

Little People

Newsletter for the Friends of The Johannesburg Children's Home.

June 2010

The Easter Bunny visited JCH!



Guess who showed up in April this year? None other than the Easter Bunny! **Nudge nudge wink wink.**

Our girls and boys just missed seeing him – they couldn't believe he managed to sneak by them once again – but when we set them loose in the garden to hunt for their Easter eggs, they soon forgot all about him!

They dashed this way and that, frantically searching under every bush, flower and unturned stone for any trace of brightly

The kids dressed up for the occasion with colourful face paint, masks and fun headgear!

wrapped chocolate treats.

The children received loads of Easter eggs, and had a whale of a time – ending the day on a serious sugar high! Thank you very much to all of our 'Easter Bunny' friends who gave so generously to our children's 'egg fund'.



Every swipe counts for us!

We recently joined the MySchool programme as a Village, to raise extra funds for our home.

If you've got a MySchool card, you can support us every time you swipe your card – at no cost to you!

Whenever a supporter card's swiped at a retail partner, a percentage of the transaction is paid to Johannesburg Children's Home. So when you shop at places like Woolworths, Engen, Walton's, Kalahari.net, Toys R Us, Reggie's,

Jack's Paint and more, you're raising money for Johannesburg Children's Home.

If you don't have a MySchool card yet, it's so easy to apply! To register for a MySchool card:

- apply online at www.myschool.co.za;
- or call the Client Service Centre on 0860 100 445;
- and select Johannesburg Children's Home as your beneficiary under MyVillage.

Simple and free! Although



MySchool MyVillage MyPlanet

the contribution may seem insignificant, it adds up – the more supporters who swipe, the more our girls and boys benefit!

Please encourage your friends and family to support us in this small way? And remember to look out for the MySchool/ MyVillage signs at pay points wherever you go!

Visit our website: www.jch.org.za

Have we told you lately that we love you?



Right: the girls pose in their pretty party dresses.



On the 14th of February this year, all of our kids gathered at the swimming pool for their Valentines Day party.

The child and youth care workers arranged a braai and disco at the pool for all of the boys and girls, and they decorated the gardens with Valentines hearts.



We hope that you had a Happy Valentines day too – because ours wouldn't have been so wonderful if it wasn't for your loving support!



Sightseeing Soccer City!

Our soccer mad youngsters were recently given a wonderful opportunity – the chance to tour Soccer City!

The boys and girls were able to walk around the entire stadium, and even taken on a tour of the dressing rooms.

Sizwe (above left) was even lucky enough to get invited to blow a vuvuzela on the pitch!



Thank you to all of the promoters and organisers who made this opportunity possible. Our children have all come down with soccer fever since then!



A note from our Director

From the 24th of May until the 30th of May, during Child Protection Week, South Africa was reminded that protecting children is "everyone's business".

As a country, we need to make sure that our children are cared for, and that those little ones who are victims of abuse, neglect, exploitation or trafficking, find safety in the legal system, and safe haven in protective environments like Johannesburg Children's Home.

At our home, Child Protection Week is every week. And I'm grateful for the role that you play in protecting our boys and girls.

Thank you for caring about the rights of children to a safe, loving home, and a family that cares. Our family wouldn't be the same without you.

Narisha

NARISHA GOVENDER

Reaching out to children in need

At our home, we're very aware that even though we rely on the generosity of friends like you for our survival, there are many children in South Africa who have no-one to rely on ... which is why we've started an

outreach programme, providing what little support we can to Othandweni Crèche, who are based in an informal settlement in Germiston.

In this photo, our children were selflessly sharing the Easter eggs they received from kind donors with the children of Othandweni.

We hope that in some small way, we can make these children's lives a bit brighter, thanks to the help we receive from our own supporters.



Healing their hurts

We wrote to you at the end of last year about our need for psychological and educational assessments to help our children cope with the abuse and neglect that they've suffered, more often than not at the hands of the people who were meant to love and protect them.

Your response was tremendous, and we've been able to ensure our children have access to psychosocial,

occupational and speech therapy, as well as assistance with homework and maths.

These therapies are helping our girls and boys heal emotionally by restoring a sense of wellbeing, safety, trust, hope and love. Abuse

and neglect have far-reaching effects on a child's life – damaging their self-confidence and self-worth, and also setting them back years in their education.

That's why your support's so important. Thanks to the kindness of friends like you, regular therapies are also helping them to progress in their schooling.

Often when a child comes to us, they've been placed incorrectly in a school and struggle to keep up. Remedial teaching and educational assessments are really helping these young girls and boys cope at school.

Thank you for supporting our children's development and for helping them to heal.



Big thanks for a bakkie of donations

We want to send a huge thank you to Noma Vilakazi and Scorpion Legal Protection for their incredible bakkie-load of donations.

They donated items off our wishlist to the value of R25 000! Their gifts included things like blankets, mops, brooms, t-shirts, takkies, towels and microwaves. **THANK YOU!**



A safe, easy way to pay



You may notice a new EasyPay option on our gift forms – another safe way of making your donation to Johannesburg Children's Home.

Many people already use the EasyPay service to pay their electricity and telephone accounts when they do their shopping.

EasyPay is safer and more reliable than the post – and it also ensures that we definitely receive your much appreciated contributions to help improve our children's lives.

All you have to do is take along your gift form when you want to make your donation through EasyPay at any of the following stores: Woolworths, Pick 'n Pay, Shoprite, Checkers, Lewis Stores, selected Spars, and more.

When you're paying at the till, hand over your reply form and chosen gift amount (which can also be by credit card) and ask the cashier to put through your contribution.

Your gift will electronically reach our bank account, and the unique code on your form helps us trace your sponsorship back to you.

Your compassion and generosity means everything to our girls and boys – and sending it doesn't get any easier than with EasyPay.

We hope you'll try it out!

Child Protection Week



Child Protection Week is 26th May – 2nd June – an annual government campaign to promote a culture of respect for children’s rights, ensuring that all children grow up in an environment safe from abuse, neglect and exploitation.

The 2010 theme is “**Protecting children is everyone’s business**” – because every South African citizen has a responsibility to protect children in our communities, who can’t advocate for themselves.

Every day, children are abandoned, neglected, abused (physically, emotionally, sexually) and exploited. 2010 is a big year on the South African calendar, but let’s remain vigilant about the safety of children at a time when they’re most vulnerable to exploitation and child trafficking.

At Johannesburg Children’s Home, our goal is to uphold children’s rights by creating a safe, nurturing home for vulnerable girls and boys. We

provide care and psychological support for victims of abuse and abandonment, and make sure that these children grow up in an

environment that encourages healthy development.

The government has put legislation in place to protect children and promote their rights, but it’s up to each of us to report all cases of children’s rights violation to the relevant authorities.

Child Protection Week is an opportunity for all of us to spread the message of protecting children and their rights.

Thank you for partnering with us to ensure that vulnerable children have a safe place to call home, where they’re cared for, and where their voices can be heard. Thank you for protecting our girls and boys with your loyal support.

No more “the dog ate my homework” excuses!



Yeshnee Naidoo of Cargill officially cuts the ribbon to open the new homework lab!

Our brand new homework lab was officially opened in March!

Sponsored by Cargill and Fresenius Kabi, four new computers and a colour printer have been given to the children to use for their studies.

In today’s society, children need the internet more and more for

their homework assignments and they need computers to type up their projects.

We’ve arranged for a qualified computer teacher to assist and supervise our girls and boys, and to teach them how to type.

Thank you to all of the sponsors – our kids are overjoyed and can’t wait to get to work!



AGM – Save the date!



Our AGM will be held on the 14th of October.

If you’re interested in attending, please contact us for more information by calling 011 023 6870/1/2.

Going green!

We’ve recently started a paper recycling project, in partnership with Synergy Power.

Part of the proceeds come to Johannesburg Children’s Home, so please order your very own office recycle bin. To find out more, please call Lebo on 011 312 4492.

