

# IKAMVA LABANTU NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2011

## Sharing the joy of toys

Denmark is not only home to Lego but also to nurses Marianne Jørgensen and Lenette Madsen, who firmly believe in the power of toys to help children develop and learn through play.

So much so that these two women went on a drive to collect toys with the intention of finding a charitable cause in South Africa to donate it to. They contacted Rotary Club in South Africa, who in turn identified Ikamva Labantu as the charity of choice.



"We were completely overwhelmed by this gesture," says Barbara Stemmert, sector head of the Ikamva Labantu Early Childhood Development (ECD) Programme. "We received so many crates of toys, that they could easily fill a small warehouse. Because of the passion of these two ladies, almost 7,000 children and 113 Educare Centres received a heartwarming unexpected surprise."

She adds that many Educare centres usually can only afford to supply children with basics like food and clothes, and toys - especially in mint condition - are regarded as a luxury. The recipient Educare centres consisted mainly of those without subsidies.

Jørgensen and Madsen were in South Africa to help distribute the toys. "It was such a joy to see all the smiling faces of the children," says Jørgensen of the experience.



## Class of 2010 fly despite challenges

Of the 31 matriculants supported by our Orphaned and Vulnerable Children (OVC) programme, 18 passed the recent national matric exams, resulting in a 58% pass rate.

Johanna Boshoff, the OVC sector head, says, "Despite the ongoing teachers' strikes, the Soccer World Cup and very challenging home environments, they performed well and we are sincerely pleased with the 2010 results."

She adds that seven of the students who didn't pass, will be rewriting their exams by April 2011. "This is amazing - usually learners who fail the first time around, give up hope and don't attempt to rewrite. We are very proud that they are giving it another try. We're very optimistic that we'll be able to boast an 80% pass rate after the kids have rewritten their exams."

Ikamva Labantu's OVC Programme does not provide tutoring support, but through mentorship and guidance learners are encouraged to work hard and diligently. The OVC community workers, who visit learners almost daily, assess whether these children have the means to attend school, are eating properly and if they have access to school uniforms and school supplies.

## Seniors' beading supports United Against Malaria

About 180 Ikamva Labantu seniors have joined in the fight against Malaria; a disease that, according to United Against Malaria, 3.3 billion people worldwide are at risk of contracting.

To date this group of seniors has produced thousands of United Against Malaria bracelets, which are sold at Nando's outlets both locally and abroad to generate funds to combat the disease.

Christelle Cornelius, sector head of the Seniors Programme, says the beauty of the project lies in its widespread reach and the difference it's making to so many lives.



Lauren Gillis, Director of Relate, recently joined Ikamva Labantu on a tour to the senior club in Masithandane.

"Not only does it provide mental and physical stimulation to people in the community, who are often neglected, and gives them a sense of pride and self-worth; but a portion of the money obtained through sales also supplements their social pension of R1,080 per month," says Cornelius.

The project, which is commissioned by Relate (a not for profit organisation in Cape Town specialising in skills development), is currently implemented at nine Ikamva Labantu senior clubs. Alongside the United Against Malaria bracelets, our seniors also produce other cause-related bracelets for Relate.

*Did you know: 91% of malaria deaths occur in Africa; 85% of these are children under 5 years of age ([www.unitedagainstmalaria.org](http://www.unitedagainstmalaria.org))*



## European Union funding supports future soccer stars

Soccer4Hope is a soccer-based life skills programme for youth in our communities and touches the lives of many of the youngsters in Ikamva Labantu's Orphaned and Vulnerable Children (OVC) sector. Soccer4Hope is the lead partner of the international Youth Development Through Football Programme (YDF).

The work done by Soccer4Hope was recently recognised and received a well-deserved boost when YDF, which is facilitated by

the German Technical Co-operation (GT Z), received a grant of €50,000 from the European Union.

## Introducing the team

The Ikamva Labantu team plays a pivotal role in executing our vision of developing self-reliant and sustainable communities that facilitate positive social change. In the coming editions of our newsletter we would like to introduce you to those individuals who make up our wonderful team.

Born in 1976 in the small North coast town of Kwa Duguza in KwaZulu Natal, Christelle is the second child in a family of four children. She married her husband in 2001 and is the proud mother of a beautiful 8-year-old daughter.



As a youngster she was a youth club leader in a local church for five years and during this time developed a sense of the career she wants to pursue.

"In high school, a dear friend was diagnosed with Muscular Dystrophy, so I began researching this, which engaged my full attention in Occupational Therapy. I volunteered for two years at Princess Alice Orthopedic Hospital and at the Beaconvale Frail Care Facility and in Grade 12, applied to study Occupational Therapy at the

University of the Western Cape. "

Christelle soon developed a specific interest in caring for and supporting older adults and her first formal job at Groote Schuur Hospital included providing patient care to older adults. During this time she also provided care and support to out patients.

"My most recent career opportunity has been managing the Seniors Sector of Ikamva Labantu. This sector provides care and support to vulnerable older persons affords ageing in place in a dignified manner. The opportunity to develop this service and network in providing care and support in this sector, is both stimulating and challenging. The difference we make is not only seen in the smiles of older persons, but also in our contribution to legislature, which will govern care and support to older persons."

## Our partners



Jared, from the Madame Zingara team, with Helen and Janine.

Thank you to all our partners who take the time and make the effort to help us sustain our projects. We are hoping to give recognition to each and every one of you, however small it may be, in our newsletters to come.

This month we would like to thank:

**Madame Zingara** for donating a percentage of their takings from their shows as well as the donation received from their Facebook friends.

**The Business Women's Association** for a generous donation of toys and a R12, 000 cash donation collected at a special Christmas Charity Drive.

**The international Entrepreneurs Organisation (EO)** for refurbishing an Ikamva Labantu foster home and one of the Ikamva Labantu service centres in November.

**Thank you as always for all your interest in our projects**



Mike Caito (Chairman of the Global board of EO) with Thoko Joba, who received the home makeover.

Ikamva Labantu appreciates your

ongoing friendship. Your support inspires our township communities with hope for the future.

## The Ikamva Labantu Team

*If you're reading our newsletter for the first time, here's what you should know: Ikamva Labantu (The Future of Our Nation) is one of South Africa's oldest and most established NGOs in the Western Cape. After more than 20 years of community work during the anti-apartheid struggle the organization was formally constituted in 1992 to help people with limited facilities and income to survive. Today it oversees a network of community-based self-help programs providing an integrated response to extreme poverty. Over the years it has reached over 500,000 of the country's poorest and most excluded people. It gauges its success by its ability to build self-sufficiency, enabling local groups to operate sustainably beyond its support.*

For more information, visit [www.ikamva.org](http://www.ikamva.org)

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