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Rondebosch Boys High School ran an awareness campaign about hunger on World Food Day. As part of their response to local needs, the boys prepared and donated sandwiches for our outreach children.

The children all enjoyed the tasty and healthy sandwiches that they received.

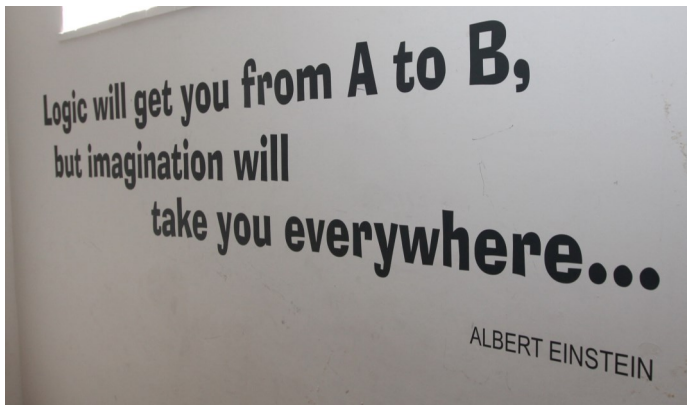


Thank you for partnering
with Sikhula Sonke
to make
early childhood development
opportunities
a reality
for the children of Khayelitsha
in 2014.

Thank you for your
amazing support...
encouragement, involvement,
finance, donations and prayers.

May the **hope** of Christmas
fill your heart over the festive season.

A visit to the Cape Town Science Centre, Observatory



Emthonjeni and FCM children, together with two Monwabisi Park preschools, enjoyed a last quarter educational excursion in mid-November.

It is always an exciting experience for children to go out especially those who do not have the luxury to do so with their families. Climbing into busses, the children visited the Cape Town Science Centre, where the Science Centre's competent staff facilitated learning experiences and various age-appropriate activities.



ECD Conversations with "Community Chest" of the Western Cape

The early childhood development (ECD) sector faces many challenges including issues around access and affordability. The Community Chest of Western Cape, in partnership with the HomeChoice Development Trust, on Thursday, November 6th engaged in a conversation with relevant stakeholders at the Sports Science Institute to explore how response-driven innovation can address these challenges without disrupting the current ECD system.

Innovation across the ECD sector already has become evident through initiatives such as the spread of technology, out-of-centre based interventions and the value of ECD resource centres within communities. The focus of the conference was on emerging needs, innovative ECD approaches, and gaps in ECD support.

Sikhula Sonke was invited to present their innovative strategies in ECD to the forum: Mdebuka spoke comprehensively of Sikhula Sonke's learnings and work in ECD in the Khayelitsha community.

ECD awareness campaign at Kuwait Taxi Rank, Site C



On 21 November Sikhula Sonke, in partnership with Umbono Art Media and the Department of Communication, participated in an awareness campaign on early childhood development.

The Site C Taxi Rank got buzzing as early as 5.30 on that day. Sikhula Sonke staff distributed pamphlets and chatted with the taxi commuters and hawkers about ECD.

ECD stories on child neglect and special needs were broadcast through a big screen at the rank. The profile of the event was boosted by the visit of the Minister of Communication, Mrs Faith Muthambi.

Computer Training for our Sikhula Sonke workers

One of Sikhula Sonke's partners, Grassroots, offered a free basic computer to the staff and other ECD workers. It has been a worthy introductory course which included learning how to use MS Excel, MS Word and MS PowerPoint. The team were also taught how to email and write CVs. At the end of the course each participant received an attendance certificate.

**WE WISH ALL OUR
2014 GRADUATES
A WONDERFUL FIRST
YEAR OF PRIMARY
SCHOOLING IN 2015!**



From the Executive Director's desk

**"It takes the whole village to raise a child." An old African saying.
Umntwana wam ngokho owam ngowakho!!!!**



As the last quarter of 2014 slowly winds down, the operations at Sikhula Sonke have not stopped. This busy season has been a good (if hectic) time because everyone has been acknowledging the sense of urgency in creating safe and nurturing environment for our children.

One of the important lessons that has been revived in my mind is that, if we continue to raise a broken nation, we will never have a peaceful society. The reason I say this is because if, as a nation, we do not make an effort in the early ages of a child, including encouraging and educating families around the first thousand days, it means we will continue to raise a society that is still far away from being normal. A well-founded child who has received good early childhood development practices means a child who can make informed decisions later in life and be a productive citizen. This is why Sikhula Sonke has such a strong emphasis in what may seem to be a long term investment.

Sikhula Sonke, along with all its partners, has continued in this quarter to provide our services to improve and develop of the Khayelitsha community through early childhood development. The caregiver cluster workshops have been very instrumental and inspirational to many caregivers, in empowering them to be the first teachers of their children. This quarter has had its own challenges and highlights. We really embrace both challenges and highlights because they give us opportunity to learn and improve.

The nutrition intervention that has been injected by Joint Aid Management to our Khayelitsha ECD facilities and outreach programme has made a significant impact in improving children's lives and well-being of financially-challenged families. Joint Aid Management has also made a huge donation of shoes for needy children; this means that some of the children who will be entering Grade R or 1 in 2015 will be entering their schools with shoes on their feet and greater confidence. Some of our team members have completed a basic computer development course, Persona Doll training course etc. Thembi has presented SISO's innovative programmes at a FNB breakfast meeting and I also did likewise in the ECD conversation that was organised by Home Choice Development Trust and Community Chest. Both these presentations were well received by the ECD stakeholders and a call for replication and scaling-up is on top of the agenda.

There are a lot of highlights in this quarter but it is also necessary to highlight challenges so that they can be part of the lessons learnt in the quarter. One of the biggest challenges we faced was the neglect of children by their parents/ caregivers. This resulted in Sikhula Sonke taking harsher measures which led to some of the children being removed from their families with the help of SAPS and other partners in development.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for supporting Sikhula Sonke throughout the year in reaching out to our Khayelitsha children. Thank you to all the staff members who have worked tirelessly to reach the set goals for the year. A special thank you to our board members, implementing partners, prayer partners, funders and everyone who has in one way or another contributed to the development of this wonderful organisation.

Merry Christmas!!! And all Prosperity in 2015.

- Mdebuka Mtwazi

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

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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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.

