



Ons Plek Projects

providing hope instead of street life

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website: www.onsplek.org.za
NPO No. 009-578

Affiliated to Cape Town Child Welfare Society



2010
Holiday Program

Siyanda, one of our young girls, spent a week job-shadowing at the "Voice" daily newspaper ...

This is Siyanda's thank you letter to The Editor:

The Editor

Daily Voice Newspaper

I send this letter as token of my gratitude.

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for allowing me to come and job shadow at your branch in Cape Town.

During my time there I have learnt a lot and it has given me great insight on what it entails to be a journalist.

I only regret that I had too little time to spend with such loving, energetic and compassionate people.

I would definitely like to visit again because not only was it fun, but also enormously educational as well as extremely inspiring.

Thanks to the encouragement I received from you I strongly believe that I will have a positive mindset throughout my matric year and intend to make certain that I get to University next year and I will try my best to be permanently employed at the Daily Voice Newspaper in 3 years' time.

Kind regards


Siyanda Ndunge

From 'Ons Plek Projects'.

My view about being a journalist ...

by Siyanda

My experience was a very wonderful, estatic and extremely inspiring one.

This job shadow experience has educated me a lot about being a journalist and the experience that is needed in order to become a professional. I was extremely inspired by their way of doing things and made me feel important as much as wanting pursue my career as a journalist.

I one day would like to be the voice of the public and strongly hope that one day my dream will come true.

Thanks to Ons Plek, because if it wasn't of Ons Plek I wouldn't have had the wonderful experience. It meant a lot and I hope to visit Daily Voice again.

Thanks again.



Ons Plek Projects

Director
PAM JACKSON

Unit Manager Siviwe
YUMNA VAN DER SCHYFF

Our assessment centre intake shelter
ONS PLEK and our OFFICES
are situated at 4 Albertus Street,
Cape Town
Tel: 021 465-4829/72
Fax: 021 461-0530
email: onsplek@new.co.za
website: www.onsplek.org.za

Our second-stage shelter SIVIWE is
situated at 7 York Road, Woodstock,
Cape Town
Tel: 021 448-6529

Our Community Development
Programs:

UKONDLA 1 is situated at City
Council Community Hall, Browns Farm,
Philippi, Cape Town

UKONDLA 2, and our newly initiated
program UKONDLA 3, are situated

on the premises of Sizakuyenza Safe
House, cnr Eisleben and Phumelele
Roads, Philippi, Cape Town



We invite you to visit
all our Projects
and meet the staff members
and the young people

Humans find a way to subvert anything

Unintended consequences of New Childcare Act

Scenario

Z is not going on an outing today because she has been coming home from school two or three hours late without good reasons. When childcare worker Weziwe informed her of this decision, she says “if you don’t let me go out I will say you banged my head on the wall”. She then bangs her own head. Weziwe insists the child does not go but privately she reports to me “I don’t know what to do, I am helpless. If I implement the staff’s decision that she not go on the outing she will try to get me in trouble. When the bus came she sneaked on and would not get off. If I physically take her off I can be accused of ‘abusing a child’. If I do nothing all the girls will know they can do anything and chaos will reign.”

I immediately implement an investigation. I ask six staff members from the Ukondla team to take the six girls in the house at that moment aside and interview them individually at the same time. I give them the same questions to ask. The answers are very clear. Z banged her own head against the wall. I do this because I have to be sure myself that no abuse is happening and because I have a sixth sense that this is not the last we will hear about this incident — this is good practice and it takes time. Sure enough three days later Z, aged 14, is angry because she wants to go out clubbing till midnight and she is not given permission to do so.

She climbs our 6 metre fence topped with razor wire and stays out for a few days. On the third day the police come looking for Weziwe. Z has laid a charge of assault against Weziwe. The police want a statement from Weziwe who is off duty. I sit with the policeman and explain the incident documented in our record book. I show him the statements from the girls taken in our investigations and tell him about the wilful behaviour of Z. The policeman does not make notes. He asks me to write down everything I have said which I don’t mind because at least that way I am sure what I have said will be in the statement — but it does take time. He wants to see Weziwe at the station. He tells me the case has to go to court because police can’t decide on the merits of the case.

I am stuck because I agree the police are not magistrates but I am surprised that since there is no evidence of the assault, the police with so little evidence, must surely not waste the court’s time.

When Weziwe goes to see him, which takes time, he does not want a statement but he does want to arrest her. When I phone the Brigadier (new name for station commander — how Bheki Cele has militarized the police force) he too insists on an arrest and only after a lot of explaining and arguing does he say Weziwe can leave.

Strangely enough we never hear another word. The police after all can decide not to forward a charge to the court!

A few days later the same child goes to the children’s court to ask for alternative accommodation because we do not allow her to go out. She does not want to return to Ons



Pam Jackson
DIRECTOR

Plek. Our explanations and written records of the child’s behaviour to the court are not sufficient. We are subject to a lengthy session of 3 hours with the child’s lawyer in the court. In the end the magistrate accepts our version. We are left with the impression that he called the lawyer to show he is honouring the child’s rights, thus protecting himself from any criticism. He had already accepted our version.

Under the new Childcare Act all sorts of safeguards are put in place to ensure social workers do their work and children are protected. We agree with this, many of the provisions we proposed or seconded ourselves. We agree that children can lay charges. We agree that children or adults should be able to go to court, without a social worker, to ask for help. What we are battling with are the unintended consequences.

So where are we now? We have childcare workers who are scared to do their jobs because they may be arrested or sued. We have children who feel powerful because the courts and police feel compelled to investigate exhaustively even when they can see the matter is unreasonable. We are in danger of becoming a profession who look behind us to protect ourselves rather than first doing the right thing for our children and clients.

We are battling with the abuse of the system by children and adults whose rights are not being abused but whose intention is to get their own way beyond what is reasonable. Arguably there are social workers who do not pay any attention to clients’ requests, but I am not sure that all court personnel are always going to pay attention either. A citizen should have recourse to another authority if the social worker is not helping but when a social worker has applied her mind and energy it is a waste of the court’s time and the social worker’s time to go over the whole matter again.

The Children’s Act is full of good intentions which we support. Yet the unintended consequences are the undermining of reasonable authority and the huge burdens of paperwork now necessary, further reduce time for our children. Time will tell whether the 10 years of work on the Children’s Act of thousands of social workers result in an overall better system or whether we will all merely become adept at protecting ourselves while doing no more than we ever would have done.

~

There is a new evil in the world. It is the evil of highly sophisticated societies. The Public Relations of its officials is correct. Their written responses to complaints or requests for help are considerate and have regard for human rights in every way, but the accompanying red tape makes sure that actually no one really has many more rights than they had before.

We have
childcare
workers who
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Research

by Marijke Tromp : 4 April 2011

The 29th of January I arrived at the Airport of Cape Town, straight from Holland, ready for a big experience of 10 weeks. A few days later I started at Ons Plek for doing a research for my social work study. Since then, I'm working at Ukondla in Philippi. In the mornings I go to Siviwe to do some admin, read some files and to work on my research. In the afternoons I travel with my colleagues to Philippi to give the children homework support.

My research is about Ukondla and the work the staff do for the children. My main question is if the lives of the children and parents have changed since the children are attending Ukondla. If they did change, in what way: positive or negative? I interviewed all the children that are attending 6 months or longer and I also interviewed their parents (mothers) and teachers. Interviewing the children was easy, because they can all speak English. But interviewing the parents was a lot more difficult. That's why I always brought one of my Xhosa speaking colleagues to translate for me if a parents can't speak English.

My research is going to be a very positive one. All children, parents and teachers are enthusiastic about Ukondla, there is no one who doesn't like it or who has bad experiences with Ukondla. The children improved a lot since they're attending Ukondla. Because we teach them to speak English when they're with us, they all improved their English a lot. The teachers said they also improved their maths skills a lot. That's because we give the children maths exercises to do when they don't have homework. Not only their schoolwork has improved, also their behaviour and self-confidence is changing while they're at Ukondla. The children are getting more concentration, more motivation, more respect for other children and adults, they're making new friends and they're not scared to talk English in front of people anymore.

CONCLUSION: Ukondla is really helping the children of Philippi that are at risk of dropping out of school due to poverty, neglect or under resourced parents. And the people know Ukondla is helping, the waiting list is becoming longer and longer every day.



I really enjoyed being in Cape Town and especially working with such nice people around me and with such lovely children. I'm going to miss everybody and I definitely will come back to this city and to Ons Plek.

Thank you everyone for this fantastic experience!

Love

Marijke

(the writer is a second language English speaker)

Ukondla After School Program



Our resources may be few ... but we have high spirit and great enthusiasm!!

We acknowledge with gratitude our Major Donors:

- * CITY OF CAPE TOWN
- * D G MURRAY
- * P.A.W.C.
- * HENNIG FOUNDATION
- * THE COMMUNITY CHEST
- * INTOMBI
- * STREETSMART
- * STICHTING STRAATMEIDEN KAAPSTAD
- * CENTRAL METHODIST MISSION (in the form of a very reasonable rental)
- * GLOBAL MINISTRIES (Institutional and Women's Division) USA
- * GLOBAL MINISTRIES (Indianapolis) Africa

We dedicate this page to all our donors ... thank you!

This list includes financial and other contributions received from August 2010 to April 2011



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Z. Zaida.

ORGANISATIONS, SCHOOLS, ETC:

A. A C Activewear, A L Moslem Butchery, Absa - Heerengracht, Absa - Long Street, ACVV, Azriel & Moyra Fine Foundation.
B. Bishops Preparatory Rondebosch, Broll Property Group.
C. Camps Bay Junior School, Cape Suites Hotel, Carter Fam Charitable Trust, CCID - Pat, Cloud Publishing Services CC, College of CT, CPUT Students, Crabtree & Evelyn, CT Sewing Centre.
D. Die Nootgedacht Pers, District Six Night Shelter, Drifters Adv Tours/ Drifters C.T. Inn.
E. Edward Daniels Charitable Trust, El Shaddai Christian School, ELLE Magazine.
F. First National-Consumer Cr-CT, Footballs For Fun Trust, Forever Young Senior Club, Friends of the Round Table.
G. Gardens Commercial High School, German Sch-Klub Interact Deutsche Schule, Greatmore Shop, Greenfields Girls Primary School, Growing Ubuntu Positive Minds-CPUT.
H. Haven Night Shelter Green Point, Haven Night Shelter Retreat, HBR, Human Resource, Hectic Nine 9, Herzlia Students, HSRC.
I. Idasa, Institute of Maritime Medicine, International Apparel SA, Investment Wise.
J. Jalodgefunders Booking and Tours, John Graham School.
K. Kantey & Templer P/L, KPMG.
L. Le Grand Cirque Fantazie, Learn To Live (Iris), Lewis Stores Group H.O., Line One, Lions Club CT.
N. Not For Sale Campaign.
O. Oberauer P F t/as Fine Time, Old & New-Aqaata Progressive, On Track Innovations P/L, Open Schools World Wide.
P. Pam Black Publications-Celebration Hse, Pearson Education.
Q. Quaker Service CT.
R. Rustenburg Girls High School.
S. Sanlam Int. Audit, Sans Souci Girls High School, SAPS Cape Town, SAPS Woodstock, Sir Dicks Uniforms, Sisters Act, Spa Solutions, Springfield Convent School, St Anne Childrens Home, St Cyprian's School, St Olas Trusta, St Paul's Primary, Standard Bank-Cr. Trans. Committee, State Street Southern Africa (PTY), Suga Rayz, Suiderland Fishing, Sunshine Colours.
T. Telkom SA, The Assembly, The Haven, The Owls, Town House Hotel, Tunica Trading 59.
U. UCT Outreach Sub Committee, Union Jewish Women Na'arot Group.
W. Wictra Holdings, Woolworths - Rondebosch, Woolworths - Sea Point.

CHURCHES:

Congregational - Harrington Str, Davis Memorial Presbyterian, Pinelands Congregational, Rondebosch United, Sea Point Primary, St George's Cathedral, St John's Church + Youth Group, St Thomas, Unitarian Church, United Congregational Church, Wynberg Congregational.

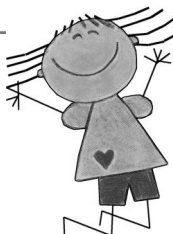
Methodist Churches:

Bedfordview, Bellville EWA + MWA, Central Methodist Mission, Malmesbury WA, Milnerton EWA, Rosebank, Sea Point, Wesley Methodist - Caring Hands.

DETAILS UNKNOWN:

Emore Francis Peter, Fernandes Nivalda, Greer Valley, Klink E, Lombard C, Nieuwoudt L, Patel Mrs, Shanna, Tonny J, Truworhs Canal Walk-Samantha, West K.

Our Wish List



FINANCIAL DONATIONS FOR:

- Transport costs for the girls to get to and from school
- Transport costs for the girls to get to educational outings/camps
- Medical expenses for the girls eg. eye tests
- Ukondla photocopy costs of educational exercises (cheaper than buying books for each child, we only need certain pages from each book depending on child's abilities)
- Mini oven or 3 x hot plates (electrical, gas or gel) for Ukondla (once off)
- Kettles (once off)

TOILETRIES: Roll-on deodorant; body spray; bath soap; toilet paper; Vaseline; hair straightener (**must be mild**); toothpaste; shoe polish (black); shoe brush; Nitagon lice shampoo (clinics no longer supply this); nappies (flannel).

UNDERWEAR (Brand New Please!): Panties and bras for girls ages 5-19 yrs; briefs for boys ages 2-5 yrs; socks for winter.

STATIONERY: Photocopy paper (white); A4 coloured paper; A4 hard cover books; Pritt sticks (40g); homework diaries; plastic sleeves; Flip files; calculators (Scientific); examination pads; space cases.

- Camera and Film 24 exp.; electric globes (energy saving); kiddies/teen DVDs.
- Power-point projector (please contact us first regarding this item)
- Puzzles (4-10 yrs); Leggo-type blocks; wooden blocks; colouring-in books; wax crayons (old); calculators (x3); dictionaries (define words not translate to Afrikaans, etc); Grade R: Join the dots; letter practise.
- Balls; ropes; board games; tennis rackets; playing cards; dominoes; flash cards; memory games; clay; beads; wire; material off-cuts; needles; paint; paint brushes; stencils; glitter; stars; crêpe paper; balloons.

UKONDLA 1, 2 & 3 Programs that we run in the Philippi area:

Weekly groceries — we cater for about 60 children

Bread (x15 loaves per day); peanut butter (x3 big jars or 6 small jars); jam (x6 tins); 2 minute noodles (x30 packets); Cup a soup (x15 boxes of 4 sachets each); margarine (x6 bricks); pilchards (x9 only when there are donations)

Keeping track of your donation

If you are depositing money straight into Ons Plek Project's bank account, please enter your surname AND initials, or your company's name, or Anonymous (if you prefer), in the REFERENCE BLOCKS on the DEPOSIT SLIP.

This information then appears on the bank statement and identifies who we need to receipt and thank for the donation.

OUR BANKING DETAILS:

Bank: FIRST NATIONAL BANK
Branch: ADDERLEY STREET
Branch Code: 201-409
Account No: 620-529-16908
In name of: ONS PLEK PROJECTS
Swift Code: FIRNZAJJ 461

Monies being deposited from overseas (telegraphic transfer) must please make use of the swift code.

PLEASE NOTE:

First National Bank has advised that cheques will not be accepted if the full name i.e. **Ons Plek Projects** is not reflected on the cheque ... and we would be so sorry to have to return any cheques!

A Nice Affirmative Piece of News for Ukondla Staff Members

Daily Report Back Entry ~ February 2011 Thandokazi

She came from school on Thursday and she was excited and tell us that at her school they were writing the National Assessment test and she was called by the principal of the school and she is the one of those children were selected that they do well in their test and they are going to write another test those they been selected and she do well she is going to get a school bursary and they were given for 9 schools that they can choose so we were also happy to heard those good news and we just hope that she can go through.

I advise here that she need to practise the maths every day and try to speak English and read so when the date come at least she is ready for that.

Home Visit by Zanele for Thandokazi

Her mother reported that she is proud about Ukondla what we doing because her child is doing well as she is going for this interview. She would like her to do well on Saturday.

*Congratulations Thandokazi
 from Ons Plek Staff, the Committee
 and all our supporters!*

Are you able to help us?

Ons Plek are looking for retired people who can volunteer every now and then, to assess a child by performing

- * educational assessment and psychometric testing and also
- * occupational therapy assessments.