

April 2005

Firstly, all the Pebbles Project Team would like to say a huge

THANK YOU

for all your support..... your contribution and involvement is so valuable to us.

This is the first Pebbles Project Newsletter, and we hope to be able to update you regularly with what we are doing, our work, our fundraising activities and our successes. We hope you stay the distance with us!

For those of you new to Pebbles – here's a brief summary of our aims....

Our vision is to enrich the lives of children from disadvantaged backgrounds with special educational needs, especially those affected by alcohol, through providing support and training to local crèches and primary schools.

We support children aged 2 – 12 with learning difficulties, their parents/carers and educators.

We work in the Stellenbosch/Somerset West area of the Western Cape.

We have a dedicated, young and dynamic team driving the project, which come from education, legal, charity and wine industry backgrounds. The team are: Sophia Warner, Anzill Adams, Anna Lusty, Mzokhona Mvemve, Lucy Warner, Ansgar Flaaten and Janice Raats.

So, a quick update:

- The Pebbles Project Trust was registered with The Master of the High Court in December 2004, our number is IT4088/2004. We are awaiting a response from SARS (South African Revenue Service) regarding our NPO (non profit organisation) number for tax exemption.
- **We opened our bank account in January 2005. The details of our account are:
First National Bank,
Somerset Mall Branch,
Branch code 20-09-12.
Account name: The Pebbles Project Trust.
Account number 62077744285.
Donations can be made direct into this account.**
- Over the last few months, members of the Pebbles team have been researching into the needs of the farm worker communities and the community in Lwandle township. This has involved visiting up to 30 crèches, interviewing the crèche workers, visiting 6 schools, meeting with school Principals, and gathering information about children with special educational needs (SEN). This information will help us identify the children that most need our help.
- **Research has shown that there is a great demand for the support that Pebbles will offer, in collaboration with other local NPOs (non profit organisations).**
- It seems that up to 25% of all children attending a crèche or primary school in the identified areas have some kind of special educational needs. This can be as a result of Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD), other learning disabilities – (for example: speech and language disorders, hyperactivity, attention deficit, reading problems to name but a few), lack of stimulation when young, neglect, poor social circumstances,

lack of training on behalf of the educator or simply a chronic lack of educational resources – books, toys, games and equipment.

- **We are currently developing our training materials which will now be translated into Afrikaans and Xhosa, in preparation for printing and distribution to crèches, schools, clinics and community venues. Our training programme will start later in the year.**
- We are planning our official launch in August, following a big media-splash around our sponsored "Abseil Down Table Mountain" fundraising event at the end of July. If you would like to take part in the abseil or sponsor us to do it, please contact us.
- **We have approached a couple of well-known sports personalities about becoming our Patron, and are awaiting a response.....**

Once again, thank you for all your support, generosity and involvement.