

Chairpersons Report 2008

A synopsis of Work for Love's Achievements and plan ahead

The philosophy behind Work for Love is one of finding and building on knowledge and experience present in the local communities, recognizing and developing people's resources and facilitating their support of each other. When we look at the past year we want to do this to the backdrop of this philosophy. Work for Love is a community-based organization that is active in connecting and uplifting local communities through initiatives focused on education and health care. Work for Love operates in the informal settlement of Masiphumelele and was started in 2005.

Community Health Care and Education Projects:

The weekly Wellness Morning runs every Tuesday at the Pink House, an accessible venue in the heart of Masiphumelele and since February 2010 every Wednesday in **Ocean View** at the Catholic Church Hall there complimentary therapies such as traditional healing, homeopathy, massage, pregnancy and nutrition advice, shiatsu, reflexology, tarot reading and half hour talks on health issues were offered free of charge. In Ocean View we have decided to ask for a R 10 donation to make the project more sustainable and appreciated. A 3 module training course in the healing art of massage was offered again in Masiphumelele in 2009. We asked for a R5 contribution for each session. In Ocean View we are now charging R 100 per training module. Training and practice session both took place during the Wellness Morning. 14 women completed level one, 10 women completed level two and one completed level three and is doing her assistant trainer certificate next year. The women have been introduced to various work situations: corporate setting, markets and private practice. One is employed by a b&b, one at a beauty salon and a few are offering chair massages at markets on a regular basis.

The Wellness Morning also hosted a number of Family Constellations Workshops. Nutritional advice is offered to every participant.

An Indian Head Massage Course was offered in Jan/Feb and 10 women from the community received certificates.

Way forward 2009:

Wellness morning will focus on training. This year a half hour talk (9-9:30) is being offered on health related topics for the general public, all participants, therapists and trainees of Wellness Morning. A second 6 months massage course is starting next week. Wellness Morning will continue to support the 2008 graduates by offering our healing room for treatments, making business cards and adverts, facilitating business negotiations and passing on information on interesting courses to develop their careers such as the Living Way's business starter course.

Wellness Morning will continue to evaluate its work through team planning sessions, evaluating feedback given by trainees and participants. Wellness Morning must not lose sight of how it is received by the community and why and how it can become more relevant, also reaching the very needy with their service.

Siyakhatala Nutrition Project and Afro Saint Employment Projects:

This is a very exciting project we have developed, based on the Philani Nutrition Centre. The need to reach those destitute and unable to leave their homes has called us to extend our efforts to identify and train field workers who visit homes to identify needs, offer compassion, to organise home base care and make referrals to appropriate services offered. The focus is on identifying the malnourished child and provision of monitored medical care and nutritional food supplements until the child is rehabilitated. The second focus is the child's mother and her employment. We have been fundraising for this. As soon as funds become available we will recommence the training of the field workers and start the outreach work with a dedicated and competent team of fieldworkers and supporting staff.

We have found a sponsor for e-pap, a highly nutritious pap.

One volunteer is experimenting with making products from recycled materials that are cheap and easy to make and which could be produced by the mothers of the malnourished children. She has made samples and has found retailers interested in stocking Afro saint products. We have confirmation from the Catholic Church that we may use the Church Hall for this project.

Way forward for 2009:

Work for Love will put all its efforts into fundraising and linking this project with the other work for love projects with the vision to open The Work for Love Holistic Community Health and Education centre. We hope to start our outreach work as soon as possible.

Sponsorships:

Work for Love continued to organise sponsorships and mentorship for the 3 women from Masiphumelele doing the Waldorf Educare training (level 4) at the CCE. All three worked as assistant teachers at Imhoff

Waldorf Kindergarten and at Sunflower Kindergarten in Scarborough. WfL arranged for one stipend for one of the trainees to be an assistant at Imhoff Waldorf School for 2 days a week allowing her to have the necessary practical experience to become a confident Kindergarten teacher. 2009 the Imhoff School now has included this wage in their budget.

We are administering the sponsorship of three students at Fish HoeK and Simon's Town High Schools. When it was requested, Volunteers offered valuable afternoon tuition and homework support and friendship to the sponsored students.

We set up a sponsorship committee of the parents of sponsored students in Masiphumelele that make thank you cards, take and print photos and make sure all this and the school reports get sent to the sponsors every 6 months. The committee chair is learning to use the computer and to send and receive e-mails to stay in contact with sponsors.

Way forward 2009:

We have organised sponsorship for a 4th woman from Masiphumelele to start her Educare training this year. One of our crèche volunteers is now sponsoring a child from the crèche to attend Grade 1 at Sunvalley School through Work for Love.

We will continue our relationship with Imhoff and prioritising their graduates for our sponsorship programme. We will continue to train the sponsorship committee chair in computer skills.

For 2009 we have set up a sponsorship programme for the Siyakhula Crèche. We are sponsoring 6 children there already.

Crèche Support:

We ran a Puppetry Workshop over 4 sessions for 20 Educare teachers from Masiphumelele.

Volunteers did a brilliant job supporting the Masiphumelele Day and After Care Crèche. At the beginning of the year a volunteer was going each day of the week. Food was donated on a regular basis and an extension to the jungle gym was set up. Donations from Germany were arranged. But there was no carry over to the staff and no working relationship with the Principal. Staff kept leaving the crèche and many donations disappeared. There was no accountability for the proceedings at the crèche. This situation was draining to the volunteers who tenaciously kept up their work 'for the love of the children'. Midyear Work for Love's Manco decided to withdraw within 6 months from the crèche should things not improve after our concerted effort to improve the management structures at the crèche. We called in the Dep. Of Social Service, VDP, CECD to discuss the situation of the crèche and it was decided to encourage a new management of the crèche. We organized a parent meeting and voted a management committee and organised training through CECD. The principal refused point blank to work with the committee and keeps playing the fool and uses intimidation and violence to achieve her personal goals. She rents out the state owned premises and pockets the money.

We continued to support the Crèche Manco, which includes one of our volunteers and three of the educare trainees.

We have called on the Masiphumelele Educare Forum who refuse to help for fear of community retribution and violence and intimidation from the Principal, We have called on the Masiphumelele Development Forum but they are dealing with new informal crèches that have opened in Masi and their own internal strife makes them unable to deal with the challenge the Principal presents. The local councillor, the CECD and the department of social development are supportive of our work but say their hands are tied as long as the community does not do something about the 'community appointed' principal.

The way forward 2009:

Work for Love has officially withdrawn from the Masiphumelele Day and Aftercare.

We now support a new crèche in the Masiphumelele Wetlands, the Siyakhula Crèche run by a group of 6 dedicated women. Learning from our experience with the Principal at the Masiphumelele Crèche, we are helping set up democratic management structures from the beginning. We are training the treasurer to do transparent accounting, set up a budget, do fundraising and set up a sponsorship programme. A volunteer arranged for funding and handed out R 2000 worth of food parcel at Christmas.

We have donated mattresses, toys and other things to the crèche. Volunteers take the children on outings to the library playground and to the beach. The crèche has 40 children and parents are very happy even though the space is appalling and illegal. The challenges ahead are huge. We will do what we can.

We are working with the CECD to set up training weekends, which will include the new crèches that have sprung up in Masiphumelele. There is a huge need to supply cheap child care. Parents can't afford the fees of the registered crèches (R150/month) but are worried about the unskilled care that the children receive. Therefore we have been asked to put Saturday workshops together. We hope to include Waldorf based principles, puppetry, songs etc. into this training.

Masi Waldorf Educare:

Our aim is to open a Waldorf Educare in 2010. 2 of our trainees will have completed their level 5, which enables them to be a principal at a registered crèche. They are also gaining experience by assisting in the Imhoff Waldorf Kindergarten and by being part of the Management committee of the Masiphumelele Crèche and taking part in the CECD training.

The way forward for 2010:

Our big challenge is to find a place to operate from. We hope to purchase land or to start running our crèche from the Masiphumelele Day and Aftercare Building (if the community want us to). We could also shift our focus and run a Waldorf Educare training facility in Masiphumelele. We might postpone our plans for a year as we see how this year progresses. We need to evaluate what this community really needs. I feel that there is a dire need for more registered, state subsidised big Educare Centres with strong fundraising drives and sponsorship programmes.

Sosebeza Youth Group:

Work for love has offered amazing support to the Youth. The Imhoff School children collect vegetable each Tuesday and deliver them to the youth to make soup. The vegetable usually last for soup for a few days. Work for Love Volunteers have painted the Youth Hall walls and ceiling. On request of the youth Work for Love arranged for weekly Hip Hop Dance Tuition which culminated in a group of 6 boys being included in the Dance House final performance with their dance. This Taxi dance was spectacular and choreographed by themselves. The youth showed us so much potential and commitment to work hard. Work for Love tried to get one of the bright youth into Fish Hoek High School but he was unfortunately rejected at the last minute. We had to withdraw our plans to build our educare on the Sosebenza land as the ownership situation is not clear and again there are no democratic structures in place to make them so and no willingness by the leader.

Way forward for 2009:

We will withdraw our involvement at Sosebenza. We will deliver the vegetables to the Siyakhula crèche in the future.

Ukhanyo Primary School:

We ran Art classes for some of the year and supported the English and Maths lessons since August. The Constantia Catholic Church Youth organises a sandwich making day once a term and the sandwiches get delivered by Work for Love to the Ukhanyo children.

Way forward 2009:

We will also keep our support for the school on a low burner, depending on the availability of volunteers. The school receives a lot of support from various areas.

PR and fundraising:

Work for Love- Growing the Heart of Community, our slogan was created in 2008. Our 'look' was developed by two professional designer and applied to pamphlets, certificates, letterheads, slide show, website and business cards. We have t-shirts with our logo on. We have our own office.

We had articles in the biophile. Marie Claire (UK), focus magazine, Echo and the Imhoff Newsletter.

We raised funds for the 2009 level 1 of the massage training and for 9 more sponsorships.

Our NPO application had to be submitted twice this year and early in 2009 Work for Love finally received a NPO number but we are still awaiting the final documentation. We have been chasing this for 2.5 years.

Way ahead for 2009:

With our NPO number and tax exemption in hand we will move forward with fundraising with the health and social development departments, lotto, community chest, Nelson Mandela Children's Fund and CWD.

A big focus will be on making long term plans, writing proposals and thinking big. We really want to make a difference and for this we have to employ full time staff and own premises,

Volunteers:

Work for Love's group of excellent and dedicated 42 voluteers worked independently and caringly in 2009 . Thank you so much to each and every one of you.

We are able to arrange long term visas for overseas volunteers. A family form Norway is here for a year and one American volunteer comes for 6 months of the year to work with us.

We also arranged for two young dutch volunteer to help at the youth group for 6 week. Regrettably, they were mugged and returned home early.

Way ahead for 2009:

Die Freunde will send out volunteers from Germany who are financed, selected, trained and supervised through a programme run by the German government. Rebecca of the Imhoff Waldorf School has applied for 2 volunteers to support our crèche support project. She will oversee all the necessary arrangements. We hope to have the volunteers with us for one year form September.

Springfield School and Cedar House have approached Work for Love to place students to do voluntary work in different schools for a day a term. We would like to facilitate this process in 2009.

Last but not least:

SELF-AWARENESS WORKSHOPS:

Apart from our "outer" outreach work we run "inner" self-awareness workshops for our volunteers. This is a very important aspect of Work for Love and it's members..

Last year we ran three workshops. Two facilitated by Karen Rootenberg and one by Peter van Maltiz. These workshops have a clear structure but also create a space for us to explore ourselves in gentle yet penetrating ways.

Karen led us in discovering the inner meaning of commitment and touching another in a soul way when meeting one another. This led to the theme of the second workshop, which was called: Extension of Self. I quote from her invite: "There is a dire need in the world today for us to connect with our authentic selves: Only once we have learned the necessary tools or skills to go inward can we extend ourselves to others without fear, or feelings of inadequacy. And we cannot do personal development work without taking into account other people, the natural world and the planet on which we live - the disastrous effects of the "me first" (or "me only"!) attitude are clearly visible. Our growth, and sense of connection, must take place in two directions, both inward and outward..."

The workshop is an opportunity to explore this two-way development, through movement, process-oriented art, and sharing our stories with one another. This day is really an introduction to the notion of what it means to "make a difference", or "be a contribution". As we develop some of the skills needed to go within, and also to reach out to others, we can each observe what our presence and attention mean during the space of a day.

Peter's presented a workshop introducing the healing work of an African Herbalist. We for example learned how to prepare the Ubulau soap water, which produces, when mixed 'right', foam. The foam signifies that the atmosphere has been cleansed for healing. This caused much distress as some of our 'Ubulaus' took very long to produce the foam required. Much stirring was needed. The foam is then slurped and after three days of stirring and slurping is used to wash oneself with this mixture. This is a cleansing ritual used by African healers.

These days have been extremely relaxing, rejuvenating needless to say interesting. The workshops are also a great way for people from different fields of activity within Work for Love to meet each other.

For 2009 I would like to remind you of Obama's message of hope: yes we can

WORK FOR LOVE
YES WE CAN