



### Message from The Director

One of the most difficult things in our work is seeing a child's condition weaken as he becomes ill. Recently Thando\*, an 8 year old boy came to our home sick. The child carers quickly called the nurse, and they took him to our support hospital, Grootte Schuur's G25 Ward. He was immediately admitted and diagnosed with TB meningitis—happily he is now recovering well. The G25 team has been supporting the children of Crossroads since 2006. Without this support from the Dept of Health, we (and projects like us) would not be able to help children in this area get treatment or stay healthy. We want to thank our partners for all they do for us and the children of Crossroads. Together, we can do more!

*Vaughan Stannard*

### REUNIFICATION Home at last!



Last year December Tabang\* was able to go home to his family. He was with us from 1999 until last year, and it has been a long journey for him because when he joined us he was very ill and weak. Now he is a strong and handsome 14-year-old young man, and he's been attending school like other children. His uncle and aunt decided to take him, as his biological parents are not in a position to take good care of him. We are staying in touch to help him settle in smoothly.

### ASSISTING THE POLICE!

#### Fighting crime through sport



In January Inspector Moore from the police station next door came to us with a problem – they were holding a football tournament to reach teenagers to

educate them community safety. But they didn't have a football field!

We were very happy to lend them our field for the weekend, and over 100 young people in 8 different teams played some very competitive football! At the same time they were able to learn about the dangers of gangs and weapons, how to stay safe, what to do if they experienced crime or abuse, and what the police could do to help. The police are now planning to borrow our hall to have a weekend aimed at teenage girls.

### NEW VISIONS

#### Young people choose their future

Our youth groups have spent the start of the year coming up with their own vision for the community. Our community's future as well as the country's future lies in the youth, but they face so many challenges, including crime, drug abuse and no jobs.



We have two groups in our Youth Programme – one from Phillipi and another one from Lower Crossroads. Each group has 50 members making a total of 100 youths with ages ranging from 13 – 20 years. They meet twice a week (normally at Beautiful Gate and sometimes at selected venues in the community). They discuss the issues they face in their lives, and support each other in becoming the leaders of tomorrow.

## WHAT'S UP IN THE KITCHEN?

Mama's cooking is best!



Is it true that a mother's pride is in the kitchen? Food for thought.

Nonkululeko still remembers the day she joined Beautiful Gate in 2006 and she was alone in the kitchen. She had cooked before but not in big pots like these!. She says she had made meals for 10 people at most, and now she

was supposed to make meals for 70!

Today she usually cooks for 40 children. Menus follow a well balanced diet to ensure kids grow healthy, while guidelines maintain hygiene and safety standards. A typical day starts with peeling & chopping in the morning, to cook a hot lunch ready for lots of hungry children when they get home from school!

## LEAVING A LEGACY

Memories live on...



We were so humbled in January when we got a message from one couple that they wanted to help build a better future for children in need. Following the death of their mother, they decided to give Beautiful Gate a gift from their mother's estate.

Others have chosen to leave us a legacy directly.

Like many people, our cash flow is tight after Christmas! So this gift made a huge difference to us, helping us to continue to reach out to families who are struggling, to help children get the treatment they need to stay healthy and well, and to provide constructive activities that help vulnerable young people make positive choices.

## HOMEWORK CLUB

Making homework fun...



The children who are starting to go to school this year are learning their Xhosa vowels and pronunciation. The bigger children, if they don't not have homework from school, have computer classes and practice reading.

On Fridays because there is no home work, the children play different sports like soccer and cricket. Most of the community children coming to play on the sports field are those who attend the same school as our children,

so it helps to build friendships as well as teamwork and fitness. Children from the community also come to learn from the computers we have., and the teenagers have been using them for their research and homework.

## CHRISTMAS PARTY FOR 2008

Fun time!

*Joy, laughter, happiness and excitement takes place at this time of the year!*



Wooow! By December everybody is tired, but for our children it's celebration time!

On the 12<sup>th</sup> of December over 200 kids celebrated a year of achievements at school as well as an early Christmas.. It was so great and tearful just to see the happiness on their small faces because some of them never had a Christmas gift or enough food. so it was a good feeling to make a change and put a smile on their faces. We had a great team of volunteers making sure everyone had a wonderful day - thank you to all those who listened to their hearts and participated to make the event successful.

## CLINIC 3<sup>rd</sup> ANNIVERSARY *An excuse for a party!*



Traditionally children on the Cape Flats have to access HIV care at one of the three Academic Hospitals, which are far away and has long waiting periods. So, in 2005, the Beautiful Gate initiated a partnership with Kidzpositive and the Dept of Health to create a paediatric HIV clinic service in the area of Crossroads. The clinic finally opened in February 2006, and the first patients were the children from the Beautiful Gate children's home nearby and families associated with the family support services of that Ministry. To celebrate the 3rd anniversary we had a party for the 350 children who are getting treatment - they are a healthy bunch, so it was a busy (and noisy!) day...

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