

Chairperson's Report 2009

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, facilitating their support of each other and offering support in starting and strengthening new initiatives. When we look at the past year we want to do this to the backdrop of this philosophy.

Community Health Care and Education Programmes:

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. Complementary 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 module. Training and practise sessions both took and take place during the Wellness Morning. 15 women completed level one, 6 women completed level two. One woman, Betty January has started teaching a level 1 course in Ocean View under the supervision and with support of our trainer, Elaine Hackner. The graduates and the level 2 trainees have been introduced to various work situations: corporate setting, markets, outreach work and private practice. Many have found job opportunities privately and with the support of Work for Love. We now offer stipends to 3 massage workers in Masiphumelele and 4 in Ocean View. We are facilitating and supervising 5 outreach workers who see patients in their homes. The supervision is done by a registered physiotherapist, Wieke van Zyl. Volunteers provide transport support for hospital visits and outings for these patients who otherwise are bound to their beds due to their physical and financial challenges.

Work for Love set up a **business and marketing concept for the massage work** and is receiving a 20% contribution from each massage arranged through this concept.

An Indian Head Massage Course was offered in January 2010 in Ocean View and 3 women from the community received certificates.

A **yoga workshop** was offered to our volunteers and massage workers in February 2010 and was well attended by about 20 people. We were grateful and honoured by this contribution of Swami Pragyamurti.

Wellness Morning continued to evaluate its work through team planning sessions and evaluating feedback given by trainees and participants. Wellness Morning is ever more aware 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 Programmes:

Work for Love's focus has not been here this year. Asanda Mbawu, our nutrition councillor, has decided to pursue the career of Educare Teacher and help build the Siyakhula School. Efforts into fundraising for this programme and linking this future programme with the other work for love programmes with the vision to open The Work for Love Holistic Community Health Centre and School are still being pursued.

Sponsorships:

Work for Love continued to organise sponsorships and mentorships for the 4 women from Masiphumelele doing the Waldorf Educare training (level 4 and 5) at the CCE. Three worked as assistant teachers at Imhoff Waldorf Kindergarten and one at Sunflower Kindergarten in Scarborough. Since Jan 2010 two of the Siyakhula Educare teachers have started their level 4 training. One woman, Theodora, will finish her level 5 training in March. All the sponsorships for the 6 trainees are now provided by the support grant from the government.

We are administering the sponsorship three students at Fish HoeK and Simon's Town High Schools and one at the Imhoff Waldorf School and SunValley Primary Scholl. When it was requested, volunteers offered valuable afternoon tuition and homework support and friendship to the sponsored students.

The sponsorship committee of the parents of sponsored students in Masiphumelele that we set up last year to 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 has faltered a bit. We have now decided to deduct a 10% administration fee and to ask for a greater contribution from the parents of the sponsored students to increase their empowerment and involvement. The sponsorship committee chair has learned to use the computer and to send and receive e-mails to stay in contact with sponsors. Soon we will have two computers with internet connection in the Work for Love office to be accessible to our office bearers. We are also receiving 15 sponsorships for the Siyakhula Educare.

Educare Support:

We ran a Puppetry Workshop over 4 sessions for 20 Educare teachers from Masiphumelele. Our community representative, Patience Booi, has set up a forum of all educare centres. They meet on a weekly basis to share their concerns and approach relevant authorities with a combined voice. They for example managed to convince the VDP to relook at their food voucher distribution model and then adopted a more fair model that helps those centres with very little support.

They received donations from various organisations and arranged volunteers and various trainings relevant for educare workers.

Siyakhula New Initiative Waldorf Educare:

Our aim to open a Waldorf Educare in 2010 has been achieved. We were able to buy land and begin the process of registering both as a new initiative Waldorf School and an Educare Centre. We have been working closely with the Imhoff Waldorf School, the Federation of Waldorf Schools and the Centre for Creative Education.

We can now proudly say that we have paved the way to make Waldorf Education a reality in Masiphumelele.

With the help of Sally Berg and Anne Hanna and their Families, the Imhoff Waldorf School and a Swiss Italian Waldorf School we were able to buy a piece of land with a building. With the help of many more volunteers we were able to renovate and create a beautiful environment for the 30 children to attend the school. We are well received by the community and were full on the first day. We congratulate the teachers, especially Asanda. Siyakhula School is a Work for Love programme and our constitution has been amended to include the School.

In 2009 the school was still in the Wetlands. We doubled the size of the building. In July the school as forced to move. Patricia from Kiddies Corner was willing to share her space with 20 of the Siyakhula children and teachers from August to November. It is thanks to her generosity and Ubuntu spirit that the school could continue though this hard patch. We are grateful.

We hosted a graduation for the children going to grade one. They received a school readiness assessment from the therapists from the Chaeli Campaign.

The children went on various outings, learnt swimming and were taken to a play centre for a Christmas party.

PR and Fundraising:

Work for Love finally received its NPO status in March after a 2.5 years waiting period. We also received our PBO, Public Benefit Organisation, status which affords us tax exemption. Our Website is up and running and was updated once this year.

We were on TV. Our Wellness Morning, Outreach and Training were shown on Free Spirit. We have a Facebook Fan page with 180 members and a twitter feed with 400 members.

We made a pamphlet for the Siyakhula Building Project. 3 plaques were made for the Siyakhula School and a new banner for the Wellness Morning.

We had an article in the Full Circle Magazine in October, featured in the Echo for various events and in the Focus magazine. We are on the scenic south website.

Since October we have recruited a much needed volunteer who helps with our administration, Shirley Watchow.

We sold many t-shirts and cards. We did about 7 markets where massage was offered and a PR table was on display. We had a display as part of an art exhibition in Simon's Town.

Our fundraising efforts were still directed mainly at private donors and we have not expanded this side of our work.

We held an end of year party for all our members, volunteers and sponsors, a massage course graduation celebration in June last year and an Opening Celebration for the Siyakhula School in February. All events were beautiful community events with lots of singing, music and dancing.

Networking:

We maintain the Masiphumelele NGO Forum database and update it on a monthly basis and e-mail it to all NGOs in Masi. A hard copy is displayed at the Pink House. We initiated the Masi NGO Forum and chaired the Feeding Scheme Coordination Group. We made a database for all feeding schemes available and their recipients. Our aim is to distribute donations in a way that is fair, consistent, appropriate and effective to ensure the greatest possible empowerment and human dignity of the receivers and to continually find new ways to work together to improve the exchange we facilitate between those who want to help and those in need.

We regularly attend the SHARE NGO Networking meeting and were asked to give a talk there on our successful work with our volunteers.

Evaluation:

An outside volunteer offered to put together an outside view of our organisation. He is a professional doing evaluations of organisations. He has interviewed some of us but unfortunately not all of us and not some of our most core members due to time constraints. He will present us with a list of all the answers to the question received from members, peripheral contributors and participants to give us a better insight into what we represent to people at this meeting. His main suggestion is that we meet regularly for feedback and communication sessions to come more on the same page and build the community we want to see around us. For this we need to make time. He will present some of his findings today and I will have a further 5 hour meeting with him tomorrow. The document of his work will be available for all to view in the office.

Volunteers:

Work for Love's group of excellent and dedicated 100 plus volunteers worked independently and caringly in 2010. Thank you so much to each and every one of you.

We also hosted 8 overseas volunteers and many more short term volunteers, parishioners and students making sandwiches and collecting donations and patients in secondary care.