



# Manzini Youth Care



## August 2009 to November 2009 Review

Dear Friends of Manzini Youth Care,

In a climate of financial instability and unpredictability, the generosity of Manzini Youth Care's friends is once again much appreciated and key to the ongoing development of our core activities. Nevertheless, amidst these hard financial times, many new and exciting activities have taken place over the last four months. With this newsletter, we would like to share with you what has happened.

### Buy Eswatini at Ngwenya Glass

October 20<sup>th</sup> saw the official opening of our new classy and cozy Eswatini shop at the Ngwenya Glass Factory. The shop sells products from all three income generating companies of Manzini Youth Care: Imvelo Eswatini, Eswatini Kitchen and Eswatini Kitchen Honey. Clients can choose between tasting some sweet Eswatini Honey or can burn their tongue at our Award winning Swazi fire. Tourists desiring to surprise people at home with a delicately handcrafted ceramic necklace can fill their suitcases with colourful bracelets, handbags and jewelry. Pablo (Eswatini Kitchen), Becky, (Imvelo Eswatini), Linda (Imvelo Eswatini) and Cristina (Imvelo Eswatini) worked the clock round to make the shop look beautiful and get everything ready before the opening. With great result: the shop is looking stunning, attracting large numbers of tourists and visitors from the passing tour buses every day. The first results promise the shop to become a highly successful outlet for all MYC's products.



### Marimbas preformed at the 1st Tilabani Awards

On the 14<sup>th</sup> of November the MYC Marimba Boys participated in the highly prestigious Swazi Tilabani Awards. They welcomed celebrities and guests from all over Swaziland with their new tunes which they learned at an international marimba workshop in South Africa 6 weeks ago. At this marimba workshop, they became the 2<sup>nd</sup> winner in a fierce competition with six other regional marimba bands! With their new traditional haircuts the boys were also allowed to attend the Award ceremony of the Tilabani Awards, which was widely broadcasted on national television. Apart from making the MYC Marimba Band more popular in Swaziland, this event greatly helped bringing Marimba music closer to the audience. All guests and our Marimba Boys enjoyed the evening thanks to excellent entertainment and good food afterwards!



### Eswatini Honey Training Centre

The Eswatini Honey Factory is busy preparing the launch of Manzini Youth Care's own **Eswatini Honey Training Center**. Thanks to funding from USAID, Manzini Youth Care started a new project in collaboration with the Diocese of Manzini and Caritas to improve the social and economic wellbeing of Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVCs) in Swaziland. In specific, MYC aims at HIV/AIDS affected families in rural areas, providing both the youngest and the eldest (OVCs and grandparents) with a means to generate income for themselves and their dependants: honey.

Eswatini Honey has been training beneficiaries on how to build and manage beehives since 2007. On top of this, Eswatini Honey has provided beekeepers with a market outlet by purchasing their honey at fair and decent prices. Eswatini Honey is now the biggest honey producer in Swaziland, selling approximately 1 ton of honey to various supermarket chains per month.

Until now, the beekeeping training was outsourced to independent Training Centers, immensely driving up the costs through high consultancy charges. From January 2010 onwards, MYC will be running its own Honey Training Centre. The 6-day training will include bee hive building and management, theory on how to care for bees, practical beehive construction sessions, field visits as well as a module on psychosocial care and support for caregivers and OVCs.





### Focus on Breast Cancer

Whereas Manzini Youth Care traditionally has the image of working mostly with boys, in October all our female staff and students received some extra attention. On the 1<sup>st</sup> of October, the Swaziland National Breast Cancer Network launched the national Breast Cancer month with a special workshop for MYC in the Bosco Youth Hall.

With all attention focused on HIV/AIDS prevention in Swaziland, other significant health risks such as breast and cervical cancer are often overseen.

The workshop educated women about the symptoms of breast and cervical cancer and alerted all participants to do regular check-ups. Former patients shared their story and were able to reach out to the ninety participants, making the event a grand success.

### 2009 Global Entrepreneurship Week

Between the 16<sup>th</sup> and the 22<sup>nd</sup> of November, Manzini Youth Care celebrated the 2009 Global Entrepreneurship Week by organizing a full day of activities in collaboration with TechnoServe. Wednesday the 18<sup>th</sup>, the Youth Enterprise Services team organized an open day that was attended by numerous fellow entrepreneurs, TechnoServe, local media and interested spectators. The Swaziland Business woman of the year, Mrs. Nokuncede Manser, addressed the gathering in her speech by applauding Manzini Youth Care for their efforts to bring about more young players in the business sector. She encouraged the young entrepreneurs to have patience and to be focused in their activities and not to aim for a quick return. She also reminded the business community about their social responsibility and encouraged them to adopt some of the new businesses groomed by the YES project.



The open day activities involved all 9 businesses running under the Manzini Youth Care' Youth Enterprise Services (YES) empowerment project based at Likusasa Life skills Centre in Manzini. The 9 businesses are driven by over 43 young entrepreneurs and cover business skills such as metal work, woodwork, motor mechanics, printing, catering, computers and upholstery.

During the open day, each small business had the chance to present and showcase its products and services to the audience. After an exciting round-tour, the speech of the Business Woman of the year put all participants in the right mood for a few rounds of speed networking. The speeds networking allowed the young entrepreneurs to initiate quick business contacts, share ideas and make business deals within a few minutes. As a result, this day a number of new business deals were sealed.



### **UNICEF Toy making Training**

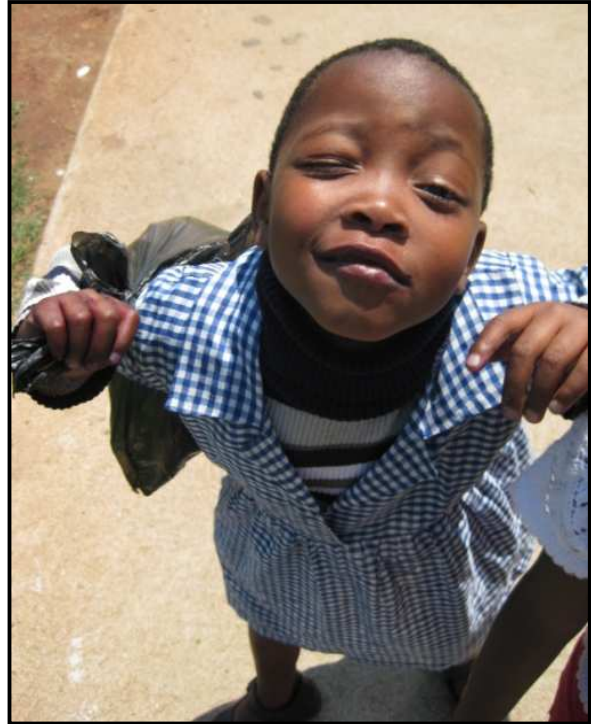
In November, UNICEF organized a week-long training for the young ladies at Manzini Youth Care's Pre-School Teacher Training Center. The first two days two consultants came to lecture on the importance of toys for Early Childhood Development. The last two days, the students were busy sewing, cutting, painting recyclable materials to make a creative display of the toys they were taught to make. The Pre-School Teacher Trainer Center has since been filled with beautiful new self-made toys that will help new students realize the potential of using recyclable material. In 2010, the Pre-School Teacher Trainer Center will be re-vamped thanks to the support of the ELMA Foundation. Students from marginalized backgrounds will be able to pay lower fees thanks to the MYC Scholarship Fund. In addition, Manzini Youth Care is currently on the outlook for a second local qualified Teacher Trainer.

### **New Website!**

Manzini Youth Care has developed a new website at [www.manziniyouthcare.com](http://www.manziniyouthcare.com)

The new website design is fresher, more playful and includes updated information on all Manzini Youth Care's programmes and activities. The old website, [www.salesiansmyc.com](http://www.salesiansmyc.com), will no longer exist.

If you have any suggestions to improve the new website, please contact [bosco@realnet.co.sz](mailto:bosco@realnet.co.sz). The content management system will allow us to change it ourselves. Feel free to have a look!



### **Volunteers**

Over the last 3 months we have had the pleasure to welcome 6 new Finnish volunteers from the Diaconia University of Applied Sciences (DIAK): Pauli, Tiia-Tuulia, Annsi, Anni, Mira and Mina. They have been able to give Manzini Youth Care a taste of Finnish culture and have greatly contributed to the work of the Social Welfare office. Using survey techniques and making numerous home visits, they were able to update MYC's records on all of the boys staying in Manzini Youth Care's Residential Homes. In addition, they organized various sports activities in the Bosco Youth Hall and were occupied at nights with helping the boys prepare their exams. Thank you DIAK, and we look forward to working with you again next year!

With special thanks to our donors over these last four months: Father Dan Carroll, SWAKI, St. Anthony's Girl School, Community Connections, Ivan and Kathy Gaspers, Father Martin McCormack, Australian Salesian Mission, Claire France Boyle, the Department of Canadian Heritage and all our donors to our Irish and English accounts.

**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 McDonnell*