



Manzini Youth Care

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April to July 2007 Review

Dear Friends of Manzini Youth Care,

2007 has really been flying by for us so far. Here's the latest update on what have been a busy few months...

EGP 2007 - Building a new soup kitchen

At the beginning of June we welcomed this year's group of Edinburgh University Students on the Edinburgh Global Partnership (EGP) programme. This year's project sees them constructing a new soup kitchen in Masakweni, one of the peri-urban communities around Manzini. These areas are generally lacking severely in basic services such as sewage, clean water, schools, medical centres, roads and robust houses. These communities have extremely high unemployment rates amongst the adults, and also high HIV/AIDS rates leaving many children struggling to get enough to eat each day. When completed, the children, elderly and sick of the community will receive one substantial meal every Monday to Friday. This is a significant offering in a community whereby such a meal is not always guaranteed, in the face of widespread poverty, unemployment and sickness. For the children, this will assist in their physical growth as well as their ability to concentrate at school. For the elderly and sick, the meal will reduce the burdens on their carers and support those people taking anti-retrovirals who need to eat when taking medication.



Local Soccer League



In May the boys were invited to join a local soccer league. Try outs were held and 35 boys were selected, forming two separate teams. The team names, chosen by the boys, are the Shooting Stars and the Dynamos. The boys meet for practice three times a week and are steadily improving. Whether they win or lose, this is a fantastic opportunity for the boys, allowing them to improve their football skills, whilst also teaching them invaluable team work skills, thus contributing to their personal development. Of course, there are extra costs associated with their participation in the

league, particularly in relation to the extra petrol required for transporting the boys home after practices. We are currently seeking sponsorship to help cover the costs, so if anyone is interested in helping, please contact Anna in the Development Office on bosco@swazi.net

The Honey Factory

After a few initial set backs the Honey Factory is now complete, with the majority of the equipment installed. In June a training weekend was held for staff, teaching them how to use the new factory equipment. 2.5 tonnes of honey have already been collected with 35,000 Emalangi paid out to rural beekeepers. As soon as the final piece of equipment arrives, production can begin. Clever local marketing has ensured that interest levels are high, and we're expecting the honey to fly off the shelves.



Visitors

The past month has been a busy time for visitors, corresponding with school holidays in the UK and Ireland. The end of June saw Fr Martin McCormack's regular group of 15-17 year olds spend time in Manzini, as part of their tour of the Southern African Salesian Missions. Three members of the group have stayed on to spend a month volunteering with MYC.



This was followed by a visit from 16 students and four teachers from St Anthony's school in Sunderland, UK. The St Anthony's girls worked with some of the boys to repaint four of the rooms at the Sikhunyana home. The boys and house parents are all very grateful for their work. Everyone agrees that painting these rooms has made a big improvement to the communal areas of the home, making them much brighter and lighter.

Thank you's

We're fortunate to have many people to thank in this month's newsletter. Our thanks goes to the following people and groups in particular for their donations and support over the past months: Fr Martin McCormack and friends; Link Charity UK; Kathy Keary and friends; the Salesian Mission Office in Johannesburg; Telluride and the Hendrikson Family. The start of August will see the departure of Allyson Chisholm, who has been volunteering with us for almost a year now. We'd like to thank her for all her tireless dedication to MYC and the boys, and her willingness to take on any task no matter how big or small. She's been a real asset to the organisation and will be sorely missed by us all.

Thank you for your continual support, interest and prayer. We always look forward to hearing your news, advice and well wishes. God Bless.

Fr Larry