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**WISHING ALL OUR CHILDREN, PARENTS, CAREGIVERS, TEACHERS,
PARTNERS, FUNDERS, TEAMS, FRIENDS AND FAMILY...
A BLESSED CHRISTMAS AND A HOPE-FILLED NEW YEAR!**

SITE K OPENS 1ST EMTHONJENI SITE

We're excited to partner with Hlumisa Children's Project who have been working in Site K. Our new site opened with 26 children who have no previous exposure to ECD resources or play.

Hlumisa's current ECD interventions can accommodate 6 children at a time in volunteer households - now together we are helping this community to set up their very own community ECD facility and pull in more children.



UNLIMITED CHILD CERTIFICATION

In September we celebrated the hard work of 83 practitioners from all over Khayelitsha who completed their Unlimited Child training.

This dynamic practical curriculum is supported in-house and equips preschool practitioners to provide quality ECD programmes to the children in their care. Halalala!



“UMNTWANA WAM NGOWAKHO OWAKHO NGOWAM!”

Sikhula Sonke Early Childhood Development continues to pioneer developmental programmes that have led to the holistic development of young children. In this last quarter of 2015, Sikhula Sonke rejoices to record the developmental milestones that have been reached by our staff, children and the community of Khayelitsha itself through our ongoing programme development.

The early childhood development sector has, like other sectors, also been affected by our nation's complex problems, including economic downturn and instability within our societies.

Despite these challenges, we continue to serve and stay focused on our goals and objectives. I'm sure this can be attributed to our Board who make sure that the delivery of services is based on our set goals. The implementers on the ground never cease to amaze me when I see the efforts and commitment to work that they display every day. As a witness, our programmes have seen good progress this quarter.

As we get into the festive season, my appeal goes to all the members of our society to be on the lookout for children and keep them safe. This last quarter in South Africa is marked by two major campaigns, *16 Days of Activism against Women and Children (count me in)* that runs from the 25TH November to 10 December and *World Aids Awareness Day* on December 1, 2015. Both of these campaigns speak of the safety and protection of children. These campaigns are not once-off events; it is very important that we carry these campaigns forward and protect our children all the year round.

Children who were starting Grade 1 exactly 12 years ago have now finished writing their Grade 12 examinations. We thank God for protecting

these 2015 matriculants and will continue to pray for them as they seek entry to universities and other tertiary institutions in and out of the country. We also pray that the current situation in our universities will be solved so that the process can allow these young students smooth transitions and entrance to higher learning institutions in 2016.

It takes the whole village to raise a child.

As I reflect on the year that lies before us, it is also my prayer that our partners and networks of organisations working with children be sustained and further capacitated. Together we are working for the future of our children and the growth of our country.

As we end 2015, I'd like to personally thank you for your contribution and for partnering with us towards the realisation of the dreams of young children.

The Sikhula Sonke teams and Board wish all our partners, funders, grant makers, friends, family, practitioners, children and supporters a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

Ukwanda kwaliwa ngumthakathi. Sibamba ngazo zozibini.

ALL SOCIAL ILLS AROUND COMMUNITIES, FAMILIES, WOMEN AND CHILDREN MUST FALL.



MDEBUTA MTWAZI
Executive Director

PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS ...

PICNICKING IN MAKHAZA

In October Sikhula Sonke hosted a fun and educational outing event at Makhaza Wetlands Park. Officially Khayelitsha's biggest children's picnic, 687 children from the outreach programme and from pre-schools around Khayelitsha attended the event and enjoyed the park's facilities, as well as jumping castles, face-painting, canoeing and more.

GRADUATING TO 'BIG' SCHOOL

In November, Sikhula Sonke hosted an exciting, glorious and well-attended joint ECD graduation event for 160 children, of which 53 children came from the outreach programme and 107 from the educare centers.

The Sikhula Sonke team also supported graduation events in various ECD centres around Khayelitsha by participating as guest speakers and preachers of the "gospel" of Early Childhood Development.

'CONNECT'ING AND REFRESHING

Six Sikhula Sonke women also attended Connect Network's annual women's retreat. This time away was wonderful and refreshing. Together the ladies reflected, were encouraged and prayers were made for the different organisations represented who are involved in social ministries.

A CHILD FINDS A VOICE

In the Emthonjeni programme a child from the Mkhabile family could not talk, but was included in the programme's activities. The child's specialist doctor from Red Cross Memorial Hospital requested the child's assessment form and report card; the doctor was impressed with the programme and we can now celebrate – this child has finally found a voice and can express himself.

THE SKY IS THE LIMIT

ECD centres have raised the standard in implementing The Unlimited Child Programme. We congratulate *Siyakha, Arise and Shine* and *Imizamoyethu* educare centres, who were awarded certificates of excellence in running the programme.

IT'S TIME TO PLAY!

Toy library attendance is growing steadily. In the month of November 84 children were reached in 9 sessions compared to October where 54 children were reached in 7 sessions.



SIKHULA SONKE ECD IN ACTION

Sikhula Sonke has four active early childhood development-related programmes, reaching out to Khayelitsha's children, caregivers and families.

- The **Funda Udlale Library Project** provides a range of educational toys and books, individually and through ECD centres;
- **Emthonjeni** is a community-based programme, offering ECD sessions out in the open, around the communal water taps of the informal settlements (hence the name, which means 'well');
- The **Family Community Motivators Programme** takes ECD interventions into individual households, with its main goal being a reduction in the number of children who do not access early childhood development services;
- The **Imbewu Training, Coaching and Support Programme** actively trains and supports enrolled ECD practitioners.

REACHING OUT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Sikhula Sonke is wholly funded by donations. Would you consider partnering with us in reaching the children of Khayelitsha and giving them a solid foundation to start their school years?

We have a track record of faithfulness in our spending, and are happy to share our financial information with you. All donations can be EFT'd directly to our account.

Sikhula Sonke

Bank: ABSA Bank

Branch: Claremont

Account Type: Current

Account #: 405 820 4765

Branch Code: 632005



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Sikhula Sonke offers free early childhood development, training and support to parents, caregivers and pre-school teachers of young children in Khayelitsha.



Sikhula Sonke is a member of

