



Educational Projects



PO Box 541, Ennerdale 1826 Tel/Fax 011 211 4373

September 2010 – December 2010

18th December 2010

Greetings one and all...the Ennerdale development of the Don Bosco Educational Projects, comprising the **Declan Collins Skills Centre**, the **Laura Vicuña Educational Centre** and **Sancta Maria Crèche** is here with the NEWS for the last three months.

With the end of the year there is a lot of pressure to get things wrapped up. Even more so when there are building projects desperately seeking the funding to ensure that the many young people who are going to benefit from this undertaking will not be disappointed.

We have been gratified by the assistance that we have received, both financial and words of



encouragement. At the same time we have been disappointed that we could not complete the Laura Vicuña school buildings before year end. The building of the workshops for the Declan Skills Centre is progressing nicely with funding from Bonn. The funding received from the

Gompels Family has now taken their five instruction rooms to near completion.

We are facing not only the physical and financial challenges of providing more suitable learning environments for schooling, education, skills training, but also each day we face the spiritual, social and nutritional needs for those already in our care. You would think that this would be a priority in the minds of those who control funds to assist us to make a difference in the lives of out of school children and youth who are not being catered for by the authorities!!



The Lotto, which we were sure was going to come up trumps, turned us down on a technicality. This we are challenging, but have little hope of success. Then to make us feel even more miserable the press reports that the South African National Lotto has given ZAR40 million to a political youth conference held this very week. This conference has been getting a lambasting in the news media, with little effect. Many PBOs like ourselves are quite beside themselves with the logic of such a “gift” to a political initiative when the need for poverty relief and education is so great.

Fr Robert Gore SDB.

END OF YEAR – STRATEGIC MEETING

To keep the local community informed of what is happening at the DBEP site a couple of information sessions have been held at the end of the Church Services in Ennerdale, Lawley and Finetown during the last few months. But it was also thought that a planning workshop be arranged on the 24th November with invited guests and Board Members to keep those persons in positions of authority and influence in Ennerdale up to speed with our progress and difficulties.

This meeting was attended by all the Board Members as well as representatives from various sectors of the local society. Sergeant Isaacs represented the SAP; Mr Coetzee from Bruglar Predator security Services; Mr Harris from the local newspaper; Dr Vallabh from the Health Haven, Mr Simon from St Charles Lwanga; Councillor Bailey from Ennerdale among others. We were disappointed that Ward Councillor Advocate. Nyambe and Finetown Councillor Freedom Sonstantsa were not present, nor did they tender apologies. Grateful thanks to Yvonne Dos Santos of TSI who facilitated the workshop.

Ekukhanyeni - Permaculture

Ekukhanyeni held its final ten day intensive training in Permaculture design, plant based health and functional nutrition management at the St Francis De Sales Catholic Church. This brings the training program to an end for 2010 which boasts 90 students who attended these workshops for 2010 from the areas of Lawley, Finetown and Diepkloof. The courses will continue in 2011, with the first workshop to be held in March 2011.

Ekukhanyeni completed its Learn-guidebook, which will be in print in 2011. This will greatly assist learners who attend the training to deepen their understanding in primary agriculture and permaculture design.

DECLAN COLLINS SKILLS

The Declan Collins Skills Centre building has been fitted with windows, doors and burglar bars. We have employed guarding services who commenced duties from the 15th of November since not only doors and windows have been fitted, but also some of the electricals. Since no electricity has come onto the site yet, the guards use two way radios.

Our application for electricity was forwarded to Booyens, where applications for the size of our property are being dealt with. They advised us that their electricity meters are out of stock, and that we should contact them in the New Year. There is always a hitch!

SOME OTHER SNIPPETS....

Mass Cash Holdings

Mass Cash advised that all their funding initiatives have been put on hold. Their board will look at all the current submitted proposals during March 2011.

Willowton Oils: Mrs Val Drift and Fr Robert Gore attended a gala celebration for the 40th Anniversary of Willowton Oils on the 30th October, and together with five other beneficiaries we were handed cheques for R100 000.00. This money will assist us with the security issues we experience in the area that we are located.

Computer Project

The final twelve students of the year completed their course on 9 December 2010. Some of these students were unable to pay their tuition fees but compensated for it, by keeping the centre clean. During these three months forty four students attended the course.

Craft Centre

During this time the students concentrated on alterations to clothing, cutting out different patterns et. Flairs, panels, and also how to cut out place mats and the sewing thereof. The trainers finished off on 9 December, and will return in the New Year.

Greater Good South Africa

Our site is up and running and is being monitored on a daily basis to ascertain if there are potential partners entering the site. Quite a number of prospective volunteers have enquired about our project via the site.

Laura Vicuña Centre.

During September six Italian volunteers attended to maintenance jobs at the school. One was qualified nurse and assisted in the area of health care. A few of the children got a chance to visit the airport (ORT). That was a new experience for them. The year of learning came to a happy close, and while the school has closed there are still some activities during the holiday period.

SEASONS GREETINGS: To all our donors, friends and supporter we ask God's blessings on you this Christmas Season and may you all have a happy healthy New Year. Also, do keep us and the project in your prayers at this time.

Fr Robert Gore.



<u>DONORS to DATE</u> Red DePorte Daughters of Mary Help of Christians Salesians of Don Bosco Gompels Family BMZ – Bonn, Jugend Dritte Welt Misean Cara Anonymous Donor Declan Collins Trust Business Partners Salesian Missions Letsedi Trust Bankoure, Italy. ZTE Corporation Catholic Church, Robertsham. Aus Aid Fanad Friends Ireland Willowton Oil	<u>BOARD MEMBERS</u> Fr Robert Gore SDB Fr Francois Dufour SDB Fr Jeff Johnson SDB Sr Margaret Sweeney FMA Sr Helen Fitzgibbon FMA Mr Chester Browne Ms Janice Seland Mr Gilbert Swats Mr Anthony Reeves Ms Rosa Calaca Ms Liza Rossi <u>ADMINISTRATION</u> Ms Val Drift Mr Robin Martin
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(Please let us know when you do make a donation so that we can acknowledge it.)

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