



Lucky Point Foundation - Review 2015 / 2016

It was both an exciting but also intense year for Lucky Point, we grow stronger and our influence amongst the community continues to grow. I am happy to say that the people who reside in Botrivier recognize that Lucky Point is now a permanent part of the society and that its purpose will benefit all those who wish it to.

The manner in which the community participate and support us is truly gratifying and we could wish for no more.

Happily the children both young and old relate closely to the project and through their participation take on their own involvement responsibly. This year we have helped to reintroduce some children back to school and away from the danger of local gangs and drugs, we have continued to feed and nourish young children after school and in the Crèche.

Life for everyone is not all roses, we have lost children through illness, accidents but supported families through their loss.

Frustrations lie in the continual difficulty in agreeing conditions for the lease of the Youth Centre and the new Recycling facility, like many people in South Africa we have to be determined patient apolitical and committed to our beliefs.

Without you our dear friends this would not be possible, the support you have shown us throughout these past years has been indispensable and we thank you from the bottom of our hearts.



Your Lucky Point Team
Margrit, Elizabeth, Claudia und die Kinder

ELIZABETH AND CLAUDIA'S VISIT TO SWITZERLAND

A friend of Lucky Point, after his visit to our project in Botrivier seeing the tremendous work Elizabeth and Claudia do, decided to pay for their tickets to Switzerland. It was a huge surprise for them and they could hardly believe this dream coming true.

Their holiday started with the Charity Night where they mixed easily with all our friends and enjoyed a very special evening and of course were the stars of the evening.

For two weeks, we travelled around and were hosted by many of our Lucky Point friends. I was amazed to see how easily they adapted and enjoyed whatever came there way. I was able to show them a procession from the alpine pastures.

What an absolute impressive happening for Elizabeth because all these cow bells were making music for her, it was her birthday! She will never forget and the hard-working farmers too who left a big impression on her.



“My experience in Switzerland was amazing, to see all the beautiful lakes and mountains. All the different food and to do all the things I dreamt about. What I also realized after such a wonderful visit and the great hospitality I experienced was how much I appreciate my own country and its people, what I have in South Africa are happy people no matter what their circumstances are”, says Claudia.

Extremely motivated they happily flew back home, with a happy and grateful heart.

CHARITY NIGHT 2016

All of us at Lucky Point had the desire to thank our friends for their generosity, trust and support of our project since its inception. The theme of our evening was “Thank you”!

Our special guest for the evening were Elizabeth and Claudia and with the talent of our Master of Ceremonies Matthias Hüppi, they were not shy to share with our friends stories of their daily lives with Lucky Point, the impact of the children and their families and the pride they take in being part of our ever increasing group.

It was a wonderful African evening full of fun and guests enjoyed the opportunity of demonstrating their musical talents as well.



A big thank you to:

- Martina Wissman and Patrick&Friends for the concept, overall planning, décor, musical and technical requirements. Perfect as always.
- Matthias Hüppi was a great Master of Ceremonies. With compassion and commitment, he was leading through the evening.
- KapeWeine, Wädenswil, for the beautiful wine at a very special price.

And thank you all for coming and making the evening so very special.

CHRISTMAS BASH

With great excitement the line began to grow, more and more children chattered to each other waiting for the doors to open for our Christmas party.

They had prepared little shows to perform, to entertain us, Father Christmas this year was Philip Titley, a friend from England who soon was into the swing of things.



The time for handing out the presents came and with last years' experience we knew we had to wrap more gifts, but no 450 presents were not enough, 500 came! We decided to arrange for the other 50 to be handed out a few days later.

All were happy now for NEXT YEAR!

A DAY AT THE BEACH

The school begins in the middle of January, just before it starts we take the kids to the beach. We never know how many will arrive but as the line of excited children grew and grew, we knew we were in for a busy day, we announced the beach day only two days before and soon, very soon 100 little one stood waiting patiently for the transport to the beach.

Once there the children flew wherever they could. Adults were like hawks, swooping here there everywhere making sure they were safe and sound.



Suddenly the air was perfumed by the smell of sausages, Elizabeth working away in the background at the fireplace, was the signal for the charge for food. Patiently they waited until the delicious goodies arrived it was the only way we get them away from the water.

Thanks to all those who helped make the day a great success, the bus drive home was in silence, they were exhausted, it was a great day.

REOPENING AFTERCARE IN NEW FRANCE

In January we reopened our Aftercare, in line with the beginning of the new school year.

New France is the area where the poorest of the poor live and where help is most needed.

Since Irene, who was in charge of the Aftercare in New France for many years, has left us because her mother needed her at home in the Eastern Cape, we had to look out for another place for the kids.

We were very lucky to find Maria who also lives in New France and was more than happy to take over from Irene. Attached to her wooden house, we built- on an additional room where the kids have a shelter and save place for them to play.



Maria is such a bubbly person herself, so it was easy for her to gain the children's heart. With much love and compassion she cares for them and she also loves cooking, so they never go home hungry!

A DAY OUT WITH CRECHE CHILDREN

The main school holidays in South Africa commence in the middle of December, just prior we took 20 of our youngest kids to an exciting playground designed especially for younger children.



Here they participate in train rides, jumping the trampoline and even horse riding, activities, these children are normally unable to visit such a facility.

After 3 hours exhausting fun we joined together for delicious fish and chips, easy food for us all and then it was back to the Crèche and a final sleep before returning home.

WEEKEND AT DE HOOP NATURE RESERVE

As we did last year and because the children enjoyed it so much, we repeated our trip to the De Hoop Nature Reserve. In March we spent a weekend at De Hoop Nature Reserve with 30 children between 12 and 15 years.

To put their name on the entry list they had to bring 200 points. Friday night we arrived at the camp, settled in and enjoyed dinner cooked by our kitchen staff; Elizabeth and Shirley, they did a wonderful job and made us all happy with their delicious food.

De Hoop embraces 36'000 hectares of land and an additional 5 km marine reserve – which makes it one of the largest nature reserve in South Africa.



Besides a lot of fun, being at the beach or hiking through unspoiled nature, it was an educational weekend for all of us.

What a privilege to spend a weekend in this paradise!

CONTAINER

We had two containers arriving from Switzerland, both packed with donated goods from our friends. It is absolutely amazing how generous people are and go the extra mile to contribute to our project.

Just an example: There were some women around Weggis, Switzerland, who sat together and wrapped with lots of compassion nearly 200 Christmas presents, all labelled with age and girl or boy. This for us is a big help since you all can imagine how many kids will be waiting for a present at our next Christmas party in December 2017.



Besides that we received all kind of things: sport goods, shoes, toys, games and all sorts of household goods.

Also lots of clothes, which again was a huge challenge to bring through customs in Cape Town because of a change of import rules once again!! After over two months in the State Warehouse waiting for the approved paperwork from Pretoria, we finally managed to get them out and delivered to Botrivier, where it was welcomed with great joy and happiness.

These containers were only possible because of Patricia Thaddey and her team, who tirelessly worked but also had lots of fun together. And Hohle Gasse AG, Immensee, who without any charges let us use their facilities. A big thank you to all of you!

Although we think this container business is a good thing for Lucky Point, not only in South Africa but also in Switzerland it teaches the kids (and adults) about our philosophy of Recycling: don't throw away, it will always be useful to someone somewhere in the world. So, when you have finished with it yourself, give it to someone who may need it or at least appreciate it.

We are always assessing or considering continuing with the containers as the cost is continually rising, for the containers, shipping and delivering to Botrivier. Of course as long as it is of value to the children, we will continue. In the meantime we are incredibly grateful for the tremendous support you have all shown us. Thank you!

VISIT OF AMBASSADOR OF SWITZERLAND

We were honoured by the visit of the Ambassador of Switzerland Ms. Helene Budliger Artieda together with her husband.



They were keen to learn all about the Lucky Point Recycling concept and all our other projects we run in Botrivier.

We spoke about the Youth Centre we are going to build and all the difficulties which comes with it. They were as enthusiastic as we are about all the opportunities the Youth Centre will provide to all the children, youth and their families in Botrivier.

And the Ambassador can't wait to celebrate the opening of this Centre with us.

UPDATE ON THE LUCKY POINT YOUTH CENTRE AND RECYCLING

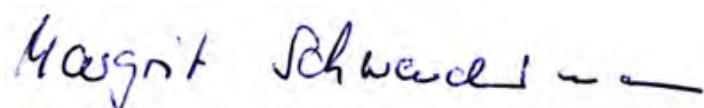
“Patience is bitter, but its fruit is sweet” – Aristotle

I suppose you could say that this is the position we find ourselves in at the moment? Fighting bureaucracy, inefficiency and all of its associated ills. To say we are disappointed by a few would be truest appears there will always be some who have their own interests at heart and this is where we direct our energy, to overcome in the fight to achieve our vision.

I cannot deny that I have been disappointed with the performance of the municipality, having first agreed to the lease and then adding obstructive or financial clauses from different departments it seems, which impede our progress.

With the end vision in mind and our focus on the youth of Botrivier we will continue to fight for what we believe to be essential for the health and benefit of this community and pray that: “The fruit is sweet”!

With much love



Margrit Schwendimann

SAVE THE DATE

Lucky Point Charity Night

Monday, **September 18, 2017** in Zürich. Invite to follow.