



# Ons Plek Projects

*providing hope instead of street life*

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NPO No. 009-578

*Affiliated to Cape Town Child Welfare Society*



## Newsletter 2012



## ONS PLEK ~

### *A place of hope and inspiration*

I first heard about Ons Plek whilst I was working for one of the large banks in the city area about 11 years ago. Being new to Cape Town, the plight of the many street children was particularly visible and of concern to me, especially when they were young girls. I saw in Ons Plek a much needed place these girls could turn to for safety and security, somewhere that provided an alternative option and could take their lives in a completely different direction.

My initial involvement with Ons Plek was aimed at trying to assist with the funding side of things and attending the annual Christmas party. This yearly treat was, and continues to be, something that always lifts my spirits, inspires me and reminds me of all the good out there in the world. The girls are always full of joy and excitement and seem to have a solid sisterhood and mutual support amongst themselves. They sing like angels, dance with natural rhythm and confidence and always deliver a slick, well-rehearsed performance, which is something I wouldn't miss for the world.

Having started my own financial services training business in early 2002, one year I ran a drawing competition for the girls to use as our company Christmas card for our clients. We also tried to create awareness of Ons Plek at our women's personal finance seminars by displaying banners and distributing brochures to the various delegates. It seemed a logical fit to encourage these women to be supporting our next generation of women by contributing to Ons Plek.

I am honoured to have been elected to join the Ons Plek committee towards the end of last year and am excited about being involved in such a necessary and worthwhile cause. I hope that I will be able to assist, particularly on the financial and business side of things, and have no doubt I too will learn and grow from my involvement and interaction with the committee, staff and girls.

**Joanne Miller**



## Ukondla: Afternoons in Philippi



"Good afternoon Miss", that's how the Ukondla boys and girls who come to attend the after school program greet their teachers. They usually come in twos or threes from their different schools.

As the boys and girls trickle in, the teachers ask them if they have homework, sometimes some of them say they do not have homework whilst they are hiding it in their satchels, so the teachers ask the children to show them their classwork exercise books to check what they learnt about that day. It is here in most cases that teachers find that a certain child was hiding his/her homework or else they didn't finish what their teacher had given them to write at school.

The Ukondla staff will query why the child had not completed their work, if need be help the child complete the work or possibly make an appointment to visit the teacher, so as to discuss any problems the teacher may have concerning the child, so that Ukondla staff may also assist the child.

In many instances, that the Ukondla staff had helped a child with homework, there was a complaint that most of the children were taking too long to do calculations, especially in Maths. Some of them were using calculators, others were counting their fingers and toes whilst others would make strokes on paper then count them to get an answer.

*(See article on page 4 for the great Ukondla solution to this problem).*

## 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](mailto:onsplek@new.co.za)  
website: [www.onsplek.org.za](http://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 is situated on the  
premises of Sizakuyenza Safe House,

cnr Eisleben and Phumelele Roads,  
Philippi, Cape Town

UKONDLA 3, our newly initiated  
program, is situated on the corner of  
Eisleben and Phumelele Roads, Philippi,  
Cape Town.



We invite you to please visit all  
our Projects and meet the staff  
members and the children





**Pam Jackson**  
**DIRECTOR**

# Hard Times Require Furious Dancing ~

*the title of a book by Alice Walker is a little bit of how many  
are feeling during this Easter time as I write this.  
Train fares are up, petrol is up, electricity hikes loom ...*

Easter is a time which combines both the hard, tragic, even evil times of life with great Hope and Joy! We live in times of recession, due in large measure to greed and unwise financial practices by investors and speculators world wide. To live in times like these of increasing costs, stagnant salaries, reductions in staff numbers and resulting cutting down on project outputs we have to have hope and remember the strengths that God gives us.

Ons Plek staff members are wonderful, encouraging and supportive, which enables us to pull through when the days are too long, too difficult and too discouraging. The help offered immediately it's asked for, the preparedness to come in to work even when sick or on leave if there is a sudden urgent request for information. These small but also big ways help us know we are not alone in our battle to make a difference in the girls' lives!

A friend shared this poem by *Emily Dickenson* which I think expresses this spirit:

## ~ Hope ~

*Hope is the thing with feathers  
That perches in the soul,  
And sings the tune ... without the words,  
And never stops at all,*

*And sweetest in the gale is heard;  
And sore must be the storm  
That could abash the little bird  
That kept so many warm.*

*I've heard it in the chilliest land,  
And on the strangest sea;  
Yet, never, in extremity,  
It asked a crumb of me.*



*Laughter, music, screams (of joy and anger!) — these are the sounds I've come to associate with my Friday mornings at Ons Plek. Generally, I walk out of these mornings exhausted, teenage girls are a handful, but with a huge smile on my face — and it's all thanks to those wonderfully-beautiful-crazy girls who have crawled into my heart!*

*I have been volunteering at Ons Plek for close to four years and I've seen a lot of girls come and go — I've seen them go from the house back to the street; back to the house more determined than ever to make it work; or back to the streets because of the personal issues, drugs, or worse. I've seen them grow from scared, bitter girls to outgoing, creative ladies; from someone with no dreams to someone with aspirations. I've let them find their way into my heart, and every week is a surprise as to who is new,*

*who has ran away, who has said and done what, and most importantly what the vibe in the house is.*

*Luckily I always come armed with my bag of tricks to be prepared for anything, everything and anyone: loads of music (the coolest new tunes from Beyonce and Rihanna usually do the trick!); a movie (preferably a musical or anything with dancing); wordsearches (they just can't get enough of those), craft supplies and some snacks (for those constantly hungry tummies).*

*I love my Fridays with the girls and try to keep things light, entertaining, educational and fun. I see myself in these girls (I was quite an 'out of control', emotional teenage girl myself) and try to relate to them. I loved singing along to music, cutting out pictures of celebrities, reading magazines and painting my toes crazy colours. But then I also try to broaden*

*their horizons and we read newspapers, pull apart poetry and discuss films. I try to educate them about our wonderful country, challenge their minds with board games, get their creative juices flowing with arts and crafts, or just talk about random things that pop up during our walks through town or the Company Gardens. I realize my impact and time with them is not always significant, but I do hope they take away something from our mornings together. I have certainly learnt a lot — about myself, about life and about being a teenage girl in today's world (which is a lot different than the 80's and 90's I'll have you know!)*

*Since my first day at Ons Plek, the girls and the wonderful staff members, have opened their hearts and home to me. Thank you, and here's to many more awesome and hysterical Fridays in the future.*

**Tanya van Tonder : Volunteer**

## Ukondla and multiplication

During one of Ukondla's supervision meetings, the staff agreed to try to get the children to learn their multiplication tables. To motivate the children, the staff agreed that they would hold a multiplication times table competition. On hearing that there was going to be a multiplication tables competition the children were eager to practise the tables in readiness for the competition.

The children were practising the tables in their different Ukondlas after having finished doing their homework everyday on Monday to Friday. The staff also gave each child a worksheet with tables from 2 to 12 to go and learn at home, for the staff to ensure that the children were learning their tables, they would do a lot of activities and one of the children's favourite activities was the "last man standing". The last child left standing would be the winner for the day, whilst the children were enjoying doing this; the staff discovered that there was now a marked improvement, when children were doing calculations in their maths homework the children were now taking very little time to do their maths. The staff had achieved their goal of getting the children to learn the multiplication tables at the same time improving their maths skills.

The competition was held to further cement this good work which had been started. On the day of the competition the children were divided into three groups, these were the Foundation Phase (Grade R-3), the Junior Phase (Grade 4-6), and the Senior Phase (mostly Grade 7-9). Foundation Phase Grades 1-3 did tables between 2, 3 and 5, which are usually very easy. The Junior Phase did tables from 3-6, whilst the Senior Phase did everything from 2-12.

We had judges from Ons Plek, these were Sharon and Charline. They did a very good job in ensuring that the competition ran smoothly. The Ukondla staff helped by getting those who were eliminated in the competition to go outside, while those who were still in the competition remained in the classroom.

There was a winner from each Phase: The Foundation Phase was Themviso Matini, a Grade 3 pupil from St Mary's Primary School; the Junior Phase was Asiphe Mrwaqane, a Grade 6 pupil from Mzomomuhle Primary School; and the Senior Phase was Zikhona Ziqondi, a Grade 7 pupil from Masivuke Primary School.

The prize winners got pencils, crayons and colouring books, some members of staff and the children themselves, thought otherwise about the prizes. Some complained that the time-keeper blew the whistle rather too quickly before they could work out answers. This was all taken into consideration. They reminded the children that the knowledge they had acquired from doing this exercise will be a lasting priceless gift they will keep for life. The issue of time-keeping also was accepted by the children later, when they discovered that it helped them do the calculations quickly, thereby increasing their speed in doing their maths problems.

The competition helped the Ukondla staff achieve their objectives in getting the children mastering their multiplication tables. We hope to host more competitions in the near future to address the childrens problems in spelling, reading, comprehension and any other problem that the staff will have identified. Good luck to those who won the competition, and please work harder to those who didn't win, there is always a next time.

**Assah Gavu : Community Worker — Ukondla Project**



**Pam's comment:**

*At long last ... I have been pushing this competition for some years now! Thank you, staff!*

### We acknowledge with much joy our Major Donors:

- \* THE COMMUNITY CHEST
- \* CITY OF CAPE TOWN
- \* D G MURRAY TRUST
- \* INTOMBI
- \* STREETSMART
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- \* GLOBAL MINISTRIES (Indianapolis) - AFRICA AND UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
- \* GLOBAL MINISTRIES (Institutional and Women's Division) USA
- \* SOUTH AFRICAN ASSOCIATION OF HONG KONG
- \* CENTRAL METHODIST MISSION (in the form of a very reasonable rental)



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

*This list includes financial and other contributions received from August 2011 to March 2012.*



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- A. Al Moslem Butchery, Ackermans Family Foundation, Aerotechnic (Guyeu J), Arcus Gibb P/L, Azriel & Moyra Fine Foundation.
- B. B for Africa Foundation, Back Room Boys, Berry & Donaldson, Beth Uriel, Bevan Trust.
- C. C M Barry & Co., Cape District Womens Assoc., Cape Nail & Beauty Academy, Cape Town Lodge Hotel, Cape Town Sewing Centre, Carter Family Charitable Trust, CCID, Cecil Jowell Family Charitable Trust, Cellucity, City of Cape Town Library, Clicks, College of Magic-Sinethemba Bawuti, Colors, Cool Bananas, Cornerstone, Count & Countess Labia.
- D. Die Nootgedacht Pers, Drifters Adventures & Tours.
- E. Edward Daniels Charitable Trust, El Shaddai Christian School.
- F. First National CBS Consumer Risk-Credit CT, Fish Hoek High School.
- G. Garden Court Hotel, German School-Klub Interact Deutsche Schule, Gift of the Givers, Go-Go, Good Hope Seminary High School, Gustavus Adolphus College (USA).
- H. Haven Night Shelter, Heatherdale Home, Hectic 99, Hennig Foundation, Herzlia Constantia Primary School, Homestead.
- I. Independent Newspapers, Investment Wise P/L, Islamic College.
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- M. Madam Zingara, Marine Solutions cc, Maritime Union of Australia, Mobilia Office Furniture P/L.
- N. Nazareth House, N-Compass Knowledge Mgt cc, Noah Old Age Home, Nolan Tyres.
- O. Oberauer PF t/a Fine Time, Okpeze Development Union, Old Aguatoa Progressive Union WC, OTI Africa Ltd, Owl Club ("the Owls").
- P. Pam Black Publications, Pine Needles, Pinelands North Primary School, R & L Architects, Radius Club, Rewardrobe, Rotary Club of Lewes (England), Rutgers University (USA).
- Q. Quaker Service Cape Town.
- S. SA Post Office Finance Div., S.I. City Bowl Shuttle Tours & Delivery cc, Salga Western Cape, Scalabrini Centre, Sir Dicks Uniform, Southern Sun Hotel, Springfield Convent School, St Anne's Home, St Ola's Trust, Stepping Stones, Suiderland Fishing Div-Pioneer Fishing P/L, Sunshine Colours.
- T. Telkom SA, Toffie Food Festival, Town House Hotel, Travel with Fair, Tunica Trading 59 P/L.
- U. Union Jewish Women Keshar Group, United Herzlia School.
- W. Wesbank, Westerford High School, Western Province Prep School, Wictra Holdings, Woolworths.

## CHURCHES:

Christ Embassy Church, Hillsong Church, Plymouth United Church of Christ (USA), Sea Point Congregational, Seven Day Adventist Salt River, St Augustine of Hippo Anglican, St John's Anglican Wynberg, St Saviour's Parish Church, Unitarian Church CT, Verenigende Gereformeerde Kerk "Die Goeie Hoop".

## Methodist Churches:

Bellville MWA, Brackenfell WA, Central Methodist Mission, Malmesbury MWA, Milnerton EWA, Sea Point.



# 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)
- Mats, carpet, stools
- 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; pens (black, blue, red); Oxford Dictionaries (English).

- DVD Player; kiddies/teen DVDs; Tea Set (cup & saucer).
- Power-point projector (please contact us first regarding this item)

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

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.

## 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:** FIRZAJJ 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!

We acknowledge the hard work done by Renée Rossouw, Kent Lingeveltdt (Kent Lingeveltdt Photography at 072 982 1312) and Henk Blom (Zeplin Productions at 082 667 1688) who are involved in Ons Plek's "new-look" website and facebook page. Many thanks to all of you!!

*We often hear from past girls. Nomawethu left us about 10 years ago and is now married and living in Italy. This letter is one she has given us permission to publish.*

Hi Guys. I hope things are going well for you and the girls. It has been a very cold winter here in Italy, but we are on the way to summer and Asemahle is growing so much. She will be going to preschool in September. I did the admission test for my nursing school here in Italy. I'm still waiting for the answer. My husband Simone, has found a job after a year of unemployment, but we always managed to survive. I still have my family here in Italy, and still hear from my family in South Africa and Ons Plek. I feel lucky every day. In my times at Ons Plek I never thought that they would encourage and love me still, even if I'm out of it a long time ago, they still treat me like their baby but I have grown up now and people always say a mother never leaves their children even if they are married, that is how Ons Plek is with me.

We are looking forward to going to the sea in July, to enjoy with the little one, and soon as we can we will come to South Africa to hug all of you.

We hope and pray for all of you to be safe and well. Big kisses to you. We will send some pics soon.

**Nomawethu, Simone and Asemahle**

## Corporate Social Responsibility

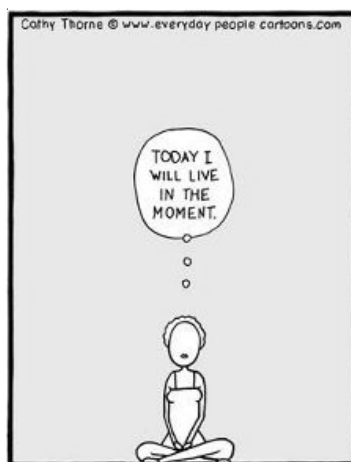
### Tax Deductible Benefits:

We are registered as a Public Benefit Organisation and thus all donations to us are tax deductible under Section 18A of the Income Tax Act.

### Pay less estate duty:

Being a Section 18A Tax Benefit company means that your family will save from payment of estate duties.

*This one takes the cake!!*



*Girls busying themselves in the courtyard at Ons Plek*