



Ons Plek Projects

for girls at risk of becoming street children

2019 Newsletter



Some of our Child Care Workers getting ready for our 2018 Annual General Meeting

Message from our Director ...

The past few years have been hard financially. When we bought the house in Mowbray, cutting into our Reserves, we knew we were taking a risk. What we did not foresee was the extent of state capture and the devastating effect on the public's purses. Our donations dropped drastically. For the past 2 years we have kept an anxious eye on our dwindling Reserve which has hovered around the one to two months' in Reserve mark.

Staff gathered for a morning of prayer in November. We have since been blessed with enough funding to ensure a small deficit of R47 000 at April's year end. Still just 2 months in Reserve but that is better than we expected.

We gathered again in January for a morning of thanksgiving!

We go into a new year with many challenges, not the least of them financial. It will be a case of *vasbyt* and hopes for a better South Africa after elections.



Pam Jackson
DIRECTOR

Ons Plek Projects

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

Director: PAM JACKSON

Deputy Director: GINA JAGERS

Our assessment centre intake shelter **ONS PLEK** and our **OFFICES** are situated at:

7 Malleson Road, Mowbray, Cape Town 7700

P O Box 12924, Mowbray, Cape Town 7705

Tel: 021 685-4052/49 ~ Fax: 021 685-3128

Email: onsplek@onsplek.org.za

Website: www.onsplek.org.za

Our second-stage shelter **SIVIWE** is situated at:

7 York Street, Woodstock 7925. Tel: 021 448-6529/27.

Our Community Development Programs:

UKONDLA 1 is situated at City Council Community Hall, Browns Farm, Philippi, Cape Town 7750.

UKONDLA 2 and 3 are situated on the premises of Sizakuyenza Safe House, cnr Eisleben and Phumelele Roads, Philippi, Cape Town 7750.



The girls had a go at planting their own plants



Holiday Program

The girls were entertained with a tantalising Magic Show



Arts & Crafts Program

The girls having fun crafting with paper



A container classroom for Ukondla

This was beautifully painted by the children. It certainly is cheerful ... bright blue with a gorgeous sun beaming down on a person next to a fruit tree. There are also signature pink handprints here and there. Who wouldn't want to be sitting in this lovely classroom?!

Keeping track of your donation

If you are depositing money straight into Ons Plek Projects' 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

Account No: 620-529-16908

Branch: WOODSTOCK

Branch Code: 255005

In name of: ONS PLEK PROJECTS

Swift Code: FIRNZAJJ

Monies being deposited from overseas (telegraphic transfer) must please reflect the swift code.

PLEASE NOTE:

We have an easy payfast option button on our website.



Christina Mouton
Child Care Worker

Life at Ons Plek

from the eye of our Child Care Worker
Christina Mouton

Excerpts from the self-assessment prepared by Christina for her annual evaluation.

"It was a very difficult year. I faced many hardships. The biggest challenge was the day when child A ran away from me.

I was very shocked and also felt dropped by the child's actions because I said for myself, "it's the first time in all these years I work for Ons Plek that a child runs away from me". I tried to solve my problem by reporting to my house manager ASAP, also to take the initiative to go to ACCV (the child's social work agency) to report my situation. I also opted to search for the child. At the end of the day the child was taken back to her safety-space. That was a good feeling and also a good relief. It was for me a big test. It is also around trust as well as testing waters.

I learn from that you need to observe your child, read your child. Take note in which life space your child operates. Observation skills need to be aware. The red lights need to flicker and show that something is coming your way because your child is full of anger, emotions need to be taken in mind because of circumstances was totally against her.

I'm a good Team Player

I try to put my own feelings aside – most of the time especially when I come to work, concentrate on my tasks also respect my colleagues, to communicate to them in a positive way, also even if we differ, I will apologise afterwards. I can fight with my colleagues but at the end we can also hug, pray and even cry together. I like to sit down and see where I do wrong, Manager will guide me through this process.

Weaknesses

I get angry when a child disrespects me also lie to my face, even swearing. Challenges I can't take, I need to find a way not to lose my temper because the moment I do so, I will get angry, raise my voice and start to shout. I have that habit to show my anger to the child instead of telling the child, "I am very angry now". It still cost a lot of practice to take my feelings up to that level. Sometimes you have your own baggage-problems at home, finance problems and then the child press your buttons and get you easily angry. I still need growth in that area.

The Work

We work with many children, lots of attitude, lots of feelings. All of them is in for attention. It is very challenging to keep your spirit. Sometimes they got it right to make you angry, it is difficult to deal with your child. They swear a lot, they can lie in your face. Behaviour is sometimes inappropriate. Sleeping times is the worst. Morning times you struggle, meisies take time to wake up, sometimes they drag their feet to clean. There is sometimes fights, arguments. The disrespectfulness is the worse part.

Home Visit

This weekend the child go home after home visit, I also organise a food parcel for that family. It made me feel good because that is what Ons Plek stands for. To help and to make things easier even if the child goes home, I had a good feeling when the child came home and said that "My Granny say Thank You very much for the food parcel." That is what Ons Plek stands for, to make families happy within the community.

This year I am working 8 years for Ons Plek and I am still learning every day. Your day is not every day the same because you work with feelings, emotions. You work holistically with children. You also work in the life space in the moment of this child. We work with children who do have special needs, you make sure your child is happy to give the basics, save space, also clothes to your child.

Your focus around your Therapeutic plan and apply, rules. We do meetings, discussions, group work, etc.

Schooling

We put a lot of girls this year in school. The most beautiful picture is morning times when they are dressed up in different school clothes, we need to teach them how to travel by themselves as their schools are in different areas. Some of them is on a bus, train also taxi. We need to top up tickets over weekends and also buy train tickets. Afternoon there is homework classes. We work with different groups. Volunteers come and help with Maths, reading, English and Afrikaans. Our children work on laptops to do research. It is such a nice picture to see how many privileges our children do have.

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 on estate duties i.e. exempt from payment of estate duties.

HAVE YOU MOVED?

Please advise us of your change of address if you have moved home or office ...

it's so disappointing when the 'thank you' letters that the girls have written, or our newsletters, are returned to us!

Our Wish List ...



All donations are dropped off at our house in Mowbray and the address is 7 Malleson Road, Mowbray.

We have **35 girls** in our care and you can donate the following items listed below:

BASIC GROCERIES PER WEEK

20kg Sugar, 20kg Maize, 20kg Rice, 5kg Flour, 2 Yeast, Bread, 4kg Samp, 2kg Dry Beans, Meat, 10kg Chicken, R150 Sausages, 2kg Viennas, French Polony, 6 x Pasta, 8 x tin Beans, 8 x Pilchards, 8 x Peanut Butter, 4 x 900g Jam, Spices, 24 x Beefstock, 2 x 500g Salt, 4 litres Oil, 4kg x Margarine, Amazi, 60 x Eggs, 8 x 1litre Milk, Tea, Coffee, 2 x 750ml Mayonnaise, 2 x Chutney, 2x Tomato Sauce, Cordials, 6kg Washing Powder, 4 x Sunlight Soap (Green Bar), 4 x Sunlight liquid, 4 x Handy Andy, 4 x Bleach, 2 x Black Bags, 2 x Steelwool.

VEGETABLES AND FRUIT

Potatoes, Onions, Carrots, Cabbage, Beetroot, Pumpkin/Butternut, Tomatoes, Green Peppers, Apples, Pears, Bananas, Oranges/Naartjies.

TOILETRIES

Toilet Paper.

CLOTHING

White School Shirts, Grey Pants, School Socks, Black Pantihose, School Shoes, School Bus Fares, Rain Jackets.

Pyjamas (Summer and Winter)

Size: Small, Medium and Large

Sandals: sizes 2, 3, 4 and 5.

FURNITURE

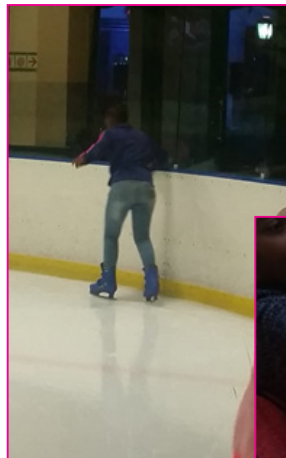
Corner couch, new mattresses, tiles or wooden flooring for our lounge.

Please do not hesitate to contact Ons Plek if you require any further information.

Tel. 021 685 4052 / 49



The girls were taken to the Ice Rink ... what a great experience that was!!



One of the House Mothers picking green beans from our vegetable garden at Ons Plek. There is nothing quite as delicious as home-grown green beans!



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Yummy ice cream after fun at the Ice Rink