surpluses. It appears that this could be an ongoing, sustainable effort.

- Corrina Muschner, also from Germany (through GSAYA), who focused on life skills workshops for Phedišang children, trying to get them motivated to look for something better in life, and not be conditioned by their present circumstances.
 - Andrew Kanarek, a student from the United States on the point of entering medical school, focused on liaison with the South African health authorities and organised an HIV/AIDS testing mobile clinic at the Phedišang offices, persuading some of the Phedišang staff and volunteers to get tested. Andrew also worked on compiling a guide for volunteers when visiting Limpopo and provided many constructive suggestions.
 - A team of nine girls from Roedean School in Johannesburg, accompanied by two teachers and some Phedišang volunteers, spent five days at Phedišang, establishing activity classes for the children at three of the six centres. The Roedean team supplied the materials for the classes themselves. These activities will be continued daily, and aside from providing educational entertainment, can also produce useful objects.
 - Two volunteers from Washington, DC -- Hershey & Monica Dalwadi – who visited Phedišang as part of their honeymoon and joined Christy and Katherine McLean, a volunteer from Johannesburg, in painting the first world map mural at Mankgonyane Centre. This was done using a template from the US Peace Corps, and an overhead projector donated by Roedean School; the paint was heavily subsidised by Barney's paint Centre in Johannesburg.
 - A link was established with CIDA City campus, an innovative tertiary educational institution based in Johannesburg, to send a group of student volunteers to Phedišang, with a view to motivating our children and providing supplementary education.
- Mainly because of the intervention of Michaela and Nina (two of the German volunteers), project management took a critical look at the menus and the cooking schedules at all of the Phedišang centres. These have been revised and strengthened; and closer supervision of the provision of food is exercised on a daily basis.
 - Afternoon activities have been improved and entrenched at all centres. One carer has been employed at each, for the same stipend as the cooks are receiving, to ensure that the afternoon activities, games and home-work are all adequately supervised.
 - Corinna Muschner held the life skills workshops, and there was much discussion about goals and ideals for Phedišang children -- how to strive for something more than the relative poverty and aimlessness which surrounds them. First National Bank from Johannesburg organised a workshop to help motivate the children; followed by a large gathering and braai for all the Phedišang children together at Turkey Centre.
 - Re-establishing our link with the South African health service, through and Sekororo Hospital, a mobile HIV/AIDS testing clinic was organised by Andrew Kanarek.

Phedišang – Help them to live

Board: P.L.A. Davis, M.M. Kgabo, E.M. Letty, L. Mphahlele, P.J. Ramsey
Project Manger: L.S. McLean

Administrator : E.Papi

McLean Trust – IT 9711

NPO No. : 036-863 P.B.O. No 930007526

www.phedisang.org

Tel +27-11-486-4266

U.S.A. – A. Kanarek

- Phedišang children worked on entries for “Scenarios from Africa” an educational contest for 12-24 year old children to create stories around HIV/AIDS. The winning stories will be adapted into a film by a well-known documentary director.
- Project management decided that there was a need for a manager in Limpopo who would coordinate, monitor and check up on activities and staff there. The burden of day-to-day supervision was proving to be beyond the co-ordinators of the two Phedišang hubs (also Board members), and the job description and detailed activities were mapped out. The US Peace Corps volunteer, Christy Hotard, was appointed Acting Manager at the end of February at a joint committee meeting of both Limpopo hubs. Two candidates have been short-listed for promotion to Manager: Limpopo. They have been interviewed by both staff and board members, and have visited Johannesburg to see what the office there does for Phedišang and interact with it.

Fundraising Efforts

Fundraising activities in the year under review were similar to previous years, and included major efforts in Boston and the United Kingdom, and ongoing efforts in Johannesburg. The specific activities included:

- Presentation of Phedišang at The Funding Network in London by Polly McLean, who had visited Phedišang previously. Polly has established The Funding Network to access individual donors who wish to contribute to worthy causes. This raised £7,000, which was sent across to South Africa by The Build Trust.
- Another major fund-raising effort by Dr Anna Kanarek in Boston, which was extremely well supported by a number of generous individuals, one of whom matched all other donations, provided Anna reached a pre-determined target. In total, Anna raised over US\$50,000 – a magnificent effort and contribution.
- A generous donation along with two visits from Imperial Logistics, who also donated the transportation of goods and gifts to Limpopo.
- Donations by The Anglo American Chairman’s Fund, The WestBank Foundation, Absa Bank, Investec Bank, The Haggie Trust and The Donaldson Trust.
- Visit from Michael Moore and colleagues of the Merison Foundation in the Netherlands, along with donations of footballs and games, hopefully in anticipation of further support.
- Ongoing financial support from local individual South African donors -- many giving a monthly contribution and a considerable increase in monthly debit order income generated by various fundraising initiatives.
- Donations of goods and gifts from many individuals, companies and from Roedean School in particular.

Phedišang – Help them to live

Board: P.L.A. Davis, M.M. Kgabo, E.M. Letty, L. Mphahlele, P.J. Ramsey
 Project Manger: L.S. McLean Administrator : E.Papi

www.phedisang.org

Tel +27-11-486-4266

U.S.A. – A. Kanarek

McLean Trust – IT 9711

NPO No. : 036-863 P.B.O. No 930007526

Government Interaction

Phedišang strengthened links with the Mopani district office of the Department of Social Welfare based in Giyani; and with the provincial office based in Polokwane. Meetings and discussions with officials were held, from the Deputy Director-General down to the social workers in the field. In general, relations with the government workers have improved, and there seems to be less of a contest for the approval of the foster carers. In summary, the links established yielded the following:

- As at the end of February 2008, 114 foster care grants have been obtained fully or partially through the effort and help of Phedišang. The Foster Care Grant when Phedišang was established in 2003 was R490 per child per month. As of April 2008, this has now been increased to R650 per month. This money is paid to the foster parent appointed by court order, and so equates to over R70,000 per month going into the community for the benefit of the orphans.

The Government progress in providing feeding and caring initiatives in the area serviced by Phedišang continues, with social workers being more familiar with cases of orphans and vulnerable children in the community. Phedišang has been offered further government intervention, and discussion is taking place about obtaining funding for Phedišang that will help to cover the costs of the soon-to-be-appointed Limpopo manager, specifically the support and mentoring of that person.

Future Plans

The year ahead needs to be one of further consolidation in Johannesburg as well as in Limpopo, with a special emphasis on the following projects:

- **Improvement of operational efficiency in Limpopo** concentrating on the effective deployment of staff, the efficient functioning of administrative staff, the elimination of bureaucracy, and the improvement of financial controls and systems. We need to pay particular attention to transport between centres and nearby towns and donors.
- **Construction of appropriate cooking shelters at each centre**, so that food can be easily prepared, no matter what the weather.
- **Further improvement of afternoon activities** with particular attention to more than one activity happening at once; computer facilities and activities at each centre; and the provision of sporting activities.

Phedišang – Help them to live

Board: P.L.A. Davis, M.M. Kgabo, E.M. Letty, L. Mphahlele, P.J. Ramsey
Project Manger: L.S. McLean

Administrator : E.Papi

McLean Trust – IT 9711

NPO No. : 036-863 P.B.O. No 930007526

www.phedisang.org

Tel +27-11-486-4266

U.S.A. – A. Kanarek

- **Marketing Phedišang to the local communities and civic and traditional leaders**, stressing to them what has been and is being achieved by Phedišang, and what they can do to help Phedišang to flourish.
- **Strengthened links with volunteer organisations**, making sure that their requirements are met. Maintaining links with suitable organisations to help Phedišang improve the quality of care and nurturing offered to children with relevant and appropriate interventions. Obtaining a second US Peace Corps volunteer to continue the excellent work in the project that has been done by Christy Hotard.
- **Improvement of Johannesburg office**, including staff and systems to make sure that Limpopo field efforts are fully supported; and that the donor-, volunteer-, and government-project relationships are optimised.
- **Fundraising:** By involving more people in fundraising and reaching a broader audience, we can realistically aim to increase sponsorships, placing the project on a firmer footing and eventually permitting expansion.

In conclusion, we thank all the supporters of Phedišang: individuals -- workers and donors; corporates and our many friends in South Africa and abroad. We are proud of Phedišang, and what it does and achieves for the children -- we continue to believe that it makes the world a better place.

Leigh McLean
Project Manager
June 2008

Phedišang – Help them to live

Board: P.L.A. Davis, M.M. Kgabo, E.M. Letty, L. Mphahlele, P.J. Ramsey
 Project Manger: L.S. McLean Administrator : E.Papi

McLean Trust – IT 9711

NPO No. : 036-863 P.B.O. No 930007526

www.phedisang.org

Tel +27-11-486-4266

U.S.A. – A. Kanarek