



## July to September 2015 Review

### Dear Friends of Manzini Youth Care,

Greetings from Swaziland, where temperatures are rising high. Welcome to our latest newsletter, the 3<sup>rd</sup> of this year, all of which we hope have helped to keep you updated on our latest news and provide you with some more new items.

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#### Residential Homes

The Zakhele Home was treated to a E40 000 renovation on the 17<sup>th</sup> of July at the hands of Happy Mahlangu; the South African High Commission to Swaziland; and his staff. They transformed the Zakhele Centre for Destitute Children in commemoration of Mandela Day – the 18<sup>th</sup> of July. On Nelson Mandela day each person should spend 67 minutes of their lives helping someone else, this is to symbolise the 67 ½ years Nelson Mandela spent changing other people's lives. However Happy Mahlangu and his team didn't just spend 67 minutes renovating the centre which homes around 15 young women and children but carried on until the renovation was complete. The Zakhele Centre now has newly painted interior walls, wall art and renovated bathrooms as well as a new garden fence so that a garden can be started at the centre. By facilitating this project Happy Mahlangu hopes to have made the Zakhele Centre a more pleasant and liveable home for the children there.



Studying at Zakhele Home

The Deputy Prime Minister Office through the Manzini Regional Social Welfare Department registered in collaboration with MYC social welfare office all MYC youth to get birth certificates. This initiative has been set up to ensure that all the children in MYC residential care homes have access to governmental services. Without a birth certificate, children may lack basic access to health services and education. A lack of recognition and support will ultimately make life more difficult for children while they are growing up. Therefore MYC has registered each and every child under its care as a way of giving the youth their basic legal rights. In that way, their quality of life can improve drastically.

#### School & education news

As schools around the country prepare to sit their final external examination, MYC wishes the residential care boys at Enjabulweni good luck for their grade 7 exams. This year we are expecting 10 pupils to graduate from primary school. We also wish 8 residential care youths good luck as they sit for their final exams in high school. All the students have been studying hard for the past couple of months in preparation for their exams.

#### Peer Education Training

From 19<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> August 2015 MYC managed through the health Clinic and in partnership with Voluntary Services Overseas (VSO) to conduct a TOT Training of Trainers with 25 Youths from MYC Homes. With the assistance of house parents, youths were randomly selected from all MYC homes to participate in a training

of trainers' workshop that was facilitated by Super Buddies Club at Palm Tree Guest House in Manzini. The three day training saw the youths participating in the national TOT for peer education on Increasing Access to SRH, HIV & AIDS Services for Women and Young Adults ensuring to take a lead on peer education in their respective homes.

At the end of the training participants were awarded with certificates of attendance and manuals containing information that they will use when conducting peer education sessions.



Awarding Of Certificates To Participants

### Visitors & Volunteer News

In June of 2015, MYC said fare well to Alex, Kaat and Steven who were here for their 3 month social work internship. All students have since graduated from the University of Leuven-Limburg as social workers. MYC congratulates them on their success.



Previous Volunteers at MYC Offices

On the 4<sup>th</sup> of September Manzini Youth Care greeted the arrival of six volunteers from the British charity Project Trust, two more than last year. The four girls;

Ms Lauren Angus, Ms Freya Woodward, Ms Joanna Coulson and Ms Amelia Revill-Hayward are currently staying at the Palace at Salesian High School and the two boys; Mr Matthew Hamer and Mr Johnny Singleton at Enjabulweni. The volunteers are here in Manzini for a year and are excited to get fully involved in all aspects of MYC projects, including teaching at the Enjabulweni School, organising sports and other evening activities, as well as contributing to various Manzini care points. Manzini Youth Care also welcomed Ms Kayla Zegers and Ms Melanie Huisman from the Netherlands who are volunteering with the Social Welfare Department for three and a half months as Social Workers. In the evenings they will have the opportunity to work directly in the homes and socialise with the youths.



This Year's Volunteers

More volunteers arrived during the last two weeks of September. Ms Daniela Pittomvils and Ms Sophie from Belgium will stay here for six months. At the moment, they are teaching in pre-school and English lesson as well as helping out in music class and the Marimba band. Also from Belgium MYC welcomed Ms Lore Janssen and Ms Sarah Opdekamp who are here until December for their Social Welfare internship. Furthermore, Ms Dorien Lijnzaad and Ms Kimberley Taco arrived from the Netherlands and stay in Manzini for seven months. The girls are teaching at the Enjabulweni primary school and pre-school. Kimberley is also doing the marketing for Imvelo, the jewellery shop at the life skills centre, and last but not least MYC welcomed Mr Ville Lappalainen, Ms Mirjam Skarp and Ms Merja Huuhka from Finland who will also join the Social Welfare Department. In order to help with evening studies all the volunteers will also be visiting

the MYC homes three times a week. We are happy to welcome the 17 new volunteers.

### MYC staff news

Celmusa Dlamini and Roison Pave recently participated in Herrsching Leadership Training course held in Herrsching, Germany, from 12<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> August 2015.

They ended the training with very good results within the framework of the “27<sup>th</sup> International Leadership workshop for Rural Youth.

Their training course included the following subjects: Methods of group work, fostering personal abilities, talents, creativity techniques, methodical skills of co-operations, skills for conflict management, motivation, leadership challenges, communication and presentation techniques, evaluation methods, the basics regarding qualified feedback and finally practice in didactic skills.

Their training course took place during twelve workshop days for a total 96 hours. By taking part in the “Herrsching Leadership Training Course”, both have acquired qualifications in the “identification of global challenges and local approaches towards solutions”, which is believed to be the main issue of the international workshop.

### Donations

Thanks to Miseen Cara for funding the purchase of a new pc for the MYC social welfare office which will greatly assist in record keeping.



Roison, Father Larry, Nomcebo and Brother Markho

Many congratulations to past MYC volunteer, Christopher Hopton, from London, UK who has

successfully completed the Bosphorus river cross continental swim race in Turkey. The river lies between the continents of Europe and Asia. Chris undertook this feat as a fundraising venture on behalf of our marginalized youth at MYC. Niyabonga Kakhulu bhuti Chris! (thanks, brother!)

With food security being of high concern in SD, MYC is grateful for the donations of 40 tons of rice from Stop Hunger Now Organisation from the USA. This food parcel will ensure that most of the youth both in MYC residential care homes, schools and pre-schools, soup kitchen and surrounding communities are fed on daily basis.



Food Supply at the Masekweni pre-school

Amanda Puruk from Finland, who is on internship, also donated books and parcels to MYC. We are also grateful for the donation of food parcels from Oshirinki investment.

A generous and much needed donation of 400 pairs of shoes was made to the residents of Manzini Youth Care homes by a team of volunteers from Taiwan. The donation came at a time when shoes were in desperate need. The donation was made by Caratus and was presented to MYC through MYC'S health coordinator Mr. Lovemore Garira. The team of volunteers also conducted games for the youngsters over 5 days in the sports hall.

### **Bosco Youth Agricultural Centre(BYAC) News**

After 2 years of hard work, BYAC, which is one of the biggest projects in MYC, is at the final stage of completion. This training centre will provide vocational training to the youth in Permaculture, pig rearing and bee-keeping. BYAC offers equal opportunities; regardless of gender hence all 3 vocational courses are open to both male and female trainees. The duration of the courses will be 6 months and all the trainees will be accommodated at the BYAC centre. After completion, trainees return to their communities in order to start their own projects, with some assistance from BYAT. The enrolment will take place next year January 2016. MYC would like to express its sincere gratitude to Don Bosco Mondo and the German Ministry in Bonn for funding this project, as this initiative will promote self-employment among the youth.



BYAC Training Centre

### **Pre-School Teacher Training Graduation**

The Manzini Youth Centre's graduation day for the Pre-school Teacher Training Church Forum Students of 2014/2015 was held on Friday the 18th September at Enjabulweni Free School; students, teachers, MYC members and families were among those in attendance. The graduation began with the MYC staff members and students thanked for their hard work throughout the year, students were encouraged to help others with their own education, continuing to contribute to the academic improvement of the country. Father Larry himself spoke and emphasized on the importance of education, further encouraging the graduates to implicate what they had learnt and using their knowledge within the community. The students themselves then performed a musical piece before the word of thanks given by Mrs Sonto, thanking the students for their commitment and asking them to continue to be committed as pre-school students in the



Father Larry addressing the graduates

future. The church forum was also thanked for funding the students as well as the entire staff for their continued support and encouragement of students to reach their full potential. The ceremony was ended with a hymn and prayer, good luck to all graduates on their pre-school teacher training in your future.



Pre/School Teacher Training Graduates

### **Volunteers required / items needed / fundraising:**

- Christmas is almost upon and any donation no matter how big or small would be very much appreciated. It would put a smile on the children's faces.
- Good quality second hand children shoes and clothes (age 10 - 22 years).
- **Note:** that the next round of volunteer intake for September to December 2015 is fully booked.
- Would you or a friend like to sponsor a home or a group of homes for a period of time?, just let us know, Thanks.

Further details from [bosco@realnet.co.sz](mailto:bosco@realnet.co.sz)

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