



The Cradle of Hope

(Incorporated under Section 21) 2007/030236/08
NPO Registration Number 062-511-NPO

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“THE NEW BEGINNING”

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NEWSLETTER NUMBER 01/2009 – 12 JANUARY 2009

PLEASE DO NOT REPLY TO THIS E-MAIL ADDRESS!!!

Should you wish to send us an e-mail, please use one of the following e-mail addresses:

- **For all Administrative queries:**
admin@thecradleofhope.org
- **For all Financial queries:**
albertus@thecradleofhope.org
- **For all fundraising and donations queries:**
melodie@thecradleofhope.org or
petra@thecradleofhope.org

Dear Friends

Firstly, we would like to express our sincerest gratitude to all those who supported us in the last 10 months. Thank you very much all those who jumped in and got involved and helped. Thank you very much to all those who made donations, be it clothes, food, blankets, furniture, financial aid, etc. – we truly appreciate it all!

We also wish our donors a Happy New Year – we trust that God will bless you in all that you have planned for this year.

Once again, please accept our apologies if we failed to respond to your telephone call, sms or e-mail. We were so inundated with responses to our plight that we were simply unable to handle them all. The response was so great, that for months we worked 7 days a week with very little sleep.

After so much that has happened in the past 10 months – sometimes positive and sometimes utterly negative - we have come to realize that we must focus on assisting “**the children**”. At present, there are 94 children- all under the age of 18 years - living in the Krugersdorp Coronation Park Tent Village. Of these, **32 are toddlers**. (There are, however, wonderful successes of adults who lived in the Tent Village and who now live elsewhere, have jobs and are doing really well. We will tell you more about them in a future newsletter.)

These children did not ask to be born and definitely did not ask to live in this Tent Village. Here they are subjected to so many serious social evils and their world of experience is so terribly small. **We cannot, and may not, just turn away from this!!!**

We would like to stress that we do not only assist the children of the Coronation Park Tent Village, but also children from other areas who live under similar conditions.

CORONATION PARK STIMULATION GROUP:

The toddlers do not receive any form of pre-school education, therefore they are not properly prepared for Grade 1. They really struggle at school and within a year or two they are placed in special classes and eventually have to attend special schools. We are terribly excited about our project which we planned since July 2008 and that has sprung into action for the last 16 weeks!! We received a donation of a 30m² wooden cabin which we have transformed into a pre-school “stimulation group”. We currently operate the stimulation group on Mondays to Fridays from 10h00 to 11h30. We have volunteers who assist us with the “lessons” where the toddlers paint, draw, cut out, build puzzles, colour in, listen to stories and learn hard and become really clever!!

Here the toddlers also receive a sandwich with a tasty filling (e.g. peanut butter, egg-mayonnaise, ham and cheese, etc.), a protein (fishfinger, Vienna, etc.), a fruit and a glass of Milo or Nesquick or a glass of fruit juice.

It is of utmost importance that the food which they receive is fresh and wholesome. They are still growing and their brains need developing so that

they can grow up to be strong and clever. On this note we would like to appeal to all those wonderful donors, who visit the Tent Village and distribute packets of sweets and cold drinks among the children, to please discontinue this practice. The children do not brush their teeth regularly, so they have terrible problems with rotten teeth. When planning an outreach, we urge you to rather give the children Liquifruit or Milo and something wholesome to eat rather than sweets and red cold drink. There is a great need for fresh fruit at the Tent Village, which will assist in healthy growth of the children, many of whom suffer from poor concentration other learning disabilities - too much sugar, preservatives and colourants poison their little bodies.

The ladies who volunteered to teach the “class” had a very difficult time during the first few weeks. We noticed that the toddlers were unable to sit on a chair at a table – there are very few tables and chairs in the Tent Village, so they were not familiar with this concept. We also noticed that they **LACKED listening skills**. It was very difficult to try and teach them anything! During a lesson on “My face”, one of our volunteers, Aunty Linda, also noticed that many of the toddlers had never seen their reflection in a mirror! The few mirrors that are in the Tent Village are mounted so high on the walls of the ablution blocks that the children are unable to reach them. Aunty Linda immediately obtained mirrors and repeated the lesson with the toddlers. We also noticed that the toddlers never knew how to wash their hands and, once again, Aunty Linda made a plan. Since then, it has become a ritual for the children to wash their hands properly, with warm water and soap that foams, when they get to “school” each day. It is also a precious moment when food is handed out eat day and we thank our loving Jesus – everyone closes their eyes, put hands together and follow us in prayer.

We currently have the following urgent needs for the “stimulation group”

- **Volunteers** who can offer their services one or two mornings every week by assisting with the classes – we require 2 people daily. At least 16 toddlers attend class each day and we require the services of more than one lady to help catch up on the backlog. At this stage the backlog is so great, that we need retired teachers or ladies with pre-school experience to assist us. Our dream is that **a sponsor** will come forward who will pay the salary of a permanent teacher for the toddlers. We will then be able to lengthen the hours of the “stimulation group”, which is currently operating from 10h00 to 11h30 daily, to from 09h00 to 12h00 daily.

➤ **Donations of healthy food for the children. We have recently obtained our own** storeroom facility for the children's needs and all donations for the children are stored here under lock and key. Petra and I keep a very strict record and control of these donations at all times. **We urge you not to take ANY donations for the children directly to the Tent Village. Please notify Petra or me so that we can follow up on the receipt of these donations.**

We require the following food for the children:

- Sliced white or brown bread (we use 14 per day)
- Margarine
- Spreads e.g. Peanut butter, Syrup, Marmite, Fish Paste, Cheese Spread, Strawberry Jam, Mayonnaise, etc.
- Proteins e.g. Fish fingers, Chicken nuggets, Viennas, Cheese, Eggs, Ham, etc.
- Long life or fresh milk, Milo, Nesquik, Fruit juice concentrate in cans (we use about 15 litres per day)

➤ From January 2009, we would like to be able to give the children **1 cooked meal** a day e.g. macaroni and cheese, meatballs and mash and pumpkin. However, this depends totally on the donations received. On Fridays we give them a treat such as yoghurt, or jelly and custard, or ice-cream.

➤ 25 Litres of **Creosote** to paint the wooden cabin against termite infestation. The floor area of the hut is 30m².

➤ 1 or 2 **ceiling fans** to assist with the extremely hot conditions in the cabin.

➤ **Educational toys** and aids, story books, crayons, chalk, paper, paints, etc.

➤ The cabin's wooden floor is very unstable and we have received a promise of a sponsorship to have a **cement floor** laid. This can only be done towards the mid- January 2009.

➤ Although the **climbing apparatus** in the park is the property of the Town Council, it is in dire need of some attention. It is rusted and needs welding and a good coat of paint.

➤ 2 large **trees** have fallen over and need to be **chopped** up and

removed.

- A volunteer who could assist with “beautifying” the **garden** of the little school. We also need pretty **curtains** and someone who can make our little school “cute”.
- A **fence** around the little school area for control of admission and **burglar proofing** for the windows and door of the cabin. We would really appreciate it if someone could assist us with this because it is easy to break into the wooden cabin and steal our things.
- **Professional services** from Occupational Therapists, Remedial Teachers, Social workers, clinical psychologists, doctors, and dentists who are prepared to help the children at a **reduced fee**.
- **Volunteers who are based on the West Rand who are willing to get involved with our project in the following ways:**
 - Collection and offloading of donations
 - Receiving of donations and sponsorships at the Tent Village and our offices and co-ordination thereof
 - The purchasing of the food and groceries and the preparation thereof specifically for the children.
 - Transporting the children to therapists, doctors, dentists, etc.
 - Administrative work

Please contact me on 082 459 5747 if you are able to assist at an administrative level, or send an e-mail to melodie@thecradleofhope.org

- **Individuals or Organisations who can assist us with Fundraising Projects** e.g. arranging a Golf Day on our behalf. Fundraising is an ENORMOUS task and we cannot make a difference on our own. Please contact Petra on 083 267 7707 if you are able to assist with fundraising.

If you wish to get involved with helping these children, we would greatly appreciate it if you could support our “**ASSIST A CHILD**” project by making a monthly contribution. Debit order forms are available from our website, www.thecradleofhope.org. No amount is too big or too small – it all adds up to enable us to help the children!!!

Donation Certificates are available and can be submitted, together with

your Annual Tax Return, to SARS for a rebate. Please fax your deposit slip / proof of payment to us on **011 955 5112** together with your request for a Donation Certificate and we will forward one to you. Please ensure that you enclose all your particulars.

If, however, you do not wish to sign a debit order instruction form, but would like to make a contribution to the “**ASSIST A CHILD**” project, our banking details are:

THE CRADLE OF HOPE No. 2 ASSIST A CHILD account

First National Bank

Keywest

Branch Code: 256 955

Account Number: 6219 699 4498

This newsletter is also available in Afrikaans on our web page www.thecradleofhope.org.

Should you no longer wish to receive e-mails from us, please notify us by e-mail at admin@thecradleofhope.org and your address will be removed from our database.

Thanking you all very much for all your love and support and your willingness to get involved.

With love and best wishes

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THE CRADLE OF HOPE

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