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COTLANDS HOSTS TOY LIBRARY SEMINAR

Cotlands hosted a great seminar in their Toy Library in Maccassar in March. Our team fully participated and shared their ideas with other organizations who run toy library services across the province.

Events like these are so valuable for sharing, collaboration and of course, lots of encouragement.



PARENT-CHILD RESOURCES FOR THE FIRST 1000 DAYS OF LIFE

We are excited to announce our new parent-child stimulation kits, put together by Thembi (our Community Development Manager) and the Team leaders. The kits are intended for use during the 1st 1000 days of a child's life. Each kit is designed to encourage and support parents from pregnancy into the toddler years in order to facilitate holistic development and better foundations for young children.

The resource kits have been developed from selected educational material from organisations such as Brain Boosters, Word Works and Nal'ibali, and includes items like big block puzzles, books and blocks.



STATIONERY & SCHOOL UNIFORMS FOR FCM SCHOOL KIDS

Nordex Energy South Africa donated stationery to primary school children who were part of our FCM programme just before the start of the second quarter. Nordex also contributed towards school uniforms for these young learners.

Parents expressed their appreciation for these gifts, as did our Sikhula Sonke Team. Partnerships like this have a deep impact. We've seen that access to stationery and uniforms encourages parents to make that extra effort to keep their children in school, especially as the cost of living increases.



A whole village to raise these children!

MDEBUKA WRITES:

Even though world economies and power states are hit hard by challenges like suicide bombings, civil wars, falling economies and more, we stand firm to thank God for all the blessings bestowed upon women and children in this country.

We started the year on a high note focusing on capacity and development of our staff members in order to serve and work towards thriving families.

My favourite saying is well known: *"It takes the whole village to raise a child"*. This quarter we have provided growth and development opportunities to the team through training workshops at all levels. Different partners have been engaged to see to the growth and success of the operations of all the organisational programs. Funding partnerships look promising despite all the economic uncertainties that our country faces—we thank God for all our funding partners and for the continued support.

THE FIRST QUARTER:

Sikhula Sonke has taken on a journey of external assessment, evaluation and verification of the organisation. The assessments were done by different independent people and organisations and included our Social Work service, Emthonjeni programme and the organisation as a whole. Overall, we did very well and are currently implementing recommendations by the assessors who included Elizabeth Clark on the Social Work service, an external programme assessor, Connect Network and Alternative Prosperity. .

As a result of the evaluation, we are relooking our implementation strategies and empowering our team members furthermore with current trends around the country. Thanks to Ezrah Community Training and Development organisation (and Mariette Jacobs) for taking our team through team building exercises to start off the year. We then invited our partners to do refresher Train-the-Trainer and other courses.

The training sessions included FCM 1st 1000 days training by Elru, Persona Doll Training which puts emphasis on an Anti-Bias Approach which helps young children to deal with issues of prejudice and discrimination within their own settings, Assessor training by Think Twice, and other sessions hosted by Inclusive Education, Nal'ibali, BrainBoosters, Word Works and Self Awareness.

UPDATE ON PROGRAMMES:

Our Imbewu training, coaching and support programme has enrolled 90 Educare practitioners; Unlimited Child continues to support this training initiative and provide ECD facilities with learning materials.

Both outreach programmes - Imbiza Family and Community Motivator and Emthonjeni - are doing well. A huge challenge we had to tackle immediately during reconnection and recruitment was children who were supposed to be in primary school but had not been enrolled by their parents. Our fieldworkers worked with caregivers to overcome this, and we are relieved to report that all the children made it into local schools eventually.

The Funda Udlale Toy Library Programme started a bit late because of cable installations at Harare Library which have been ongoing for the past two months. We have managed to continue with Toy Library sessions, although our time is quite limited. We are excited about the turnout in the programmes despite these challenges.

As part of our programme development, Thembi, our Development Manager, and the Team Leaders have developed a wonderful parental resource for the 1st 1000 FCM days programme, funded by the FNB Foundation. This resource starter pack for child development is freely available and Imbiza FCM fieldworkers are taking mothers and caregivers through the resource. We are confident this will be a great investment for children during their first 1000 days of life (i.e. from conception to about 2 years old).

THANK YOU

Thank you to all of our funders for making this quarter a success! Thank you once again to all of our partners who continue to partner with us in different ways.

We freshly commit to continuing to make a difference to the children of this country through our Early Childhood Development services.

Truly, our whole village is working together to raise our children.

MDEBUKA MTWAZI
Executive Director



PERSONA DOLLS VISIT EMTHONJENI SITES

Buyiswa Balani visited one of our Emthonjeni sites with her Persona Doll. The children were fascinated by the doll and story, and through creative storytelling, Buyiswa was able to start important conversations with the children.

The use of dolls helps children to move from just listening to stories into expressing their feelings and ideas, thinking critically, challenging unfair treatment and developing empathy with people who are different to themselves. It's remarkable how effective this "third person-storytelling" approach is when it comes to developing life skills, self-esteem, respect for diversity, problem-solving, language, conflict resolution and emotional literacy.



A NEW FACE ON THE TEAM

Our new Social Worker, Elizabeth Ntshunshu, known as Liz, joined the Sikhula Sonke team on the first of March. We're so glad to have her in the office to fulfil this vital role. Welcome!

NATIONAL READ ALOUD DAY

Sikhula Sonke and the children of Khayelitsha took part in Read Aloud Day on Friday 25th April, in partnership with Nal'ibali. The children sat entranced as Abonga, the toy librarian, read a story about Neo in our Toy Library Centre.

As always, a big thanks to all our Facilitators who took part and to Nal'ibali for their support and the materials. It's fantastic to have a great team behind the scenes who make sure that all our events have the necessary materials to make each one a success!



A TOY LIBRARY FOR KUYASA

Levelling the ground for early education and development of children of Khayelitsha, the 17th of March saw the opening of Kuyasa Library, a state-of-the-art library that was built by Violence Prevention Through Urban upgrading in partnership with the City of Cape Town, Conergie Foundation, Western Cape government and various stakeholders.

As part of marking the importance and promotion of this new Toy Library, the Sikhula Sonke crew set up a public demo of an outside toy library, which children enjoyed during this opening. The team also displayed the resources from our partners such as Nal'ibali, BrainBoosters, Unlimited Child, Persona Dolls and Word Works so that parents could see the resources that they can use when visiting our toy library or sending their children to ECD facilities.

Check out our Facebook page for all the photos of the day.

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.

PARTNER WITH US THIS MONTH

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

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Branch Code: 632005



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For more information, please visit our website: www.sikhulasonke.org.za

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

Addressing the need for quality early childhood development since 2001

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Widening the world.

A community-based organisation addressing the need for **early childhood development** in Khayelitsha by providing access to quality ECD training and resources

INTERVENTIONS
Our programmes include:
• Training ECD teachers and their assistants
• Coaching and mentoring ECD practitioners

PARTNER WITH US
Our work is wholly funded by donations. YOU can become part of a child's future through your giving and support, enabling family strengthening interventions, helping us reach more children.

Sikhula Sonke is a member of

CONNECT NETWORK
Together for Women and Children in Need