



Lucky Point Foundation - Review 2012 / 2013

Summer in South Africa was great and exceptionally interesting, full of exciting moments. I will try and put together some of the highlights.

From our small team at Lucky Point, thank you so much all of you for the wonderful support you have given us. Whatever you have given us, your contribution goes directly to the benefit of our project.

You have made a difference to the children and they do know there are many people from around the world who do care.

It is a privilege for me to be part of this small but wonderful team but maybe even more to understand how many kind and generous people are around us.



Your Lucky Point Team

Margrit Schwendimann, Elizabeth Jacobs & Claudia Delport

CONTAINER

At the end of November, a container left Switzerland for Cape Town. The container was full, very full, in fact 2000kg of clothing, bicycles, toys, 4 sewing machines and general household goods.

Although we completed all the required documentation before the container left Switzerland, we encountered a “Mission Impossible” experience on its arrival in Cape Town. To make a long story short, the container after two months of being “marooned” in the harbour eventually was delivered with great excitement to Botrivier.

It was almost dark when the huge truck arrived at our recycling area and it was going to be a serious challenge for the driver to unload the container into its correct but very small position. I like to think that with the help of the so many men, women and children excited by the thought of all the wonderful things hidden behind the giant doors before them. The darkness prevented many pictures being taken and so we decided to do the grand opening the following morning.



As the sun shone down on expectant faces the container was opened and many smiling faces realized all the wonderful thing that their hard earned points could be exchanged for, not the least of which with winter not too far off was the warm clothing and good quality shoes. It was a huge relief for the people.

Good News was, there was not one item missing. “Mission Impossible” came to a very happy end and it was so worthwhile for all the effort both financial and physical put in by so many people and particularly both those sponsors who gave so generously..

CHRISTMAS

We held two Christmas parties, one among the shacks and the other one at our Playroom.

Father Christmas (Stuart) and Gill Heritage did a great job entertaining the kids. Stuart and Gill who the kids call Ouma and Oupa, spend two afternoons a week with the children, playing, singing and reading them stories. Their involvement makes a huge difference to the children`s lives and we would like to thank them for their valuable time and love shown.

Christmas as always was fun and full of excitement and surprises. Enough food for everyone and a small present for everyone ...

I should mention that all the presents that came with the container are nicely packed away and will be given to the children next Christmas. There are over a hundred presents for our children.



I particularly wish to mention Barbara Hugi, her family and friends who provided the Lucky Point children with nearly a hundred gifts. Thank you!

BICYCLES

In the middle of December we were able to hand out 40 Bicycles to children who had collected 1000 points, in work terms this adds up to about six months of hard work. In time for Summer the children only stood in amazement as they realised the reward their hard work had brought them.

It is difficult to imagine what it is like for these children, not long ago they had no prospect or chance to ever get a Bicycle, only to dream about it and now they proudly stand alongside their much desired prize.



The lesson is a simple but important one. " I CAN DO IT ".

CRECHE

In January we received from the Government the long awaited document officially registering us as a Crèche.

This means we can apply for Government support which also includes some financial assistant for each child we have in our care, because of this we can reduce our tariffs thus encouraging more parents who presently are

unable to afford to send their children to the have the possibility to do so. The reduction in fees will also provide relief for the existing families..



From day one our commitment was to make the Crèche self-sustaining and this remains our priority.

MEGAN'S BABY

Two years ago we helped a young girl called Megan to enter a drug rehabilitation centre (drugs are still one of the major challenges for children in Botrivier).

Megan had shown a willingness, almost a desperation to get her life back. We are thrilled to say that she has achieved that. Megan gave birth to baby “Canyon” and her next step is with the support of a sewing machine from the container she will be able with her love of designing clothes to start a small business from home.

We are so proud to see how with the right support this once young, shy insecure girl has blossomed into a responsible young woman and mother .



I will keep you updated on her progress.

OUR FIRST CAR

We have our first little car now, it's a Opel Bakkie (Pick-up) and trailer. The vehicle gives us the freedom to transport our own recycling material, to locate the best recycling station where we get paid the best price and also independence of movement, we are no longer dependent (but always grateful) on the goodwill of others. The lack of any form of affordable public transport system in the area creates enormous logistical problems.



The vehicle is such a godsend for us and is a very gracious donation from Dr. Peter Zwahlen and his wife Beatrice. This wonderful generous couple have supported Lucky Point from its inception. Thank you both so very much.

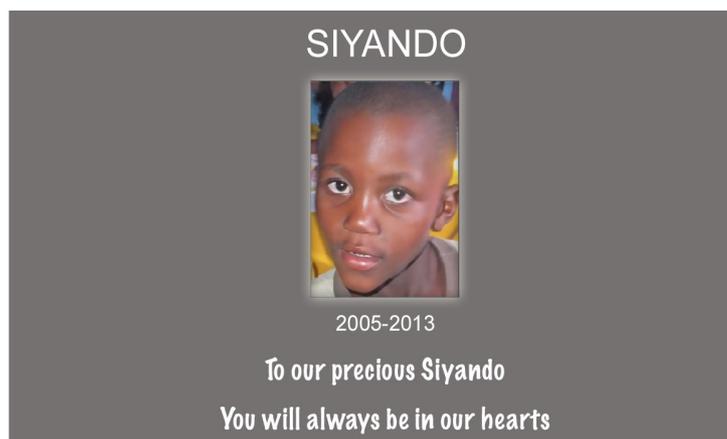
SIYANDO

Besides all of the happy and satisfying moments we share, there are sad ones as well.

Siyando (8) a happy boy who was always around in our playroom is not with us anymore.

Botrivier does not offer any facilities where children can play so they have to entertain themselves. Like all village in the area Botrivier has a dam which is fenced to keep children out. Like all adventurous kids though they make holes in the fence in which they can sneak through and play on a hot summer day, next to the water.

Siyando slipped and fell into the water and disappeared to the shock of the friend with him. Siyando's body was only recovered two days later and the village was overtaken with sadness.



Lucky Point assisted where possible with support for the family. Elizabeth who lives next door to the family cooked for them and Lucky Point provided some financial help to assist with the funeral.

The tragedy of this incident brings home how important our work here amongst this community is. It is so important that we continue to do whatever we possibly can to create and provide facilities where children can meet, play and learn together. This is why our work is so important.

MARIMBA

Children love to play Marimbas, its fun and brings them all together. Music as we know brings great joy to people and with sport probably is responsible for more group togetherness than almost anything else.

Presently although they have a Marimba class in Botrivier they have to travel to Kleinmond (about 40km return) to practice as they have no instruments of their own at school.

Botrivier is in the heart of the winelands area, the wine estates conduct many functions to entertain their customers. The estates love it when the children go there and play for them. Without instruments of their own this is not always possible as they need to borrow from the Kleinmond school which also use them.

As we see this as a further opportunity in which children can involve themselves in a more creative healthy environment, where they are able to overcome any lack of confined in visiting affluent areas and where they can earn a little money and received recognition which we believe is so important for their future development.

We are in contact with the school now and are in the process of buying the instruments needed, if we can afford it. We will keep you informed how it worked out.



Who knows, when you come to visit Lucky Point in Botrivier our children may welcome you to the sound of Marimba`s.

VISION 2018

As you can see our project is achieving much and our involvement in the community is significant. Our achievements in the past 5 years while satisfying also brings to our attention the REAL need of the community, particularly where we can assert influence and make a difference.

We have identified the following needs which we believe we are in a position to assist and influence.

There is no doubt this town Botrivier and its 8000 inhabitants need for the children and youth a meeting point where

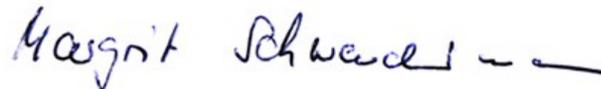
- They can play Table tennis, Snooker, chess and other games
- A stage where music can be played, concerts conducted, plays performed movies shown and educational lectures carried out
- A kitchen where daily food can be provided to the hungry, food for functions, Christmas parties
- A study room for kids to do their homework. Many children simply do not have a quiet area at home in which they can quietly concentrate and do their schoolwork, something which most of us take for granted
- Rooms for workshops, wirework, glasswork, painting, reading or music practice
- A small apartment with at least three rooms for people who come to teach may stay. We are approached constantly by intelligent young people from Europe who wish to volunteer both their time and skills to teach the children, to motivate them, to mentor them. The opportunity for the kids to meet other young people from Europe and other places around the world.

All of these pieces can be put together to provide these children and their parents with a stable secure society with opportunity but most of all HOPE.

YESTERDAY IS BUT TODAY'S MEMORY AND TOMORROW IS TODAY'S DREAM

This is our vision, our commitment and passion is focused completely on opening such a centre for Lucky Points 10 years anniversary in 2018.

With much love



Margrit Schwendimann

SAVE THE DATE

Lucky Point Charity Event on September 23 in Zurich.

LUCKY POINT GOES SOCIAL

We are re-designing our website (August 2013) and are also a happy member of the social media world as of now.

Visit us on Facebook, YouTube and follow us on Twitter - doing so you will always be informed about Lucky Point and also, you may get in touch with us anytime and share your thoughts.

Please find all links on our „News“ section on the website.