

August 2013

Dear Friends of Siphila Sonke,

The fierce winter storms that we have recently experienced are always a great reminder of how blessed those of us are who have solid homes, warm clothes, hot running water and food on our tables. As you can imagine, **winter is a particularly challenging time for many people in our community** and we are doing our best to support those who are desperately ill and/or in need. We are **currently supporting 62 beneficiaries and their families**.

Every now and then we receive **letters of thanks from those we support**, or see **examples of how Siphila Sonke has really been able to make a difference in the life of one of our beneficiaries**. We'd like to share some of these with you in our next few newsletters. Below is a letter we received from a beneficiary who lives in Rooidakke...

I just want to say thank you very, very much to Siphila Sonke for their help and patience, for what they did for me. They visited me and I was so deeply ill. I can do nothing for myself. I just fell over, could not eat or wash myself. Then.... Siphila Sonke helped me. I was sent to Caledon Hospital..... I got a drip and oxygen. The doctors then said there is nothing they can do for me. When I came home again, Siphila Sonke gave me E-pap in a feeding bottle to drink because my stomach was empty. I could not eat anything, just the E-pap. I want to say thank you very, very much thank you for what was done to help me. They did not get tired of me. They came to see me. Thank you very very much Siphila Sonke for your help, I appreciate it a lot. From xxx, 26 years old, no children and I live with my mother in her house. Thank you very much Siphila Sonke, may God bless my love for you. Thank you Jesus you saved me from death. I can now walk to the day hospital with my own two feet. Thank you dear Jesus for your strength, you keep me alive, without you I can do nothing."

Letter of thanks from a beneficiary – directly translated from Afrikaans

This kind of feedback makes our work seem worthwhile. However, **none of it is possible without your support**. We have **recently received some generous donations for which we are most grateful** and we would also like to thank everyone who supported our recent **fundraiser – the E&G Met – a night at the races!** Wow – what an evening it was! This was a first for Grabouw and by popular demand, we will be hosting it again next year during April. See below and the attached collage for some photos of this fun event...



Our **next fundraiser will be the Elgin Open Gardens where we will be serving teas and lunches at the Elgin United Church.** If you are able to assist in any way (donations of cakes/quiches or by helping with serving), please contact Rachelle at the office.

During the June-July school holidays, our **Kids Club enjoyed a visit from the Traffic Department** - 3 officers came and gave a talk on **Road Safety.** We then kicked off the third term with a **Hygiene theme** and discovered that most of our children don't have toothbrushes, so **any donations of toothbrushes will be much appreciated!**

We were most **grateful to pupils from Applewood Preparatory School for the pots of soup and piles of sandwiches they made for the Kids Club** children as part of their Mandela Day service. There were some heartwarming comments from the kids - "Kom kyk daars 'n tamatie in my sop!" and "Miss what is this in my soup?"- it was a baby marrow!



Road Safety talk



Mandela Day - Kids Club receives soup from Applewood Preparatory school pupils



At the end of last term, the children belonging to our smaller clubs were encouraged to show us their end of term reports. Siphila Sonke is proud that some of the **children attending Maths lessons have shown improvement.** One child's teacher even asked her if she is receiving extra help with Maths. We would like to **extend a hearty welcome to Louise Moss** who has joined our Kids Club volunteers to help with Reading and Maths.

On a sad note, many of you will be aware that we have recently had to say **goodbye to Reverend Neil Meyer,** Minister of the Elgin United Church. Neil and his family are moving to Scotland and will be sorely missed by us all at Siphila Sonke. Not only was he an active **member on the SS Board,** but he was also **instrumental in enabling Siphila Sonke to get to where it is today,** by securing generous funding and support from the Stormont Presbyterian Church in Ireland for a number of years. In particular, **we will miss Neil's incredible wisdom, enthusiastic and positive attitude and his absolute passion and commitment to serving the poor.** We thank him from the bottom of our hearts for all he has done for Siphila Sonke and in our community, and we wish him, Michelle, Brigid and Christine much happiness and fulfilment as they embark on their new journey.



Reverend Neil Meyer

And finally... a reminder that **your continued support in any form (donations, clothing, books, blankets and now toothbrushes!) is always hugely appreciated.** We would also **warmly welcome any new volunteers** who would like to join our team.

Warm regards
The Siphila Sonke team

"We can't help everyone but everyone can help someone" (Ronald Reagan)

**For enquiries or donations please contact Rachelle Appelo
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