

Abounding Hope 2018, 1st & 2nd Quarterly Report

Dear Stakeholders,

First off we apologize for the late news-letter. We have been so busy with administrative back log that has come our way, as the organization has grown, However we now finally have a gap and so you are going to be blessed with an extra-long newsletter which will cover all the "going-ons" over the last 6 months. As usual we hope you enjoy reading about our challenges, progress and successes which without your support would be insurmountable.

Interesting News

Staff & Kids Christmas Party and Crèche Graduation



As we closed off last year, there was tremendous excitement from the approximately forty children as we prepared a Christmas party for them with the help of Gates of Praise church and Silver Liners (the senior citizens of Gates of Praise). They had a fantastic time. We also had a graduation ceremony for the twenty Grade Rs who have started Primary School this year.



As a huge thank you to all the staff who have contributed to helping us throughout the year, we took them to a Christmas dinner at the Spur Restaurant, and presented each of them with a small gift for their outstanding work. The twelve of them were ecstatic and the whole function was very moving.

Eco-Toilets

For those of you who have had the pleasure of visiting the crèche at Masinenge, I am sure you would have noticed the terrible state of the toilets that the children have to use. Through the Ward Councilor Paul Brauteseth we met a very generous man named John Viljoen who has developed a very safe biodegradable product which he sells and markets in rural areas all over Africa where people are forced to use pit toilets. It has worked wonders on keeping the toilets more sanitary. Just 3 days after application the product had successfully eliminated the terrible odour of the toilets.

Both the staff, the children and us are especially grateful and will continue to use this.



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Abounding Hope

Community Development

175-459 NPO

Generational Integration

One of our beloved Silver Liner Grannies, who is an ex school teacher, has very kindly offered to visit Masinenge once a week and teach the children English and basic biblical knowledge about Jesus. Her patience and expertise has been invaluable and she has also passed on some classroom running tips to our current teachers. For example she has helped reorganize the children into smaller groups to help manage them better.

She is loving it and the kids look so forward to her visits every week. This is quite a feat considering she is a 74 year old woman. We truly honor her for her generous time.



Masterclass Seminar

At the end of March we had 2 volunteers from a Dutch consulting company visit the Genesis Community Centre at Norwegian Settlers church who ran a management seminar for South African NGO executives and other interested parties. It was a fascinating 3 days, where we had a complete restructuring of our way of thinking concerning the management of people. It was interesting to note the emphasis on soft and not hard skills of the people and how it was about finding the right person and setting them free to establish their own systems using their own creativity, rather than predefining a role and trying to find someone to fit into that. This way encourages people to take ownership of their role within the organization and to contribute over and above what is expected of them, rather than them just doing their job.

Another interesting thing was communication. It was really eye opening how different kinds of people communicate in different ways, and how it was important to get the message across to the individual in the "language" they understood.

We are very grateful to both Marieke and Peter for their generous and valuable time and hope to see them again in the future.



Some case work reports...



Although not often mentioned a large part of our ministry involves visiting people who are in crisis and offering them both spiritual (prayer), and where necessary nutritional and medical support. Over the last 6 months there have been many cases worth mentioning, though there are too many to list. We have had to deal with rape, child abuse, physical abuse, prostitution, gangrene, burn victims, amputations, tuberculosis, arson (shacks being burnt down), etc.

All the criminal cases have been followed up on, and with the help of our Community Care Givers have been successful.

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Project Status

Crèche

As we have mentioned Amy has joined the team once a week to teach the children English. We also have two new assistant teachers, namely Brenda Jali and Portia Mcunu. Both are very enthusiastic and love the children. They have attended Tree training (early childhood development teachers training) and have also been providing a great deal of support to Nokuthula, who is recovering from an illness. Please keep her and them, and the children, in your prayers.



We also are very happy to report that Natal Portland Cement (NPC) has taken an interest in the crèche and are assisting us financially in the process of registering it with the Department of Social Development.

Soup Kitchen

The Soup Kitchen continues to run effectively, feeding approximately 70 HIV, tuberculosis and diabetes patients who are too ill to work. Thank you so much for your continued support and donations.



Skills Training

A few weeks ago we were invited to look at a skills training center here in the South Coast called Sweetdale. They have a very impressive setup. They have approximately 40 trainees who commit to a full years training with them. They run a very strict regimen and even though they temporarily sacrifice their freedom they gain extreme skills in wood and metal work, brick laying, basic electricity and plumbing. Once they have completed their training those with the aptitude are selected to do another year where they study entrepreneurship relevant to their craft. They are mentored and guided from start to finish through original business concept and feasibility studies to marketing.



Their main drive is not the hard skills training above, but life skills training. In fact in order to qualify for the hard skills you have to have passed their soft skills program. This is a program that teaches them communication and general social skills and integrity, and focuses on forging a positive productive attitude within their apprentices.

It is these very same life skill programs we are examining very closely on the feasibility of implementing them in Masinenge. We look forward to telling you more in following newsletters

Video

Six month ago we decided we wanted to do something to show all our donors just how their support impacts the lives of the people they help. A lovely woman named Shannon Thiel who works at the South Coast Recovery Centre met us in August last year during knitting classes in Masinenge. One thing led to another and it turned out she studied videography majoring in documentaries. We couldn't let the opportunity pass us by and she gladly volunteered to help us.

So now it is with extreme excitement we can report that our documentary video is complete. We have just seen the "director's cut" and it is everything and more than we were hoping for. Sadly we will not immediately be posting it to YouTube or Facebook yet, as it is so good that we are hoping to enter it into some film festivals.

That said, we cannot wait to show it to all of you, so you can see and enjoy firsthand the work that your support enables us to carry out and the lives you are touching.



Thanks

With the greatest amount of gratitude and appreciation we would like to thank the following people and organizations: (In no particular order or preference)

- Ramsgate Lions – for their donations of food and offering to help organize a golf day
- Gates of Praise – for Christmas hampers
- Silver Liners – for Crèche Christmas party
- Give a child a Family – for organizational resources and financial assistance
- Natal Portland Cement – for financial assistance
- Susan Theunissen at Christelikke Maatskaplikke Dienst – for consultation on matters pertaining to the crèche
- Magdalena Stenlund and Kasja Rudenstam for continued financial and prayer support
- Viyuna Trust – for financial donation
- Stephen Herbst – for drone footage
- Shannon Thiel and South Coast Recovery Center – for filming and editing documentary video

To all our donors, thank you so much for your efforts and continued support. For those of you who feel led to assist and partner with us we would encourage you to set up monthly debit orders to our bank account. For those of you who feel led to support in means other than financial, we still require implements for the garden, equipment for the crèche, and continued support of stock for our soup kitchen. Our next big project will be life skills training, which we hope to start by the fourth quarter of this year. If you feel led to support us in this regard, please contact us directly.



That is it for now. Please be sure to follow us on facebook under <https://www.facebook.com/aboundinghopecd/> for more information and pictures. Again, thank you for your continued support, it is really exciting to see God's plans for this community come to life before our eyes.

All our love

Abounding Hope Team