



Swimming trip: clinging on tight

Bright Future Preschool

The Bright Future Preschool pupils entertained their parents and community members with demonstrations of what they had learned as well as singing, dancing and performing a play at the graduation ceremony in December 2013.

A recent OECD publication provides evidence of the huge impact high quality preschool education has on the lives of children from disadvantaged backgrounds www.oecd.org/edu/school/48980282.pdf. For us, this evidence came in the form of the first term report of one of our leavers, 'Sihle', who went on to primary school in Mbabane. She came sixth out of 60 children in grade 1 at the end of the first term of 2014, with marks above average in all for subjects. 'Sihle' comes from a poor family of five in Nkoyoyo, with a combined income of about £30 per month after paying rent for a two room flat. 'Sihle' has taken the opportunity SHAMBA's donors have given her to do well: a chance she would not otherwise have had because her family would not have been able to afford private preschool fees. Thank you!

A highlight of the first term of 2014 was the annual swim in Barbara's pool. Most of the children held on tightly at first (see photo) but, by the end of the session, some of the braver ones were jumping in from the side. Please click on the Facebook icon at the top of the page to find videos of the graduation ceremony and swimming trip.

The Roma Community in Mpolonjeni

The community in Roma has asked SHAMBA to work with them to rebuild their fallen down mud and stick kitchen and support them in developing quality early childhood and development services for their OVCs. We will support the community to build a kitchen and schoolroom and run a preschool for the most needy children in the area. Community members have formed a neighbourhood care point (NCP) committee and have cleared the site. We expect the foundations to be dug in June and the building work will start then. We will post regular updates on progress on our Facebook page. We are also working with a second community in Mpolonjeni that has asked for SHAMBA's support with a similar project. SHAMBA is still raising the funds for these projects.

Caregiver training

At the request of the volunteer caregivers in Mpolonjeni, SHAMBA planned (and funded) training in child protection and psychosocial support for 30 caregivers in April. SHAMBA was assisted by facilitators from Children's Cup, the NCCU, REPSSI and Super Buddies. Jabu Chirwa, the head caregiver, said it was a very good workshop. You can find a video clip of the event on our Facebook page: click on the icon at the top of page 1.

June, 2014

Moving up and on



Graduation
Five proud graduates hold up their certificates

Buy a brick appeal
This appeal raised half the funds needed to build a new NCP structure





Way forward
The Roma community and SHAMBA agree to work together for the benefit of their OVCs

Thank you to our volunteers

Charlotte left in December to return to the UK. She was a great help in organising Swaziland Christmas fundraising events. Lucia left in February to do research work. Her legacy was the new afterschool maths club, the "Games Club", which she set up, ran and evaluated before she left. Other international volunteers who are helping us include Makala, a Fulbright Scholar, researching the roles and experiences of volunteer caregivers in NCPs. We have also been assisted by Chris, a psychologist, and we continue to get support from Barbara at the preschool, whilst Anna, Gill and Makala run the afterschool reading club. Clare, who is with us for a year, has made a big impact in relation to our management and administration and developing the capacity of SHAMBA staff. She has also enjoyed trips to Lesotho and South Africa: Cape Town, Kruger Park and Sodwana Bay! We would like to welcome Bill and Maureen who are 'new' volunteers.

Another reminder of why we are here: Nhlanhla's story (all the names have been changed)

SHAMBA continues to support our 'graduates' and other very needy children in the Mpolonjeni community. Very sadly, the mother of one of our former pupils at the preschool died recently giving birth to twins and one of the twins died too. We are calling the surviving twin 'Nhlanhla', not his real name. He is being looked after by a neighbour, 'Nomsa'. Nomsa is a single mother of a 7 year old daughter (also a former preschool pupil). She also looks after her 9 year old niece (abandoned by her mother) and Nhlanhla's 18 month old brother.

'Sipho', the father of the baby, looks after three other sons (aged 5, 9 and 13) and one daughter (8). Nomsa and Sipho have part-time employment. They both rent small two-roomed houses for which they pay R600 per month; 60% of their earnings.

These families were struggling to make ends meet before this tragedy. With the families' permission, SHAMBA made appeals locally and internationally for donations to help us buy milk and other necessities for the baby. We have also received donations of baby clothes, bottles, nappies and bedding from Swaziland and as far away as New Zealand. Thuli MacDonald makes regular household visits and gives advice about looking after the baby. She has also taken the children to the clinic several times. The families say thank you very much indeed to those who donated.

Sponsorships and donations

In May, two people participated in sporting events on behalf of SHAMBA to raise sponsorship. Rick Schoeman, one of our trustees, ran the Leeds Half Marathon in 1 hour 52 minutes. His son Luke, our youngest fundraiser at age 10, participated in the Leeds and Bradford Junior Aquathlon, which he completed in less than ten minutes. He wanted to raise funds to support the Bright Future Preschool and the children he met when he visited in 2013. Together these two intrepid souls have so far raised about £2000 for SHAMBA. We are very grateful to them.

If you would like to make a single or regular donation to support SHAMBA's work, please visit our [donate webpage](#). Or, if you are thinking about a marathon or similar, please consider entering on behalf of SHAMBA and raising funds through sponsorship.

We would also like to thank Waterford Kamhlaba College for their support with business and computer training for young people. We thank Children's Cup for their regular donations of food to the Nkoyoyo Swedish Free Church NCP. This food is essential as many children attending the NCP are from households experiencing food poverty.

Support SHAMBA through [easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk)

Please register with Easyfundraising via <http://www.shambatrust.org/fundraiser2.htm> and choose SHAMBA Trust as your charity. When you shop online retailers such as Amazon, M&S, and Tesco will donate up to 15% to SHAMBA at **no extra cost to yourself**. As well as shopping, you can for example book flights and hotels. Please have a look!

Keep updated

Keep updated on how your donations are being used via our Facebook page and website. Click on the icons at the top of this newsletter to visit them (even if you are not on Facebook yourself you can view the weekly timeline posts). Please tell others about the website and Facebook page and let us know if there is information you need that you cannot find on these sites.

The sixth SHAMBA newsletter

This is the sixth SHAMBA newsletter for our donors and supporters. We will send you one twice a year; please let us know if you do not wish to receive it.