



COMBINED CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES TO THE POOR

ISAIAH 58

BUILDING BRIDGES, MEETING NEEDS & RESTORING LIVES - SIMPLY GETTING ON WITH THE JOB!

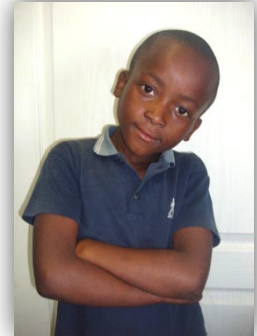
Update Report - October 2008

A few words . . .

It's hard to believe the end of another year is almost here! For us, this time of the year is really all about putting our heads down and working hard to get finished with all that we began earlier in the year. There are also many details for a few year-end activities to be dealt with, planning the way forward for next year & reflecting back on what has been achieved so far this year.

As an organisation whose work is reliant mostly on donations and the contribution of volunteers, who are typically occupied with wrapping up their own years right now, this also tends to be a time of the year when our needs as an organisation are clearly highlighted. I am pleased to say though that as difficult as this time of the year usually gets, each year is better than the last & this year is no exception. Although food donations remain low, the general participation of individuals and groups is higher than before & CCMP is generally in a better situation for this time of the year than ever before.

The time is right though to highlight these needs as opportunities for those who are willing to work together to address the great need of the poorest of the poor in our city, particularly orphaned and vulnerable children who never had a choice in how they would live.



- Mark

Highlights For The Month

1. In partnership with a student exchange program of Nelson Mandela Bay University, we have accepted a German social work student who will join the two Dutch students currently volunteering at the Ubomi Obutsha Centre.
2. Since our last report, which included our banking details, we have received a few financial donations in support of our work. As some of the deposits were made anonymously, we would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have contributed in this way.

Current Needs



1. **Money to support current and new full/part time staff.** As the work of CCMP has grown, so has the need for more people who are able to commit time daily to managing various areas of work. We understand that not everyone is able to do this, but supporting someone "on the ground" (effectively your representative) is as significant as being there yourself. We are looking at developing four positions next year & financial contributions to this end will be gladly welcomed. (see banking details below) Please contact us if you are interested finding out more about the positions we wish to fill,

2. **Money to put kids through school.** We can put a child through school next year for an average cost of only R850! This amount includes a basic school uniform, stationery, school bag & annual fees. Our initial target is to support 50 OVC's but hope to be able to support many more. Through the Ubomi Obutsha Centre we will also provide ongoing support through the Centre's resource library and a community volunteer dedicated to monitoring their progress through the year. We will also work on building a volunteer tutor program to assist scholars in their work.

Collected & Distributed Donations

Stats

Bakery Goods: **29 trolleys, 48 bags, 37 boxes**
 Fruit & Veg.: **51 crates**
 Soup Bones: **70 litres**
 Clothing: **30 bags**

Projects Supported

8



Contact Details

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Hamilton Matomane (Donations Collections): 079 662 4309

Banking Details

Ministry Account: **First National Bank**

Staff Support Account: **Bidvest Bank**

Account Name: **Combined Christian Ministries to the Poor** Branch Name: **Newton Park**

Account Name: **Mark Lawler** Branch Name: **Johannesburg**

Account Number: **62000371170** Branch Code: **261050**

Account Number: **244090001** Branch Code: **462005**

International donations can be made via MoneyGram – visit www.moneygram.com for details

(Please reference any deposits for receipting purposes and inform us via email as to how funds should be allocated)

www.ccmp.org.za



Ubomi Obutsha Centre



DEVELOPING THE POOREST OF THE POOR IN OUR COMMUNITY, THROUGH THE LOVE OF CHRIST, TO LIVE PRODUCTIVE LIVES.

The "New Life" Centre is a Community Development Project of Combined Christian Ministries to the Poor

Update Report – October 2008

Highlights For The Month



- In addition to our two Dutch social worker intern students, we have also been joined by a German social work graduate who will be volunteering with us until the end of March 2009.
 - Our Edu-Care lead volunteer scored 65% for the past quarter of the Foundation Phase Education course she is on. We are so proud of her progress in her studies & the impact that it is making in the program.
 - The adults participated in a "Hotbox" workshop. (The "Hotbox" is a cost saving cooking aid) They were shown how to make it & use it. Next year we hope to establish a group who will make "Hotboxes" as both a service to those in our community who cannot afford the cost of energy & as a fundraiser for the Centre.
 - An OVC Interventions Team was formalised from among our community volunteers. Their task is to identify, investigate & intervene in instances of extreme vulnerability among community children who attend activities at the Centre. This is work that has been ongoing but now has a more manageable structure.
 - As part of our OVC interventions program, a School Assistance strategy was mapped out for 2009 & information gathering on the first target of 50 OVC's needing this help has begun.
6. 10 volunteers completed the third & final week of an OVC care workshop facilitated by the National Association of Child Care Workers. The workshop was funded by the Starfish Greathearts Foundation as part of the Barnabas Trust Mentoring Program in which we are participants. This workshop has been greatly valuable in educating our volunteers regarding the developmental needs of children & intervention methods which will greatly improve the effectiveness of our work.



Challenges

- The study commitments of some volunteers, at this time of year, has prevented them from assisting with the Centre's programs.
- Parents who simply don't care for the wellbeing of their own children are a constant challenge. Fortunately many parents have turned their lives around and they are now challenging other irresponsible parents within their reach to think of their children first.
- The week occupied by the OVC workshop saw a marked decrease in attendance of Centre programs by community children and in the number of interventions (home visits, etc) carried out by our volunteers. We do realise though that the knowledge gained during this workshop will greatly improve our long term effectiveness.

Sampled Stories

- We had previously referred a case involving a young orphaned teenager, who was taken in & cared for by a neighbour, to social services for assistance in acquiring a foster care grant. With the assistance of our volunteers, the grant was finalised this month & the home now benefits from a regular income in support of this child.
- We received thanks from the grandmother of one of the toddlers in our Edu-Care program for the difference we have made in their lives. Her daughter, the mother of the child, died from AIDS in 2007 leaving the child in her care. She, however, was often drunk and unable to care for the child properly. Through our OVC Interventions Team we identified the extreme vulnerability of this child's life and accommodated him in our Edu-Care program. Through the medical assistance we access in partnership with the local clinic, we have discovered that he is unfortunately also HIV positive. He is however doing very well now and in good health thanks to the nutrition he receives at the Centre & his grandmother has joined those who work in the Food Garden & the other support programs offered & has made a significant turnaround in her life to the point where she no longer drinks and is able to care for her grandson adequately.



Donations towards year-end events.

Current Needs

We are planning a few year-end events for the children & adults whose lives we are a part of to simply bless them & to reward those who have made significant personal progress during the year. These events have huge significance as they bring the kind of recognition sadly lacking in their lives. Any contributions towards these events will be greatly appreciated.

Childrens/Youth Party: We have planned a morning outing to a play-park that will include a party sweet pack & Christmas gifts.

Teen Incentive Rewards: We would like to reward a few teenagers who have done notably well this year with a special reward outing that will include a movie, a restaurant meal & possibly the opportunity to buy new Christmas clothes.

Adult Gifts We would like to bless some of the parents/care-givers, who have made significant progress in their lives this year, with a hamper of food and cleaning materials.

Volunteers: And, of course, we would like to be able to bless our volunteers, who selflessly care for so many needy children, with a special outing, meal & financial gift.



October Stats:

OVC's: 598 serviced
2008 Total: 1593

Adults: 51 serviced
2008 Total: 133

Volunteers
23

Banking Details

Bank: **First National Bank**

Account Name: **Ubomi Obutsha Centre** Branch Name: **Newton Park**

Account Number: **62129245355** Branch Code: **261050**