



**November 2007**

## **The changing face of Khaya Lokukhanya**

A lot has happened in the last few months.....

Over the winter we have had 6 new place of safety children, ages ranging from 13 months to 7 yrs.

We have brought in an extra pair of hands to help the foster mothers called Lucy, to work from 8am - 4pm during the weekdays. She is fantastic with the little ones and is also a great gardener and has really changed the face of our garden; we now have spinach, green beans and carrots sprouting from all corners. The children are slowly learning how to plant & maintain a vegetable patch, thanks to Lucy.



Two Development Studies students from The University of East Anglia have been staying with us for 2 months since September. Hannah Aldridge and Callum Ray have been doing some great work with the kids. They both come from teaching families and have been busy running around after toddlers and teaching English. The children will really miss them and they have all had a great time. Their English has really moved forward and they have covered a lot of ground. Well done guys!

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Bev Gush continues to volunteer with the children once a week, again teaching English. Thank you Bev!

Angus (our local superstar builder!) has been doing some super work renovating the KL building with Bassie and his team from the township (4 extra jobs have been created by this work). New fences are in place (to keep busy toddlers out of the road and unwanted guests out of KL), a new bathroom (with a really cute tiny tot toilet & sink) as well as a grown up one, with a complete new sewage system, has been installed. Another toilet has been revamped by Bassie & Angus and has been decorated beautifully by Amy (my step-daughter), Bean & Bev from Crawford North Coast School, KZN. Well done girls!

It has made a massive difference to our toilet training. (Seriously) Having a nice place to poo makes going to the loo much more fun! We sit in there for hours singing or reading a book, waiting for something to happen! We are hoping Amy and her team will be back to jazz up the new bathroom this Christmas Holidays.



### **Amy and the children of KL with the new art work of San cave paintings**

Angus & Bassie have also repainted the dining room, lounge and have put bright lights up too. The childrens' rooms are being re-decorated; the

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children chose the colours and all the built in cupboards will be jazzy colours. Our electricians have had an overhaul and a new geyser is being installed. A big thank you to Fiona Sephton, as well as Angus (her brother) for sorting out our tricky sewage problems...not a pleasant task! New rubbish disposal areas are being built too.

The younger children had a day trip to the farm last month. A lot of cricket, netball and soccer was played but it was just too cold to get the "Slip 'n Slide" out. Currently the kids have not been able to ride horses at Pitlochrie, as there are 4 stallions on the farm (causing trouble) due to be gelded this week. When the kids return, either in December or January, they will be able to ride safely! We now have sunshine and had lots of rain so I am sure the "Slip 'n Slide" will get lots of action again. The freedom the farm gives the children is amazing to watch. The boys tend to do their own thing, and the girls tend to prefer being shown around, their hands held tight, and especially love the horses, saying "That one's MINE, that one's MINE!" The girls eventually realise the farm is a safe place, and having being taught they must show respect for all the animals on the farm, they are eventually happy to have their hands let go.



All the children from 7 upwards and 4 grown ups are going to Aliwal Spa for a Christmas treat, staying by the swimming pool with all it's watery activities, over a weekend. Tersia will be busy buying water wings for those less confident at swimming!

Levia, one of our foster mothers, has had a sad time, losing both her daughter and her mother within a few weeks of each other. Understandably

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she has had a lot of time off, but having Mimi, Nandi & Lucy around has made a massive difference. Well done ladies for hanging in there during a difficult patch! We have also very sadly lost our local Social Worker Lumka Frans, in a car accident. This was devastating news for all of us, as she has been very involved with all our children. She will be greatly missed here in Barkly.

Education continues to be a challenge for us. We are now looking for a permanent tutor for the children, as none of the children managed to pass their entrance exams into Barkly High School. We are looking into home schooling as an option. Our volunteers are fantastic, but it is difficult to provide continuity with this. We are still learning and welcome volunteers from overseas. We are especially looking for people with primary school teaching experience.

## **Thusananga HBCA**

Busy times for Thusananga.

We have new caregivers who will undergo in house training early next year. Our ARV (Anti retro viral) site plans are moving forward and it looks like we will have a resident pharmacist next year in Barkly, which is great news. This means we may be able to officially accredit the site. We are meeting with our hospital manager this week to discuss our potential role in making this happen. Thusananga has bought a new blood pressure machine, lactate meter and glucometer for Sonwaba Zandile Clinic.

The HEP (HIV and AIDS Education Programme), our collaboration with [The Desmond Tutu HIV Centre](#), in Cape Town, is drawing to a close with our 4 students completing their modules. Unfortunately 3 of them have moved from Barkly but have continued their studies and will complete their exams in the next month or two. We plan to start further HEP training amongst professional nurses next year. Thank you to Felicity Cope for her support from the Cape!

We have been involved with local sheep shearers (mainly from Lesotho and rural North Eastern Cape) and our HIV testing rates are showing 30% HIV prevalence amongst them, which is rather worrying. They are however, a group of people who have not been exposed to comprehensive and continuing HIV education. There is a general feeling in South Africa that we have to spend more time educating sexually active men, in order to stem the tide of the HIV epidemic, and we hope this is a small but significant start. Thank you for Cape Mohair and Wool's (CMW) cooperation with this.

We continue to work with very sick people, in partnership with our local hospital Doctors de Villiers and Olivier, Cloete Joubert Hospital and Sonwaba Zandile Clinic. We have trying times with a terrible shortage of medicines, some medicines being out of stock for months and months at a time, but this

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appears to be resolving, thanks to my colleagues persistence. For a long time we had no paracetamol syrup for children in the clinic and are currently running short of paracetamol (adults), codeine, Vitamin B6 (essential for patients on TB & some ARV treatment).

THBCA has been buying its own medicines for its clients and supplying the clinic when necessary. This is pretty shocking, and apparently the shortage is due to lack of transport, to bring the drugs up from the depot in Port Elizabeth. The transport stopped as the bill for the courier was not paid by our Province. Sometimes it feels like our patients don't matter, simply because they were born in rural South Africa and they are poor.

We continue to fight poverty though! Our THBCA (Sibanye HIV+ Support Group) Income Generating Project is coming along well, with lots of sales of beautiful Christmas Beadwork Decorations. It goes some of the way to alleviating poverty with a hand up, not a hand out.



### **Our clients with the angels made as part of the income generation project**

Off to clinic now.  
Over and Out!

**Clare X**

Please send any comment to [claremurphy@eci.co.za](mailto:claremurphy@eci.co.za)

If you would like to donate to our projects or buy any of the beadwork, email us at [Thusananga@gmail.com](mailto:Thusananga@gmail.com) or visit [our website](#) for further details.

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