

# Mother of Peace

P.B.O.: 930023806  
Incorporated not for gain  
Section 21: 2005/004210/08

## Illovo

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# Newsletter

Issue 1

May 2009

Dear "Friends of Mother of Peace"

Some time has elapsed since the last newsletter went out to all of you – hopefully this will be a thing of the past as we have restructured the communications section of MoP and will endeavour to have a newsletter out to you by the middle of every month. We would appreciate feedback from you regarding the newsletter over the next few months as we attempt to standardise on the format and content areas.

At the same time, our web page will be updated and we will be attempting to keep it current with photos of events and happenings. There will also be a new section acknowledging donors and funders with some reporting on projects and finances so that a level of transparency and information sharing can be maintained.

Much has happened at Mother of Peace over the last seven or eight months since the last newsletter went out and the articles included here will highlight some of these however, I must make special mention of "Friends of Mother of Peace – Ireland" who have given us so much fantastic support over the last few years providing funds, volunteer labour for new housing for the children; the upgrade and supply of new fencing for the stadium and not to forget to mention our new chapel "Chapel of the Holy Innocents" that was opened in April of this year as well as the purchase of a bus to get the children to school and back. They have also provided significant support for the new infirmary together with two other local donors Nedbank and Chemserve. Thank You!

On behalf of all of us here at Mother of Peace, I would like to take this opportunity of thanking all of you for your continued prayers, support and donations. Without which, we would not be able to function as effectively as we do as there is very little financial support from government and it is difficult to make ends meet; even more so in these depressed financial times – this will be the subject of a special edition newsletter in about two weeks time.

God Bless you

Gavin R. Gradwell

Community Leader & Chairman of the Management Committee

### Sponsor a Child Project

We are really blessed to have 27 of our children either partly or wholly sponsored by people all over the world. The Sponsor a Child programme allows us to provide for the basic needs of the children, as well as to be able to implement various programmes such as speech therapy and additional counselling services where required.

Please contact the office if you would like to know more about how you too can become a sponsor.

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## SPECIAL THANKS

When mentioning people and organizations that have helped Mother of Peace over the past few months, there is always a risk of leaving somebody out. For this reason, we send out personalized thank you letters to every donor. It is however important to recognize the few that have gone the extra mile in order to help us.

In no particular order we would like to thank:

Friends of Mother of Peace – Ireland

Chemserve

Ubuntu Community Chest

SACBC

Nedbank

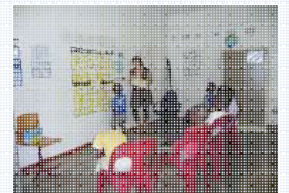
Rotary Amanzimtoti

Be-More

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## Some of our achievements for 2008 include

- A play room for the babies
- The homework room completed
- A theatre room
- Computer room set up - I Care and Mother of Peace
- ABET for our staff - Sponsored
- THRASS (Teaching Handwriting Reading and Spelling Skills) Programme Implemented
- The Social Worker employed from June 2008
- The demolition and rebuilding of the Chapel
- The Infirmary under reconstruction
- A second 9 seater vehicle purchased
- The Chicken Project re-started
- The children learning to swim – and enjoying the learning
- Nolwazi, one of our children was chosen, late last year, to be a 2009 prefect at the school she attends.
- Offices for social worker incorporating a play therapy room
- Offices for the day care centre
- Submitted application for registration as a children's home
- Some of our boys going on a holiday to Johannesburg with Round Table
- A borehole was installed on the property
- A new sewerage system which will be completed shortly
- Coordinated the building of an ablution block at Inkwali Primary School, which was sponsored by "Friends of Mother of Peace – Ireland"
- Fencing installed round the football field and orchard
- The Financial Audit Successfully completed
- Implementation of Working with monthly themes
- Monthly Communal Dinner Implemented



## Financial auditing

As a registered NGO and Section 21 company, it is necessary for Mother of Peace to have its financial records audited on an annual basis. Our auditor, N.A Harris & Co, has audited the annual financial statements of the 2007-2008 tax year.

The audit was conducted in accordance with South Africa Auditing standards. Those standards require that the auditor, control and express an opinion based on certain issues.

The auditor approved the audit and he certified that the

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## Vegetable Farming

In order to try and counter some of the effects of rising running costs, we have started to once again grow our own vegetables. We have just planted cabbage, beetroot, cauliflower, brinjal, tomato and beetroot. We plan to plant again in a few days time, ensuring continuity. By the end of the year Mother of Peace will be completely self sufficient when it comes to vegetables. (see some pictures on the next page)



## Volunteering at Mother of Peace

Mother of Peace still receives tremendous support from both local and international volunteers.

Our Irish volunteers continue to provide much needed support in upgrading the physical environment here and thanks to them we now have a functional kitchen, dining room area and pantry, as well as an almost complete stadium for soccer and other sporting activities. In addition to this they also help us tremendously in meeting our monthly running cost needs.

Our Dutch volunteer program has now been running for over two years and in that time the amount of support we have received from them, both materially and in providing much needed skills as well as “willing hands” has been immense.

We currently have two volunteers from Fidesco, a Catholic NGO based in France (Our kids are becoming very cosmopolitan!). They help us tremendously in assisting in the overall management of the project.

We have also had a wide selection of local volunteers that have assisted in all aspects of the project, from teaching in the day care to taking the kids horse riding.

If you are interested in volunteering at Mother of Peace please contact Byron at [byron@motherofpeace.org.za](mailto:byron@motherofpeace.org.za) or give him a call on 031 916 1147.

### Bank Details

Mother of Peace Illovo bank details are as follows:

First National Bank  
 Mother of Peace–Illovo  
 A/C No 62085504267  
 Branch code: 220127  
 Swift: FIRZAJJA659

### Child Care at Mother of Peace

We can say that our children are lucky. Of course this sounds shocking if you consider that there is no better place than living with your own parents and that nothing in the world can replace that. But providing shelter, security, food, running water and a bed makes a big difference. Consider also that Mother of Peace provides our 53 children with love and care through our staff, the 11 House-Mothers and 4 Care-Givers who work 24 hours a day (almost!) to raise who they consider “their” children. On top of that, we are providing them with an after-school program. Every day they learn through a very dynamic method how to spell, read and write in English (thanks to Wilma). The Dutch volunteers from BeMore also hold a session in the Homework room where the children can do their homework, play games with numbers, read stories together, hear about different jobs, or do craft.

In spite of all these efforts, our children struggle at school. Not all of them. But for many, reading and counting is still not easy in High School. The education system in our local community is unfortunately weak with crowded classrooms, teacher absenteeism, poor budget, and no facilities. Our role is therefore to set up a strategy for next year and the following years to try to give our best to the children.

This year we started by sending one of our children to a more suitable school for his needs. He’s much happier now in this new environment. We also decided that we would send our children to a better primary school to give them all the chance to succeed in life. Four children aged 5 and 6 years old started Grade R in January. This will provide them with all they need before going to Grade 1 next year. This is a challenge for them because everything is now in English. In the next year we plan to find a better high school for our young teenagers. All of these plans result in many challenges however the smiles on their faces as they come back from their new school tell us that it is really worth it.

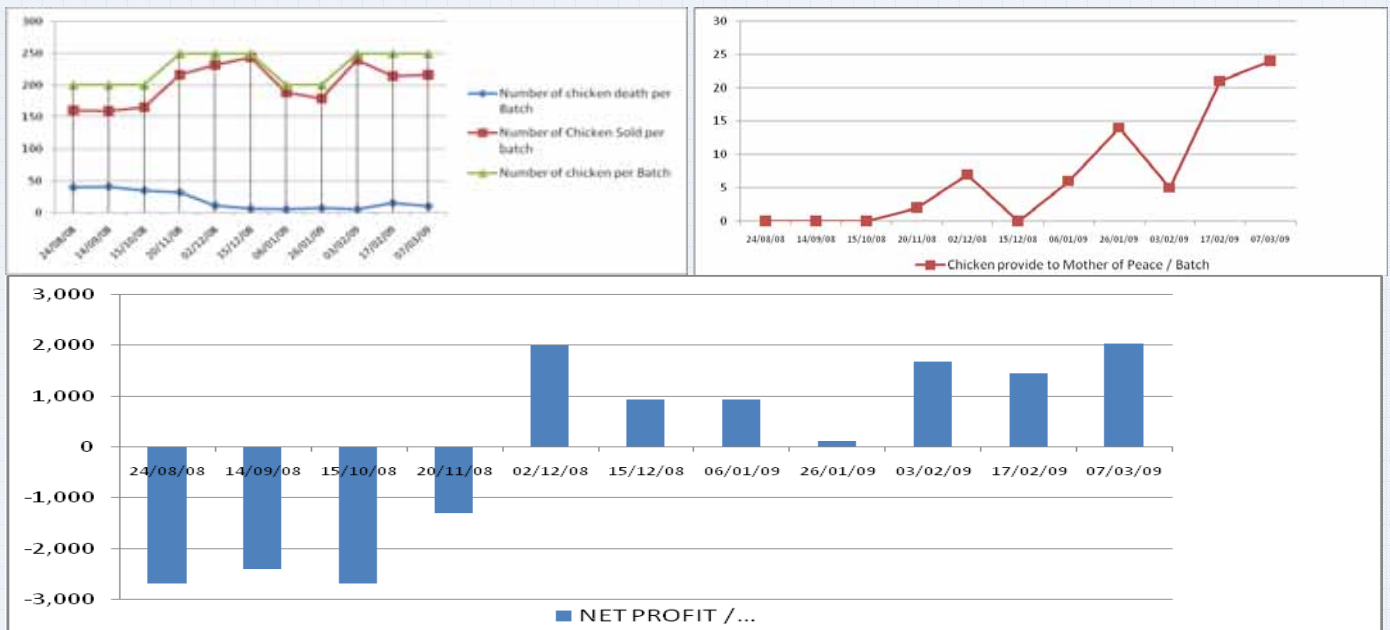


## Chicken story!

From the second quarter of 2008, Mother of Peace Illovo with the support of Nedbank and Rotary re-established a Poultry Project, whereby day old chickens are purchased and then reared until they can be sold in order to generate a profit or used as a source of protein within the project. It took some time, but under the strict management of Pierre (one of our French volunteers), this project has now succeeded in becoming profitable.

Initially there were many challenges that had to be faced, including an unusually high mortality rate which took much perseverance and innovative thinking to address. Pierre managed to overcome this high mortality rate by introducing a very strict regime which included changing the types of shavings for the floor, new and better disinfectants, vitamins and even sourcing day old chicks from different suppliers.

The success of this project has meant that in addition to added income and food we have also been able to provide employment for two people, who now possess the skills required for poultry farming. This project has also strengthened our ties to the surrounding community who provide the market for our broilers.



## Financial Auditing Cont.

financial records of Mother of Peace financial are in accordance with standard accounting practice. This official report and result (Practice No. 963674) can be provided through Mother of peace on request.

The annual audit of the 2008-2009 financial statements started in May 2009, with N. A Harris & Co, the aim and the rules are the same. Results to this audit are expected in September 2009.

For any information, details, questions concerning finance please feel free to contact Pierre.

## Child Care Cont.

Our teenagers were also taken to see a Career Counsellor to do a test and talk about who they are and what they want to do later. It is encouraging to see how the Teens' homework room is now filled in the afternoon...

These young people also raise another concern to us: now that they are turning 18, how can we help them become independent? It is a difficult stage in one's life which is often made easier by the fact that one's parents are never too far. In their case, they will have to learn how to get around in the city, find a job, ask for grants, fill forms etc.. They are now all participating in the houses doing chores, cooking, helping with the laundry. We dream of a special educator, a program and a house where the young adults would learn to live independently, managing their own budget, doing their chores alone, going in and out for their studies or job.

We all have dreams. Then, the choices and the decisions have to follow. All the lives of our children, from our babies to our 18 years-olds, require the right decisions for them. May we know how to make the right decisions for the lives of our loved-ones.

All that is not luck, it is love.