



Manzini Youth Care

P.O. Box 3700 Manzini Swaziland

Phone: (+268) 505 6963

E-mail: sdbosco@realnet.co.sz

Web: www.salesiansmyc.com

November to December 2007 Review

Dear Friends of Manzini Youth Care,

Belated seasons greetings to you all. We hope you had a joyous and peaceful Christmas and New Year surrounded by loved ones. It's been an unusual festive season for us here, as we've seen a mixture of hot and cool days, instead of the usual un-requiting heat of this time of the year. This has given us a chance to relax and recuperate, leaving us refreshed and ready to face the challenges and opportunities of 2008.

NEW EMAIL ADDRESS - reminder

Just to remind you all of the changes to our email address. Our new email addresses are:

Fr Larry - sdbosco@realnet.co.sz

Development Office - bosco@realnet.co.sz

We'll have to close our old swazi.net inboxes in the next couple of months, so please update your records if you haven't already.



Here are some of the highlights of the last couple of months...

Christmas Festivities



In the run up to Christmas, MYC volunteers and Salesians organised a wonderful activities programme for our boys and other young people around Manzini. Amongst other things, the programme included a weeklong soccer tournament, culminating in a grand prize giving, and saw the new, purpose built, cinema room at the Youth Centre operational for the first time. There are very few such programmes provided for kids in Manzini during the holidays, so this was a big success with over 150 kids attending throughout the week. A big thank you to all of those who dedicated their time and energy to making it such a hit.

This year, by popular demand, we repeated last year's successful Christmas trips to Mlilwane Nature Reserve. Over two days, we piled all 120 boys into the bakkies and took them away from the city for a day of swimming, nature viewing, and, most importantly, eating! The boys' thoroughly enjoyed the day, and were reluctant to leave when it was time to go home. These Christmas outings are becoming a highlight of the Christmas season for the boys and we are grateful to those who made these trips possible.

In preparation for Christmas day, MYC volunteers spent hours sifting through piles of donated clothing and other donated items preparing them for distribution to the boys. On Christmas day volunteers played Santa, delivering goodie bags filled with toiletries, stationery and sweets to the eagerly awaiting boys. Thanks to everyone who contributed to these goodie bags, which, along with the clothing, included toothbrushes, soap and pens.



Swazi Ball 2007 - Listowel, Ireland

Every year, friends from Listowel, Ireland, hold a very successful ball in aid of the work of the Salesians in Swaziland. This year was no exception. Fr Pat Ahern was at home to attend the ball again this year, and the event was extremely successful with a significant amount of money raised for the work of the Salesian community here in Manzini, including, of course, the work of Manzini Youth Care. Sincere thanks to all those involved in the organisation of this wonderful annual event.

Menzi Update



The last newsletter contained information about Menzi Matsebula, son of Cedric, the House Father at Enjabulweni. Just after that newsletter was sent out the Matsebula family returned from a clinic in Johannesburg with the news that Menzi's haemophilia is far more severe than was at first thought. The clinic discovered that he is suffering from Severe Haemophilia B Factor IX <1%. Menzi will have to travel to Jo'burg every 3 months to visit the Clinic. Each time he will need to receive treatment to the value of ZAR6,919.32. In between visits, whenever he bleeds, he needs to be treated with an injection of Haemosolvex Factor IX, which costs ZAR1153.22. Assuming that he will need up to at least 30 of these treatments a year (2 a month, plus spares), the total treatment bill will come to approximately ZAR66,600, or around GBP4750 each year.

This is a tremendous amount of money and, thanks to the generosity of several of our former volunteers, we have already been able to secure annual donation commitments to cover around half of this sum. However, in order to secure this treatment for Menzi in the long term, we still need to secure commitments of donations to cover the other half. If you are able to help, please contact Anna in the Development Office for more information by emailing bosco@realnet.co.sz

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