

Actionpact

Newsletter for friends of Mfesane

If Only you Could Have Seen Their Faces!

Usually the little faces at our Greenfields child care projects are much the same. Some are sombre, some are sad, some are hopeful with the anticipation of a nourishing meal.

But on the day that Christmas came early at the beginning of the long summer school holidays, those faces were transformed!

When the table covered with sporting equipment and educational toys was revealed, those little faces lit up with astonishment, excitement, and joy. Eyes sparkled, smiles were twice as big as usual, and hands reached out to touch and to make sure that this was real.

Cricket sets, soccer, netball and tennis balls, skipping ropes, hula hoops in bright colours, building blocks of different kinds, puzzles, powder paint, crayons and colouring books, scissors and glue were all part of the 'Christmas surprise'. And they came with sturdy storage boxes to keep everything safe and tidy.

You truly can't be thanked enough for your Christmas generosity. And the best part is that it won't only be for one Christmas.

The equipment and activities that you helped to provide will continue to be used on a daily basis, and will continue to keep the children busy and happy, with the added knowledge that you care about them.

Thank you – so much.



Message from Nomvuyo



We're almost at the end of the 2015/16 financial year which can be fairly described as very eventful.

On behalf of Mfesane Directors and staff I would like to convey our sincere thanks and appreciation for the support we continued to receive from you despite the tough economic climate. It's through your positive response to our communications that Mfesane's doors are still open. May the good Lord generously increase His blessings upon you.

The end of 2015 didn't just mark our 40th anniversary, it also marked the end of our 2011-2015 strategic plan. In September last year we began the reflection process which included focus groups and interviews with programme staff, leadership, board members, beneficiaries, partners as well as other stake-holders. The information gathered will form a new strategy for 2016 and beyond with a major focus being the sustainability of Mfesane.

From a long list of new goals, one will be concentrating on completing the accreditation of Mfesane as a Technical Vocational Education and Training College – you can be justly proud of being a partner in all our achievements.

Once more, I would like to thank you for your generous support, and invite you to pray for the work of Mfesane to keep making a difference in the lives of disadvantaged families and communities.

Let's Continue to say 'No', to Hunger and Malnutrition

Each time a child steps onto the scale at Isibindi and the body mass number is a little higher than the last time, it's a small victory against the malnutrition that's rife in too many places, and it's 'thanks' to you.

The fact that our caregivers now have the joy of accurate scales on which to weigh the children and keep their progress recorded is also 'thanks' to you.

When children show all the signs of malnutrition, and then that changes because of the vital food that you help us provide, we give thanks.

Developmental damage caused by malnutrition can't be reversed after a certain age.

Thank you for helping to save at least some of our children from that fate.



Some of the 663 children in our Isibindi programme. In addition to a selected number of desperate families who depend on a monthly food parcel to survive, the children receive a daily meal at the project sites.

After 40 comes 41

Our 40th anniversary was a memorable one. It was a milestone birthday reached thanks to the partnership of special people like you. And this made you a real

presence in every celebratory occasion.

Please accept the enclosed birthday balloon as a small token of our thanks for making our 40th year special. Now for 41!

A Reminder of who we are and What we do

Mfesane's history dates back to 1959 in the then Transkei, with official links with the Dutch Reformed Church in Africa.

In 1975 we became a fully independent ecumenical organisation. And in 1988, with large scale urbanisation, Mfesane's focus shifted from the homelands to urban areas.

In 1992, an in-depth strategic planning process was started in anticipation of the new political dispensation, with the challenges and opportunities which this presented to a Christian development agency.

This organisational development and renewal continues.

Mfesane addresses the basic needs of vulnerable groups in the eastern and western Cape through the piloting of new developmental initiatives, building the capacity of communities, as well as facilitating networks and partnerships.

We give thanks to God for His guidance and grace, for our dedicated board and staff members, and for you, in providing the power of your financial and moral support.