

Welcome from the UK team to the 2006 spring edition of The Beat!

This is the first of three newsletters for 2006, so you can expect updates in September and December.

With the longer days and more sunshine, it's time to be motivated by where your donations are going and possibly... even feel inspired to get outside, run a race or organise a fundraising summer party for Gumboots!™.

It's been an active South African summer for Gumboots, starting with a Spring Gathering (see right). You can also read about what's happening with your project(s) in our feedback articles.

Gumboots UK donors continue to provide the major source of funding. We are currently a group of 42 donors and aim to increase our donor-base over 2006. So, if you know others who would like to become a donor and/or get involved, please tell them about us!

We have raised just over £20,000 since our launch in 2004 - mostly through £10 to £20 monthly donations. Thank you for your ongoing support, which means so much to our projects. As you will read, there are real, tangible positive changes taking place at grassroot level - helping the poorest of the poor in South Africa - and it's all because of you!



Above: Peggy Chauke (left), from Leratong, with Sera at the Spring Gathering

SA Team: Upbeat!

Why? Because they had a fantastic spring gathering at JWT in Rivonia, Johannesburg. Inspiring speeches, music, food, drinks and of course... Gumboots dancing which attracted 6 more donors, 14 new volunteers and increased awareness.

Well done to the SA Team!

“If you think you are too small to make a difference, try sleeping with a mosquito!”

Paballo Y Batho

It has been another very busy, challenging but fulfilling period for the Paballo team. Over Christmas, through the “The Generous Gift Campaign”, Paballo gave more than 600 Christmas parcels to the homeless community, bringing not only practical assistance but some Christmas joy too!

In early January, more than 500 families, including some of the communities served by Paballo, faced eviction without the City of Johannesburg providing alternative accommodation. A group of effected individuals put together a legal case against the City, challenging them to provide alternative accommodation. The case has been heard and everyone is anxious to hear the judgement at the High Court.

Samuel Mugambe

Well done Samuel! He has been appointed as a Paballo assistant - he brings with him much welcomed relief and extra hands in the challenges facing Paballo. Samuel is a Ugandan refugee who has volunteered at Paballo for three years, and has been helping to run the programme for the last two.

Reaching dreams

Paballo has taken the lead in discussions on how churches and other concerned organisations are able to help homeless communities become self-sustaining and to restore their dignity. One such project focuses on helping individuals to realise their dreams. Although still in a conceptual phase, the project aims to partner with a local high school to raise £530. The money will be given to a deserving member of the homeless community to help reach a dream.

WHERE HAVE THE DONATIONS GONE?

- **Transport** - as Paballo is still without a vehicle, most of the funds went towards hiring transport to distribute food, blankets and other services - £86
- **Medical supplies** - £322
- **Funeral costs** - £33
- **Relief work** (transport) for two refugees from Burundi who were arrested because their papers had expired. Their case has been dropped and they have now returned to their families in Durban. - £39

FUNDS NEEDED - can you help?
A desperate need for a bakkie -
£1,400 - £1,800

Doing it for Gumboots! A big thanks to David and Janie Lightfoot who raised an amazing £2,200 by taking part in the Cape Argus cycle race. Well done!! And thank you to those who sponsored you - please pass this newsletter on to them!

KZN Food Gardens

Gumboots' initial goal was to provide better nutrition for local communities in the Midlands area of KZN where more than half of the population is unemployed or HIV positive. We have been supporting the introduction of a Future Farmers Club and a Model Farm where young people learn more about agriculture. This ongoing project is called the Inschool Agricultural Partnership.

Gumboots has now moved its operational focus by establishing a Seedbank where schools and clinics can draw free seeds for their ongoing vegetable gardening requirements. The Seedbank recently became closely involved with Capstone Seeds (who supply seed-packs for International Red Cross and Oxfam).

Khonzi Mthembu

One of the teachers involved with the Gumboots' vegetable production operation was Khonzi Mthembu of the Injoloba Secondary School. He holds an Agriculture Degree in Plant and Animal Production. Khonzi studied Youth Development in the USA, and wrote a textbook on Agricultural Science for Grade 10, which has been accepted for all 9 provinces. He is starting the "Future Farmers Club" along the lines of the Future Farmers of America.

Khonzi is now advising the Khazimula Children's Project on agricultural matters - **where Gumboots has installed a 9m-long vegetable production tunnel and hen house.** The tunnel can grow sufficient vegetables to feed 70 people for 7 months before replanting. The KZN Minister for Education visited Khazimula recently and was so impressed that she instructed her staff to do "everything possible within the law" to support the Midlands Educational Trust projects! Well done Khonzi & Khazimula!

Future Farmers Club

The idea is to foster a deep interest in farming among potential farmers, particularly future black farmers, who will be faced with making a success of farming lands returned to communities under land claims. We are already witnessing numerous instances of farm production failures in South Africa because the communities taking over large tracts of valuable, productive farmland lack the knowhow, dedication or business acumen to keep farmland producing at its former rate.

This is one of the most serious problems facing our country at this time. If positive steps are not taken to correct this situation, South Africa will eventually face starvation akin to Zimbabwe.



WHERE HAVE THE DONATIONS GONE?

- Seed purchases – £593
- Vegetable production courses – £487
- Ploughing of land during winter – £88
- Communications expenses – £49
- Hen house and tunnel – £608

FUTURE FUNDS NEEDED

- Seed purchases for the Seedbank (+-£44 p/m) = £530
- Wages for caretaker/groundsman to supervise food production at Khazimula (£88 p/m) = £1,056
- Trophy and cash prize of R2 500 prize for KZN Vegetable Gardens Competition (March) = £310
- Administrative costs to establish and run Future Farmers Club = £885

Total = £2,781

For more information or to become a donor, visit our website www.gumboots.org.za or e-mail Kerry Power at kerrypp@gumboots.org.za or Lisa Morgan at lisam@gumboots.org.za



Leratong Pre-school

The Garden Project

The Leratong garden has recently had new winter veggies planted – cabbage, beans, celery, beetroot, mielies and onions. In addition, a lemon tree and nectarine tree were planted for added shade and food. The upper garden has a new avocado tree.

A shade structure has been installed in the corner as a place for smaller groups to play. Two kids-benches donated by the KidlinksWorld (the USA group) will



find a home under the shade. The garden needs art and sculpture for the kids to enjoy so we dressed it up with a large, red-beaded gecko on the concrete wall and a gorgeous green and white-beaded parrot that sits on a perch hanging from the shade structure. Hidden for the kids to find is a spider web and beaded spider.

We would like to add some large wooden carvings and a small water feature in the future – preferably a bubbling bowl with tiny fish and a place for the fish to hide from the Hadedahs (Ibis).

Childrens Home

The wooden Zozo house is up, insulated and carpeted. We plan to furnish and be ready for occupation soon. Paggy and the house mother, Mpho, are in the process of selecting the first five orphans who will live at the school.

Patchwork Quilts

Home economics students from Madison's Memorial High School, Wisconsin USA made patchwork quilts for the Leratong children to use. They were delivered along with letters to Leratong from each student in December.



THE YEAR AHEAD

With your support we are determined to make 2006 another successful year, and in particular we are looking forward to focusing on:

- **Expanding the gardening project** and involvement of the children
- **More school outings**
- **Joy for One.** This is the individual sponsorship of school fees of children who are either orphaned or whose parents are unemployed. Currently we have six donors, but there are many more children who have no parental support. Our goal is not only to expand the donor base, but also encourage the involvement of sponsors.
- **Provision of educational material**
- Gumboots will also be assisting in the project management of a **shelter and home** for approximately five orphaned children.

Did you know...?

You are helping achieve **The Millennium Development Goals**. Yes, it's true! By being involved in Gumboots, your donation is directly helping achieve these goals as set by the UN in September 2000. Through our past and present projects, you are helping in a small but significant way to:

1. **Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger (KZN, Paballo)**
2. **Achieve universal primary education (Leratong, Sakhumntu)**
3. **Promote gender equality and empower woman (Leratong, Tlholego)**
4. **Reduce child mortality (KZN)**
5. **Improve maternal health (KZN)**
6. **Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases (Leratong, KZN)**
7. **Ensure environmental sustainability (KZN)**
8. **Develop a global partnership for development (by being involved!)**

News & Events:

It was 30 Years Ago... In the June of 1976 there were riots in Soweto. Unarmed children, peacefully protesting against Afrikaans being the official language in schools, took to the streets. Things went horribly wrong and the police opened fire. This picture of schoolboy Hector Pietersen's Death made it into the international press and those within and outside of the country were horrified. Many consider the riots an event which signified the beginning of the end for apartheid.



For Your Diary.. On **16 June 2006**, there is a seminar at **South Africa House**, Trafalgar Square, London and everyone is invited to attend. Speakers will include a representative from the SA National Youth Commission, the High Commissioner, Sello Maake Ngcube (with a poetry reading), and Eugene Skeef (dramatist), as well as some youth representatives. Contact Lisa Morgan -lisam@gumboots.org.za for more information. Gumboots will have a minor presence at this event.