



January 2012

Dear Friend of Siyakhulisa,

It's a new year and we have lots of exciting news to report!

Remember Alice Rawecki who came to do volunteer teaching in February last year at our poorest of poor schools in Somerset East? Well she has not rested back in Canada and has earned herself the title of Siyakhulisa's Coordinator of Educational Support in Canada for South Africa – a volunteer position of course. Anyone outside of SA wishing to contact her directly for more info is welcome to do so by email to [alice.ra@sympatico.ca](mailto:alice.ra@sympatico.ca).

Alice continues to spread news in Canada of the plight of the school that she taught at here in an effort to raise support, not only financial but also from teachers willing to do a stint of volunteer work out here.



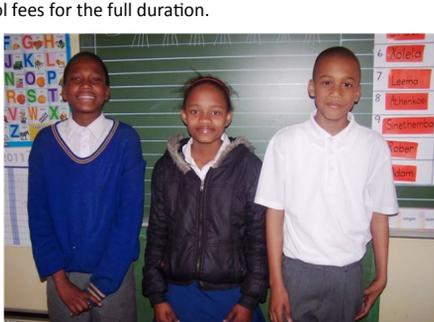
#### Welcome Pamela!

Our very good news is that we have a new volunteer who is due to arrive here on the 12<sup>th</sup> Feb. Pamela Hastings will assist at William Oates School during school hours and after school she hopes to assist the children at the Children's Foster Homes with homework as well as some fun sporting activities. Pam is an energetic and athletic young woman so the kids can look forward to some constructive fun. We are very excited about her visit and grateful to Alice who has been giving her some pointers on what to expect and what she might do with the children. Her visit will be short however hopefully inspirational enough to have her coming back for more. Be warned Pam, the children have a way of stealing your heart!

#### Our bursary recipients.

In line with our new policy of focussing on education we have put our money where our mouths are. While at William Oates school last year Alice identified three promising students in the Grade 7 class who against all odds of lack of teachers and resources showed a determination to succeed. We watched their progress with interest and at the end of the year they came out top of the class albeit not with great academic results. We have awarded all three of them a bursary to attend Gill College, a prestigious high school in Somerset East whose students achieve a 100% matric pass rate every year and very often the best matriculant in the Eastern Cape. These 3 youngsters will need to work very hard to catch up on the backlog and cope with the new work but we know they have the will to do it. At the same time, Siyakhulisa needs to work hard at ensuring we can keep them there for their 5 years of high school so fundraising efforts need to be stepped up. This is where we are very grateful to Mr Anton Cowley of Brampton who is kindly sponsoring Hadlyn-Claude's school fees for the full duration.

Bathandwa Fani received a Siyakhulisa Abantwana Bursary,  
Meagan Martin the Sarah Holland Bursary and  
Hadlyn-Claude Hendricks the Anton Cowley Bursary.  
All bursaries administered by the Siyakhulisa Trust of course.



#### From street child to promising scholar

In our last newsletter we told you about Justin April from the Children's Home who we were keen to make our first bursary recipient. What is especially remarkable about this child is that a few years ago his living conditions forced him to become a street child and he missed out on a considerable amount of schooling. Since his arrival at the Home he has quickly caught up on the schooling he missed, showing great potential and improvement with each year. Last year we thought he deserved a shot at a better education at Gill but the social welfare worker felt he was not ready for such a big change. This year he is, so we crossed our fingers and made sure there was another Siyakhulisa bursary for him. School started on 11<sup>th</sup> Jan and I waited 2 weeks before going to see him. I'm thrilled to report that this happy boy is all fired up and reckons he will cope with the demands of an education at Gill. Watch this space folks!

We shall watch these four youngsters' progress with keen interest and know they will do us proud. We also do not wish them to be held back from getting involved in whatever extra-murals they wish to due to lack of funds so donations will always be welcome.

#### Our University Student – Niki Jansen

If you remember last year we paid registration fees of R4000 for first year social studies student Niki Jansen. He has a bursary from the government for his studies but this does not include registration fees. This year he approached us again however this time for R2500 as he had managed to save the other R1500. Niki grew up in a foster home himself and this is why he is so keen to become a welfare worker. He passed all his subjects well last year and is set to become an asset to this country which is all we ask.

#### Mary Coetzee Foster Homes

To update you on the situation at the Mary Coetzee Children's Home on which we continue to keep a watchful eye. Denise Hope, the Child Welfare social welfare worker, still holds the reigns and very ably too. Funding for food is, for the moment, still coming from the government however they have to keep the numbers down in the home. There are only 15 children there now and we all know there are 100 times that many out there needing to be in such a home. This number increases daily as our economy deteriorates and food prices and unemployment rates escalate.

Finally we would like to remind you that Siyakhulisa still boasts of being a no-admin-costs non-profit organisation. The only person charging us for anything is the accountancy firm that audits our books. Copies of our financial statements are available to any interested persons on request. Donations are most welcome no matter how small. Here are our bank details for your convenience:

ABSA Bank  
Somerset East Branch Code: 334418  
61 Nojoli St, Somerset East, Eastern Cape, South Africa  
SWIFT Code: ABSAZAJJ  
Name of Savings Account: Siyakhulisa Trust  
Account No: 9197835105

Also remember we would love to hear your comments, good or bad.  
We wish you and yours a wonderful year ahead.

Lynne Brown  
On behalf of Dr Alan Russell, Rosalee Bradfield and Alice Rawecki