



MaSiBaMBiSaNe
Let's carry the burden together

MCDC News

August 2009

Story of a woman with a heart

I was a high school teacher for 13 years when one morning in April 2003, a school girl collapsed at the school gate. When questioned if she had eaten anything that morning, she said she had not eaten for 5 days and 5 nights because there was no food at her house.

That was the turning point in my life. I promised myself that I would teach no hungry children anymore, and resolved to do something about this girl's situation. She was taking care of her 3 younger siblings because their mother left them to find work. She never came back.

I took her to Social Services to ask for food parcels. We received only an emergency parcel, since she did not qualify to be helped according to their criteria. She came back to school and started telling other children how she was helped. Before I knew it, there were 24 children who came to me seeking similar help. Sadly I could only receive two food parcels at that time from Social Services, but I had 25 children on my list!

I started helping them from my meagre salary as teacher, knocking on many doors for help without success. Then one day I heard about a lady who was working at Mukhanyo, helping orphans. This lady was Melanie Prinsloo, the co-founder and at the time CEO of MCDC.

I got her contact number and immediately called her. That night I had food parcels for all of my 25 children. She even helped me distribute them. During the June holidays of 2003, we started distributing lots of food to both the children in my school and in other areas in the greater Kwamhlanga.

I started working for MCDC part time and in 2004, February, the first drop-in centre was opened in Vezubuhle, the village where I worked as a teacher. I managed this centre part time and in 2005 the second centre was opened.

After 15 years of teaching, I left my job in June 2005 to join MCDC full time.

MCDC was still in the growing stages, and could not employ me full time, so I was Registrar for Mukhanyo Theological College and worked two days a week for MCDC as Project Manager.

After a year I was able to join MCDC full time.

I am happy here, and I feel this is where the Lord wants me to be.

That's me in short!
Anna Kaura



MERC creates wizzkids



This Mobile Educational Resource Centre was founded by one of our volunteer workers, Nancy Williams, and has been running since 2007.

Thelma Tshishonga was the first employee and she is still manager of this very valuable asset to empower the orphans and vulnerable children at our centres. She first started covering the books with a durable lamination and made a catalogue. Then the trailer was bought and she could start with her visits to the care centres and Nakekela. Each centre is visited once in two weeks. The centre teachers decide which books to use for the children. They work on themes and both teachers and children love it. The children can't wait to work through this wealth of knowledge and educational games. MERC stocks all school subjects, as well as fiction.

Thelma is also a Theology student at Mukhanyo Theological College but she feels God is leading her towards Social Work. She wants to start with the newly developed course at MTC next year.

She is very enthusiastic to build up a library and **any donations of books fit for children will be most welcome.**

- ? MERC is not solely for the centres' benefit. People living near the centres may also borrow from it. They are very diligent in bringing the books back, and losses are few.
- ? At Nakekela an information centre about HIV/Aids is set to be established and students and residents of the surrounding community visit this centre frequently for information.
- ? Anna Kaura, Projects Manager of MCDC, is informing the community on various issues regarding HIV/Aids every Friday on the local radio station.

MCDC truly developed into a shining light of knowledge in KwaMhlanga.

Donors visiting MCDC

Quite a few donors and prospective donors visited us again recently. It is always a pleasure to meet the people behind the donations and to show them what is happening to the money and goods they send us.



Selina Palm of Hope HIV Africa brought Mark Glen, their UK director, and Craig Gruber of Liquid Capital, Hope HIV's largest corporate donor in the UK, to have a look at some of our centres and especially at the entrepreneurship development at MCDC.



Don-Ray Malabie of Alexander Forbes, one of our sponsors for Sun City Centre, visited us to give us training on the use of their internet reporting system, which will streamline our communication with them.



Randy Finckbeiner, FDP manager, and three nurses who were here from a volunteer team from Holland, conducted a workshop on the use of ARV's to the MCDC home based care field workers. They were taught about patient care and specifically about ARV's, how the treatment works, adherence and monitoring patients.

International Health Fundi visits MCDC

Dr Peggy Liss, director of the New Frontiers Health Force in America read about our work on the MCDC website.

"I have reviewed your website and it is just wonderful what you are doing for the children and families." she wrote to us. Peggy and a team visited us in June and took a tour to Nakekela, some care centres and out in the field with Randy to see our home based care work. Here they visit our sewing training centre.



MCDC will conduct a baseline study as a research project in Vlakaagte no. 2. We will be doing a random sampling of about 400 homes in the village, asking people 35 and younger questions about HIV/AIDS: their personal knowledge, experience, sexual practices and attitudes towards others who are HIV positive. The survey is extensive - about four pages of questions. The research findings will then be analysed by a company in Pretoria.

A last word from our CEO, Dr Flip Buys.

1 Peter 1:7 – *Even gold, which can be destroyed, are tested by fire. And so your faith, which is much more precious than gold, must also be tested, so that it may endure.*

This verse is all about suffering. I once heard about a man visiting a silversmith. He watched the smith holding the silver in a small container over a flame. He had to be very careful. The flame must be hot enough to melt the silver but not too hot. He had to hold the silver over the flame for long enough, but not too long.

The man asked the smith: "How do you know when it's ready?"

"When I can see my face in the silver," answered the smith.

God sends us suffering. He is the silversmith holding us carefully over the flame until we radiate His face. Only then we are ready to be used in His kingdom and become a beautiful piece of jewellery.

Contact Us:

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