

## South African Charity Newsletter May 2010.

For all those who have kindly contributed to purchasing Rhona's jams, marmalades and pickles etc and who have donated cash and children's, sports clothing and raffle prizes etc for Rhona's coffee mornings we would like to give you an update on how the money raised has been spent.

For sometime we have been involved in two charities in Durban, Kwazi Natal, South Africa. The first the 'Gozololo School for the Needy' situated in the township of Kwazi Mashu caters for children between the ages of 2 and 6 years and is run by a remarkable woman called Miriam Cele.



The majority of the children are orphaned their parents having died from HIV and other related diseases and the children are brought up either by their elder siblings or by being placed with Grannies in the community. A lot of these children are just found wandering alone in the streets but Miriam never turns a child away and takes them into the school and then finds a home for them with the Grannies.

On arriving at school the children are fed and again when they leave early in the afternoon. For many of the children without this facility they would go hungry. Miriam also supplies food in the community so the children can be fed at weekends and in the school holidays. It is fortunate that the Supermarket 'Spar' supply the school with their out of date food.

In 2008 Miriam opened a new school at Umgababa a township south of Durban. Umgababa has one of the highest rates of HIV in Southern Africa and again caters for many orphans. With a grant from British Airways Community Relations Department and with part of the money raised we had a jungle gym installed in the grounds together with a cooker, fridge and large freezer so the children could be fed.

Because of the large number of children that have turned up at this school last year we installed another jungle gym designed differently from the first. The children in both schools have also benefited from the clothing that we have shipped.

The second charity is the 'Pinetown Crisis Centre' run by Thora Mansfield, who is in her 70s, and a legend in the Durban Area and afar. The Centre caters for victims of rape as young as 3 months, serious sexual and physical assaults, counselling for children. Men and women who have been subjected to horrendous crimes including witnessing many traumatic incidents, and being diagnosed with HIV for which the centre also carries out testing.

With part of the money raised we have supplied the centre with some Persona Dolls which are used in the counselling of children who have been victims of crime and the dolls are used to help the children describe what has occurred. Also we have supplied the centre with a set of resuscitation dolls for training in the community and schools.

The Centre is also very active in the community and has a limited number of Social Workers and District Nurses who are out in the community. Transport is limited and they have to walk many miles in order to carry out their work.



We were privileged to spend a day with two of the Social Workers and a Community Nursing Sister in the township of Hammersdale where we visited two schools where we gave each child an item each of clothing. (

We also visited a number of private homes which are indescribable in relation to the poverty and deprivation and just wish to give an example of one such family which we had been advised

of beforehand.

The mother was seriously ill and dying of AIDS her husband having died of the disease two years previously. There were five children aged between 2 and 17 years of age. They lived in a one room breeze block building with a curtain dividing a small room from the toilet. The smell was horrendous. There was one bed which was disintegrating and they had a two ring stove which had just been installed having previously been using two bricks and they had no food. When they did have food they were eating out of dog bowls



One of the girls aged 8 years attended a small school nearby. The other children could not go to school including the eldest as she did not have a school uniform. The children did not have any toys to play with and they were poorly dressed to say the least and the 2 year old had no clothes at all.

We will never forget the 8 year old running down the road from school with the lunch the school had just given her which was no more than two table spoons of Samp (maize) which she shared with the rest of the family before running back to school.

With the contributions you have made we were able to provide them with bowls, cutlery, food and a school uniform so the eldest daughter could attend school and balls etc for the children to play with. This I am afraid is just one such story that is extremely common throughout the area.

Thank you all for those who have contributed and please continue. There will be a new batch of preserves coming on the market shortly. We work on the theory that if we can make some children smile then it makes everything so worthwhile.

Rhona and Terry Burton