



beautifulgate

Together Bringing Hope to Children & Families

Our mission 'We seek to reflect God's image as we care for and protect children, empower and preserve families and mobilise our community'

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18

NEWS | June '11



Message from **The Director**

The need to reunify children

Re-unifying children is difficult, it's true. But sometimes, something amazing happens! A couple of years ago one of the first children to be placed in our home went home after a long struggle. He always knew that his Mom was still alive and although she couldn't take him home, he would not go to anyone else. Over the years, we found a number of foster families who loved him. However, each he rejected – holding onto hope of going back to his Mom.

So we set about a long and difficult journey to help the mother to take him back - In that process I realised that we often worry about how a child will cope with their illnesses, whether they have a tiled roof or a cardboard roof or enough food on the table - but all they worry about is "Where is my Mom?", "Where is my Dad?" "Why did they leave me?", "Why don't they come for me?". Thankfully – we eventually got him home and he is finally happy!

Vaughan Stannard

STAFF RETREAT TO REVITALIZE reflect and connect



Everyone needs time to rest and reflect every now and then! Sometimes life gets so busy that we need some quiet time to think deeply about our destiny and purpose. At Beautiful Gate we aim to care for and serve others through our various projects. Through serving the sick, the orphans, the poor we are honouring the Lord and showing His love. So on the 5th of May we all went for a retreat some 40km from the workplace to reflect and revitalize the staff.

We received words of encouragement from our facilitator and also had teambuilding exercises making it a memorable calendar event. The retreat reminded us that there is something special in our hearts from which comes fruitfulness. The love and mercy we have for our beneficiaries reflect the very nature of our hearts.

ONE SUNNY THURSDAY...WE ALL JOIN THE FUN!

Playing with kids is on every staff member's heart

It was going to be a regular Thursday morning devotion for the staff; a time to worship and pray together, and share the Word. Until someone suggested that our kids were off school for a couple of weeks and wouldn't it be nice for the staff and the kids to just spend some time playing together. We quickly put together some games and shortened the time spent in devotions. It was chilly at first but it turned out to be a sunny day. For an hour we forgot about our emails and computers in the office. You certainly couldn't tell the big 'kids' from the little kids and it was a load of spontaneous fun.



GARDENING VOLUNTEERS

The food garden needs many hands



On March 18th we were blessed to have a group from the Auditor General of South Africa. It was not only a visit but they were ready to get a bit dirty. Our garden received a much needed facelift.

They cleared bush, dug holes and planted some more vegetables. And if that wasn't enough they also fixed our irrigation hosepipe that decided that day to spring not one leak but two! Added to a hot day with temperatures soaring in their 30s it was a job well done. Some humbling experience for office workers. The seeds of vegetables and the seeds of kindness will go on for many days. Thank you!

CHILDREN'S RIGHTS AWARENESS

The heart of nation lies in its human rights



A group of students from University of Cape Town's Graduate School of Business visited us in March. They came with Bafana Bafana former defender Roger Link to celebrate Human Rights day.

Among the invitees were representatives from the City of Cape Town Libraries. They invited children from the local community with a message that children are special. They played educational games and handed out gift packs. This created so much excitement for the youngsters and organizers. Our community faces many cases of child abuse and one way of protecting children is to increase awareness.

DEALING WITH GRIEF

Workshop helps teens to handle grief



Sadness, grief, joy, are emotions that we all face in life. Our social worker conducted a workshop on grief with 20 teenagers and she encouraged them to express their grief in a poem. One girl shared this as part of her healing process:

"As I came from school I heard that my mother had died.....she had TB.

The following month a woman was giving birth to a baby girl and the baby couldn't make it and she died.

A gangster was killed by people after shooting one of the community members.

There was a man, our neighbour who was HIV/Aids positive and he got sick for long and died"

SCHOOL FOR WORK PROJECT

Creating opportunities for young people!

We have realized that poverty and unemployment are some of the key issues in this area. As a result we are implementing a number of community development projects.



One example is a School to Work project for Grade 12 learners who are unemployed in collaboration with Volunteer Centre. This was an office administration course which is scheduled for three months. Part of the course covered health awareness issues. We have placed participants of the School to Work Project to various community based organizations so that they can have access to employment opportunities and understand the world of work.

Would you like to help a child? Kindly join our Sponsor A Child programme for a minimum monthly donation of R120/£15/€20/\$25 or more. Contact us on: +27 (0)21 370 2524. Email sponsorachild@beautifulgate.org

PICK N PAY ARGUS CYCLE TOUR A GREAT SUCCESS Raising funds for needy children



Once again Beautiful Gate riders cycled in the Pick n Pay Cape Argus Cycle Tour for the second time on 13 March. The idea is to raise funds for children in Crossroads. The fundraising initiative was a great success with double the number participating and generous sponsorship. A total of 31 riders from Tullow Oil, Beautiful Gate and friends joined this special event which raised over R160 000 for the Child Care Centre in Crossroads!

The event saw a total of 35 000 cyclists competing the 108km race. We are so grateful to all who rode for Beautiful Gate. Special thanks to Tullow Oil and their staff for being great ambassadors. We aim to ride again next year and make it an annual event.

Beautiful Gate is a non-denominational Christian organisation that demonstrates the love of God by helping all those in need, no matter what their background or faith.

Beautiful Gate South Africa

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