



# Mother Of Peace Communities



## NEWSLETTER

Aug 09

### Making a difference...



Sinead Mullins from Umbogintwini Primary School arranges a grocery/Clothing collection for MOP once a year. She brought these out to MOP this Month

Dear "Friends of Mother of Peace"

The newsletter usually shows all the fun things happening to the children, the development, growth and facilities that are being improved upon all the time and doesn't often talk about the 'other' things that sometimes need to be spoken about.

Unfortunately my job is to talk about these 'things' when it becomes necessary.

The last edition of the newsletter was a special one that highlighted some of the financial aspects of running an organization such as Mother of Peace and I'm sure you are all well aware of the costs involved in raising your children at home – well, we're trying to raise our children here at Mother of Peace in exactly the same way trying to meet all their needs in as normal a family environment as possible.

To assist us in this task, we have the 'Sponsor a Child Project' that has been specifically designed to raise the funds in this regard. This newsletter will focus on this as a means of raising the funds needed but at the same time gives you an opportunity to have a very real interest in a particular child or children.

Without you and your tremendous support - prayers and financial, we could not continue so once again keep it up even in these hard times.

God Bless you  
Gavin R. Gradwell  
Community Leader & Chairman of the Management Committee

### Health & Hygiene



Mildred Cira from Addington Hospital came to MOP on Friday the 7th August to give workshop on dental hygiene - for all the children and Housemothers. The daycare children with some of the House mothers in the picture

### Maureen BADIN-LEE - A Volunteer at Mother of Peace

My name is Maureen and I am 31 years old. I'm a long-term volunteer at Mother of Peace and I function as a Child Care Manager.



I arrived with my husband Pierre-Emmanuel, who also works for Mother of Peace, in September 2008 and we will work for the organization until April 2010. We were sent by a French Catholic NGO called FIDESCO who matches the human needs of organizations around the world and the resources of volunteers.

I worked for 5 years before coming to South Africa, first for the Catholic Church in Peru in the Migrants' Pastoral during 2 years as a volunteer for FIDESCO (already!) and then 3 years in CARITAS France, organizing projects for and with the poor people living in Savoie, a region of France.

I enjoyed very much those experiences which taught me that the poorest must be placed in the centre of our concerns and decisions. I also learned that working as a team with different point of views makes the decision richer and lasts longer!

I now enjoy very much my job with the House-Mothers and the Care-Givers, caring for the children and organizing the best answers possible for them, with the help of a multi-disciplinary team. Our main concern is Education. Until today the children were going to local schools which unfortunately don't provide a good education so we are now taking steps to better the lives of our children and ensure a better future for them. With Pierre we are now expecting a baby for October and I am enjoying every day listening to the children asking why I've got a big belly or telling me that they like it, it is really nice... They really show a lot of affection and interest for the life to come. Experiencing the joys of expecting a baby in a children's home is great for me and for us. It also shows the children love and tenderness for life. It is a good way to tell them that they are a gift of life.

### A good sport...



Seabreeze Build It held a soccer day for 16 teams at MOP on the 25 August 2009.

**A letter from Nana (now 18 years old)**



On my background things were NOT good at all. My Mother passed away in December 2006. She left 4 children, 1 older sister, me and 2 younger brothers. My older sister did not take care of us. She left home and we didn't know where she is gone to. I was the only one left with children. I was doing school and they were also doing school. NO ONE was there to guide and PROVIDE special need. We were alone at home. And our house was very old and it was already falling down the other side. We drop at school 2007 because we didn't have support.

Then in 2008 I took the 2 younger children to their father because we were assorted in different fathers. I came by myself at Mother of Peace to ask for help. I told them my story. They accept me even though I'm bit old. (17 years old – arrived at Mother of Peace in March 2008). Since I was born I never get love and peace because my mother was alcohol user. She was always hitting and tells me to look after her children. Her family takes us the time she passes away but they didn't treat us well. They were used to punish us with food. They were only give us shelter NOT ANY thing that why I end up here at Mother of Peace because they chase us. They said we must NOT come back. We have to go and get the job.

What does it mean to live at Mother of Peace?

For me it mean I've been chosen from thousand children to grow under certain protection and have people taking care of me by providing my special need. Because MOP is my place of hope NOT to hide myself which encourage and make me proud of myself and it show me that they are some people who love me and wish me bright future. After all negative things have happen in the rest of my life now I'm in good hands and I'm special. Because there are lots of children who are still struggling and they need help but it is not easy to find them.

With my own personal understanding Mother of Peace is a great creation from God. Which erase all circumstance I've been through during the past and my background and only bring love; peace and comfort in from of my eyes.

(See next Issue for more about Nana)

**A TRAINING FOR ALL THE STAFF IN JULY 2009**

17 from Mother of Peace (all the House-Mothers, the Care-Givers, and others) participated in the training called "Never mind the weather" a toolkit on Children's Mental Health Bren Brophy, the guest-speaker, a social scientist from the University of Kwazulu-Natal, develops programs for communities affected by HIV and AIDS. He explained to us that those include the people who are not directly infected by HIV but who suffer from it : the orphans, the people who lost a sibling, the child-headed households...

We were introduced to a tool-kit that he created with his team. It contains activities to build the mental health of the children. He explained that mental health is about "What do I think about myself?" and "What do I perceive the others think about me?" A child with a good mental health has a good resilience which means he is able to bounce back after facing a difficult event. It is our role as child carers to provide a safe environment for the children to be able to share their feelings and grow from the experiences they faced, and also to be able to recognise a mental illness and refer it.

He also took time to clarify issues about HIV and AIDS because the people working with HIV positive children have sufficient understanding but always in need of additional information. It was a great opportunity to share their doubts and worries.

This training all gave us strength and hope that our children, with all the difficulties and trauma they faced, can do something beautiful with their life, thanks to our great or little contribution.

See next Issue on Training by NACCW sponsored by ABSA Foundation



**Teenager's holiday programme**

2 Dutch "Be-More" Volunteers, Anouk and Anne, arranged a holiday programme with a difference.

8 of our teenagers were taught to write their resumes, complete a job application letter and were also interviewed and then given feedback regarding how the interviews were.

After the first step of the programme was completed they were then given tasks to do around the project. Some assisted in the office; others cleaned, helped at the chicken project or assisted with teaching or worked in the kitchen.

The Dutch volunteers then gave them pocket money and took them shopping to buy food and prepare a meal for their homes. This was done to allow them to experience budgeting, planning, shopping and preparing which was a new experience for them as all their basic needs and more are met by staff and volunteers at MOP.

The teenagers and staff thoroughly enjoyed the 'holiday programme' and all had a lot of fun working together. This programme is just the start of focusing on their future once they leave Mother of Peace – Illovo. A thorough evaluation has been done regarding this programme and suggestions for the future are being discussed – as to how to really prepare our teenagers for when they leave home one day. Various other activities arranged and sponsored by the Be-More Volunteer for the children were soccer and netball competitions, dancing, drama and swimming lessons, acrobatics, arts and movie nights.

**Name of Account: Mother of Peace Illovo**  
**Name of Bank: First National Bank**  
**Branch Name and Code: Amanzimtoti 220127**  
**Account Number: 62085504267**  
**Swift Code: FIRNZAJJA659**