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Dear previous, current and past volunteers,

Yet another big thank you to all of you for being involved in the lives of our children. Mother of Peace would definitely not be where we are right now without all your help!

Enjoy reading this month's newsletter!

Rewards system houses

To improve the behavior of our children and stimulate positive behavior we have implemented a rewards system in each house.

All house mothers have received a big poster for their house with all the names of the children and the weeks of the month on it. Each Friday afternoon they will gather all the children of their house and have a short meeting with them, discussing their behavior during that week. If the child behaved well enough that week, the child receives a star and gets to watch a movie on Friday night. If the child didn't behave well enough (the housemother decides!) they won't earn a star and the mother will explain what went wrong and what can be improved so they can earn a star again next week.

At the end of the month, there will be a nice reward for the house with the most stars, so the children will also encourage the other children in the house to behave better. The "prize" could be a night out for dinner, borrow a dvd player for a month, order pizza for the whole house etc. etc.

The mothers all received a notebook where they will write down the good and bad behavior of the kids, so even when they are on leave, the relief housemother can take over.



House	St. Bridget				12 Oct - 07 Nov 2009
	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Total
Thabizile	★			★	5
Ntombazonke	★	★	★		3
Buhle	★	★	★		4
Sanelo	★	★	★	★	4
Mine	★	★	★		3
					19

We are still working on a system to punish the children when they do something wrong, the rewards system is focusing on the good behavior of the children.

Birthdays

In September and October we celebrated the birthdays of

- *Dotta (02-09-1999) * Pamela (19-09-2003) *Sanele (05-09-2006) *Kethiwe (21-09-2001)
- * Nhtando (30-09-2007) * Nokuzola (19-09-1993) * Mthokozisi (13-09-1999) *Siyanda (06-10-2004) * Bo (05-10-2004) * Rebecca (25-10-2004)

Volunteer newsletter – Mother of Peace

Volunteers October



Esther, Femke (BB), Petra, Manou, Veronique.

Hi Everyone, let us first introduce ourselves. We are , Esther, Petra, Veronique and Manou, volunteers of October. We are really enjoying ourselves at Mother of Peace.

This month was a school holiday so we did lots of nice activities with the children. We went surfing, rock climbing, bowling and ice skating. Unfortunately the weather wasn't great so we couldn't take the kids to the beach. The children really love working in the art room, they make some great things there.

Big hug from all of us!

Doonhights Primary school

Pamela, Akhona and Anele went to an introduction day at Doonhights Primary school. They will go to Grade 1 of this school in January after finishing at Tecoma.

Doonhights is a great school and they are very willing to take in our children and even give us a discount on the school fee's. The children and mothers loved the school and were very impressed with what the current Grade 1 children could already do.

Unfortunately Mpume didn't cope well enough at Tecoma this year to go to grade 1. She will most probably do grade R again next year.



Zumba lessons

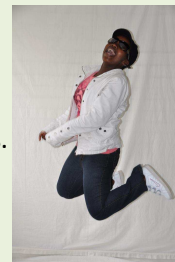
Volunteer Sanne is a Zumba teacher back in Holland so of course she had to teach our children some of her moves!

The kids really enjoyed her lessons and are still asking now when they are going to "shake" in the theatre again.

Photo shoot housemothers

Instead of an outing we did a photo shoot with the house mothers and care givers this month.

The volunteers did their makeup and helped them with choosing nice outfits. The mothers loved it and the pictures were great!!



Assessments for remedial teaching

As some of our children are really struggling at school we had them assessed by a special school in Durban.

Nkosi, Thobani, Sanele, Khetiwe and Nontokozi will go to a remedial school in Durban next year where they have much smaller classes, more attention from the teachers and where they can work more in their own pace.

We really hope that this will help them to cope better and successfully finish their primary and high school.

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Bookkeeper: Hugh Holland 031 916-7954 Section 21 Chairman: Philip King 031 916-4969
Community Leader: Gavin A. Gradwell 082 200-9614, Administration: Heather Cloete 083 746-7249

September & October 2009

Volunteer newsletter – Mother of Peace

Rabbits!!

In September we got 5 new members of the Mother of Peace community; 5 baby rabbits!

We thought it was a good idea to teach the children to be responsible and to take care of animals since they are not used to this at all. The children are helping with feeding the rabbits and playing with them. It is so nice to see that even the roughest kids are very careful and caring.

The rabbits are a bit bigger now and we have built a nice cage for them (thank you Anke!!) where they have plenty of room to run around. The kids still love going in there and play with the bunnies.



Ice skating and rock climbing during holidays

During the school holiday the volunteers took the children ice skating and rock climbing in Durban and they had the best time!

Most of them had never even seen ice before but they were determined to learn how to skate and they just kept on trying!

They were all helping each other and they had great fun together.

For the rock climbing they went to Gateway, where they have the highest indoor climbing wall in the world!



Weekly surfing lessons

Sane, Thabisile, Thandeka M, Thandeka N, Thobile, Nolwazi, Zola and Nana are now getting weekly surfing lessons from coach Clifford at Ushaka beach in Durban. Wilma takes them to Durban on Saturday's when the weather and the waves are right.

The girls are still a bit scared of the sea but they are improving very quickly and some are really doing great! The coach is trying to get them ready to surf in competitions and the girls often get nice free stuff, sponsored by Roxy.



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September & October 2009

Newsletter - Mother of Peace

Volunteers September



Helen, Rachel, Annelies,
Sanne, Nikki, Michelle,
Jacqueline, Nicole

After waiting one very long year I finally came back to Mother of Peace at the end of July 2009. It was great to come back to all those sweet kids with their smiling faces! Lots has changed during the past year, especially since Wilma came back as a volunteer coordinator and is always around to help you. There is THRASS, a toy library, art room, well structured homework room, future improvement program for the teenagers, rabbits, horse riding lessons, surfing lessons etc. Etc. Mother of Peace has worked so hard the past year and lots of positive changes have been made which is great for the kids and their future. It is amazing to see a project grow so fast and to be able to be part of that for about 4 months.

The best thing about coming back to Mother of Peace is of course the kids!! They are great, and the small moments of quality time is what makes working here so nice. Nothing can beat the feeling of a child that falls asleep on your lap during the movie, a proud face after finally getting how to work out those sums, the thought big boy that comes to you for a hug or the fun that shows on their faces during an outing. For me this is really the place to be!

Nikki – volunteer August 2008 and July-October 2009

Baby Samuel

Maureen and Pierre are now the very proud parents of baby Samuel. He is a very cute and healthy little boy and both Pierre and Maureen are so happy with him!

The children think this “white baby” is the most interesting thing, and he has been called a “volunteer” by one of the kids already!

Eyes test

All children got their eyes checked in September. Thobile, Kethiwe, Buhle, Nontokozo, Nkosi and Ntombizonke are now the proud owners of some nice fancy glasses! They still have to get used to wearing them a bit but they already look very smart with it!



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Volunteer newsletter – Mother of Peace

Teenagers “future improvement program” continued.

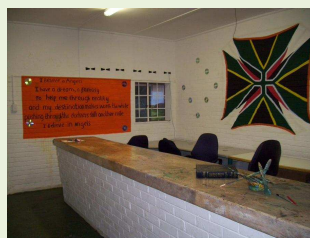
During the last holidays volunteers Anne and Anouk have started a future improvement program with our teenagers. They have taught them how to make a CV and application letter, how to do a job interview and how to make a budget. The teenagers did little jobs at Mother of Peace to earn some pocket money.

This holiday we continued with the program and our teenagers got some work experience outside Mother of Peace. Phelelani, Thandeka and Wandile have work the whole week at the butcher and they loved it! They made very long hours but were on time every day and we got very positive feedback from their supervisor.

Kule, Nana, Thabisile and Thandeka have worked a day at Clicks and the others are going to work at Spur next Saturday. The teenagers all indicated that they enjoy working and learning new things so we are going to try to find them some other jobs during weekends and holidays.

Upgrade teenage study room

Together with our September volunteers our teenagers have upgraded their own study room. The room now looks really cool with some great wall paintings and pictures of all the teenagers. The teenagers use this room to do their homework and study on their own instead of going to the homework room



Star of the month

At Mother of Peace we feel that we need to give some extra positive attention to the children that are behaving really well or do something special. Therefore we introduced a "Star of the month" award. Every month, during our communal lunch with all children, mothers, staff and volunteers we will choose 3 children that are Star of the month.

Their picture will be put up in a big photo frame and displayed at a place where all children and mothers can see it every day. The mothers and children can nominate the next "star of the month" by putting a note with the name and reason why the child deserves something special in a box. We started this last month and the children seemed to really like it! The mothers and volunteers were very proud of them!



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Drivers license Nana, Mbali and Phelelani

At Mother of Peace we currently have 3 18-year olds whom I would really like to give the opportunity to get their drivers license. Everyone who visited South Africa before knows that public transport is not well arranged and not always safe in this country and it would give them so much more freedom and independence if they could drive a car.

Unfortunately costs for learners (theorie examen) and driving lessons are quite high here as well and I need to raise about 300 euro's for each child to be able to afford their license.

Previous volunteers, if any of you would like to contribute to getting these kids their license, or if you know anyone who would, please do so through **Stichting Be More, 12.17.74.228, Nijmegen**, stating "**MoP Drivers License**".

Future volunteers, if you would like to raise funds for us, this might be one of the things you would like to spend your sponsor money on!

Star of the month – October

Akhona > for doing very well at school and always helping Pamela in her class.

Dotta > for having learned how to read very quickly with THRASS and always behaving very well.

Phelelani, Thandeka N and Wandile > for working very hard during the holidays and always being on time.

Visit to soccer game Pirates

Ryan, a local volunteer that comes on Friday afternoon to play soccer with the boys took our bigger boys to a soccer game of the Pirates in Durban. The boys had the time of their lives!



Possible scholarship for Thuliswa

The South African government is running a scholarship program for children that will be in Grade 8 in 2011. From Inkwali Primary school Thuliswa has been nominated for this scholarship.

We have filled in all the papers together with her and are now awaiting an answer. This scholarship would mean that her whole further education would be paid for her and she could go to the best schools which of course would be great for her!

Sane, Sanele and Nana helping out at Sandile's school

Our volunteers are still helping out at Khanyisizwe Special school twice a week. Nana often goes with them to help at the school and she really enjoys this.

Sane and Sanele also went with one day to see the school of their brother and to help in his class.

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