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December 2006

2006 has been a truly awesome year for Pebbles and we have really started to see some great results of our work. This is due to the help, support and financial aid we have received from all the people who believe in us, and from all the hard work of the trustees and Marileze Buys.

TRAINING PROGRAMME

The training programme for 8 crèche teachers finished in November, and our intention in 2007 is to offer on-site training and continued support for these same teachers to enable them to consolidate what they have learned over the past 9 months and to maintain a high standard of education offered to the children attending the crèches. The CAPE WINEMAKERS GUILD is supporting us with funding for this extended training programme. Thank you CWG. We will also be offering awareness programmes for parents and youths relating to Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder and responsible alcohol use, as this issue is still our core business.



STAFF

Marileze Buys has been worth her weight in gold this last 6 months, and has efficiently and tirelessly managed the Art Project at Eaglevlei (funded entirely by Eaglevlei), organised the educational trips, set up libraries in all the crèches that we support, arranged after school activities, sorted out activity days with volunteers, as well as helping with the training, organising the kids Christmas party and assessing special needs children. The list is endless. What a gem!

FUNDRAISING

Pebbles continues to attract wonderful people who cannot do enough to help us with fundraising, or who simply want to hand over cash to us so that we can get on with our work...

Keith Prothero and the Wine Pages Forum have been brilliant at raising funds and awareness for us in the UK, and Keith has also personally committed to donating a very substantial amount for Pebbles projects in 2007. Thank you to Keith, Tom Cannavan and the Wine Pages Forum supporters.

Nick Dymoke Marr from the UK who presented at the WOSA AGM also showed his support for Pebbles by flying to SA economy instead of business class, and donating the difference in ticket price to Pebbles! Thanks Nick, hope your DVTs are ok!

The Pavilion Party in November was a great success, thanks to Lucy and Ansgar for the flawless organisation, as always. Everyone had a fab time, and we raised R40,000 in the silent auction. Thanks to all the generous individuals and companies who donated auction items, especially First Cape for the helicopter flip and Arabella accommodation. If we went on to mention everyone who donated, this newsletter would be pages long, but you know who you are! and we thank you. We were also happy to welcome SAWIT, KWV and British American Tobacco as supporters at the event.



CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Pebbles Christmas Party on the 14th December was a huge success - there were over 200 children from all the crèches that we support, and an amazing group of volunteers and Pebbles supporters to make sure it all went smoothly.

Thank you to everyone who helped make the day so special for the children, they all had a brilliant time, and thanks to all the companies that donated fruit (Afrifresh), reduced rate disco (Deejays), clown suits (Fancy That) and particularly to the Somerset West Rotary club for donating so many presents for Father Christmas to give out.

SPONSOR A CHILD

Anna Lusty has gone from strength to strength with the S.A.C. programme, and we now have over 25 children being sponsored. This money directly supports each and every child as well as their peers, crèches and teachers. For more info on S.A.C. please email info@pebblesproject.co.za.



MEDIA ATTENTION

We have been chosen by WINELANDS LIVING Magazine to be their nominated charity for 2007, with R1 from the sale of each magazine coming to Pebbles. This is a fantastic opportunity for Pebbles to create awareness about our work, and to raise much-needed funds. Thanks WINELANDS LIVING for choosing us!!

Pebbles was filmed by Insync Productions earlier this year, and the documentary is due to be screened on SABC1 on 31 December at 12.30pm on BEYOND THE CLASSROOM.

We were also offered a full-page advert spread in NATURAL MEDICINE MAGAZINE, thanks to them also.

Sophia Warner, founder of Pebbles, also featured in the WEEKEND ARGUS as Personality of the Week in October.

STELLENBOSCH UNIVERSITY STUDENTS MUSIC PROJECT

Four great students, under the watchful eye of their Lecturer and Supervisor Jacob du Plessis, joined Pebbles in September for their service-learning module. They arranged and managed a very successful music project for 5 crèches, which the children loved, and the teachers learnt a lot from.

We are going to be strengthening our links with the University in 2007 and hope to welcome many more students who wish to become involved.

BREAKING NEWS!!

Pebbles has been approved by the DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT for funding for 2007, to set up and run 5 After-School clubs on the wine farms. We are so excited about this, as it will offer opportunities for art, sport, literacy and lifeskills activities for the children aged 6 - 16, as well as job opportunities and training for community members working in the clubs. We will be working in partnership with The Anna Foundation and Anna Brom on this project.

Ken Forrester, the King of Chenin, approached Pebbles in November to offer a building near to 96 Winery Road Restaurant for the use of Pebbles. This is an incredible show of support for our work, and we intend to develop a programme to offer services to the local community and particularly children with learning difficulties. Ken - the biggest thank you ever.

We are sure you will agree, an amazing year!

How you can help

If you would like to get involved with Pebbles, please do contact us; we would love to hear from you.

We are looking for :

- Volunteers with some artistic or sport interest who would like to help out on a regular basis at our new After-School Clubs.
- Volunteers who would like to get involved in the next hands-on day renovating an After-School Club - no specific skills necessary, just a sense of humour, lots of energy and the ability to wield a paintbrush. Please contact us for details about hands-on days - they provide a perfect corporate team-building exercise!
- A volunteer to help with fundraising - assisting with the Sponsor A Child programme and writing funding proposals.
- Any toys, games, books suitable for children aged 6 - 16 for the After-School Clubs, or stationery, art materials, sport equipment.
- Any other assistance that you can give us - whether it be paying for transport for the educational trips, donations of paint for the building renovations, donations of food parcels for the Lwandle and Kayamandi crèches who are struggling with feeding up to 60 children, or any useful contacts. Many thanks.

Thank you to all of you who have supported us, and have a great Christmas.

The Pebbles Project Team