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THE 2015 GRASSROOTS SOCCER CULTURAL COMPETITION

Every year, Grassroots Soccer holds a cultural completion. Winners last year, the Sikhula Sonke team and Emthonjeni children prepared hard this year to participate in the competition again.

The Emthonjeni children's performance was marvellous and the team was dressed most elegantly in bright outfits which were sewn in-house by our own Sikhula Dressmakers. We are very proud of their fourth place award.



Our fantastic Emthonjeni children in their lovely bright competition clothes.

NEW EMTHONJENI ECD SITE OPENS

A new A12 Emthonjeni ECD site was opened and dedicated with ululation, music and dancing by the parents, children and of course the Sikhula Sonke team on Tuesday 23 June.

The site is large, with football and netball fields which allow older children to come and play whilst also watching their younger siblings play with toys in the ECD site.

The site was opened with the presence of the Nal'ibali team who read stories for both parents and children in the new space and also in the mobile bus.

Babalwa Ndim, the Team leader, created and encouraged a strong sense of ownership of the ECD site by the community.

It is our hope that this new space will be a hub for both children and parents as well as a community meeting space.



IMBEWU participants receiving their Unlimited Child Toy Boxes



It takes the whole village to raise a child.

**“UNTWANA WAM NGOWAKHO
OWAKHO NGOWAM!”**

Can you believe that we are already in the second half of 2015? We have less than 150 days before the end of 2015!

Yes, the first half of the year has vanished, but it hasn't gone unnoticed because of the many different activities that have had a huge impact in our lives and the Khayelitsha community at large. As I stop to consider this year, it is also important to acknowledge, in the same spirit of development, some of the challenges and hiccups in this quarter.

Our primary beneficiaries - the children - have touched us in different ways as the team of Sikhula Sonke. We believe that their engagement with us has developed them so remarkably.

In addition to “everyday” educational stimulation which happened in the family outreach programmes, Toy Library and ECD facilities, this quarter many children were able to participate in outings and excursions, different sporting codes and art activities. This has given them opportunities to explore and interact with the world around them.

In making sure that these activities for young children continue at a high standard, Sikhula Sonke welcomes Mapula Trust as one of the prestigious partners who support the development of home- and family-based programmes using BrainBoosters Learning Programme.

Secondly, we welcome FAMSAs-Khayelitsha and Sibongiseni Mpahlwa who trains our caregivers and parents in parenting programmes.

Last but not least, we are excited to welcome Word Works, who have a ‘EVERY WORD COUNTS’ training programme and materials which introduce parents and carers to ways of supporting the development of language, early literacy and maths in babies and young children.

We list our challenges at the end of this newsletter because we refuse to allow them to disturb us from doing our work.

Our three biggest challenges so far this quarter have been child safety, the ongoing poverty many families live in and the cold Cape weather.

Child safety is always a concern for us. In a community where there is little employment, drug and alcohol use is rife. Abuse is often a reality. Please keep the children and families of Khayelitsha in your prayers.

Lack of resources plays out practically when it comes to early childhood development. Parents can't afford schooling or taxis to get to school, warm dry clothes for our cold winter (children are often kept home) and sometimes food.

The exceptionally cold and rainy days we've had so far have made it difficult at times to reach families, carers and ECD facilities, especially for our programmes and outreaches which run in public spaces.

Can we invite you to mobilise your family, neighbours and community to donate whatever you have that can make a practical difference to families? Visit our website for donation details.



As Capetonians, and as humans, WE are the village, and these are OUR precious children.

MDEBUKA MTWAZI

Executive Director

THEMBI'S NEWS FROM THE FIELD ...

FAMILY & COMMUNITY MOTIVATOR PROGRAMME

The FCM team started with a baseline of 64 families in January. In the second quarter they managed to recruit 157 families, and currently have 192 families with 249 children participating. The team have also achieved nine referrals.

We've also noticed that hygiene awareness levels are good - this is visible during one-on-one sessions with parents and caregivers, and also in children's physical appearance. This is a wonderful sign of to us of the positive results of the programme bringing self-esteem and hope. We're also encouraged by the level of FCM attendance, currently sitting at an average of 90% for cluster workshop attendance.

EMTHONJENI PROGRAMME

In the Emthonjeni programme things are going well; the EPWP programme has boosted the attendance of the Emthonjeni programme.

Numbers have increased significantly from 93 in the first quarter to 179 in the second quarter, and we are excited at this growth and the potential to reach even more of the community through this programme.

FUNDA UDLALE PROGRAMME (TOY LIBRARY)

This quarter we've enjoyed the inclusion of volunteers from Chrysalis. They have been of great assistance (thank you!). The number of children and ECD facilities using the library has also increased significantly; in the first quarter the team reached 397 children; this increased to 762 children in the second quarter.

IMBEWU PROGRAMME

The coaching support programme is blooming with the introduction of the Unlimited Child programme coupled with JAM nutrition. 57 centres have been fully trained in the programme and received well-stocked toy boxes for their children (photo on page 1).

STAFF UPDATE

The Sikhula Sonke team participated in several valuable training and development workshops this quarter, including Inclusive Education (7-8 May), Nal'ibali (26 May), ECD Leadership Training (June), Family in Focus (April and May) and BrainBoosters training.

EVENTS THIS QUARTER...

Sikhula Sonke hosted a **SPORTS DAY** on April 24. Not only lots of fun, the opportunity to play sports is key to building ECD skills like gross motor development, social skills and positive self-esteem.

CHILD PROTECTION WEEK took place during the last week of May, despite the damp and cold weather. Together with our partners, the Sikhula Sonke team shared about the importance and value of children in the communities that we reach out to. We engaged caregivers and parents on relevant topics like fire safety, nutrition, child protection and education.



A VISIT TO KIRSTENBOSCH

Several of our ECD facilities had the opportunity to participate in educational excursions, exposing children to new places and learning experiences.

Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens is world-famous and a favourite outing for both teachers and children. One small boy took a look at the beautiful green lawns and asked in awe: "Is this the soccer stadium?"



Sikhula Dressmakers thanks HomeChoice who generously donated the sewing machines which have been used to skill up Emthonjeni parents (and provide costumes for the children).

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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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.



Sikhula Sonke is a member of

