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December 2010

Dear Pebbles supporter

Another year has flown by and it is difficult to know where to begin with all our news! We have six years experience behind us and the organisation has grown beyond belief as a result of the incredible dedication of our staff and the generosity of so many donors and supporters.

We are now at the stage where our core foundation and structure has been built having established and supported 13 crèches, 8 after school clubs, a mobile toy library, regular training for staff as well as workshops involving the parents and the wider communities.



At the end of 2009, 87% of the After School Club children across all the farms passed their grade an enormous achievement. 33 children were awarded certificates of performance at school and we have assisted ten children in a return to school after having dropped out.



In October of this year we received an incredible donation from **Marks and Spencer** (UK) which has enabled us to focus on the children who are in need of extra support and therapy. We have initially identified ninety children that fall into this group. Around 60% of these children are still at crèche age and by dealing with these challenges now, the children will have a much better chance of succeeding at school and breaking the cycle of poverty in which so many families find themselves. We have employed an Occupational Therapist, Amy Wilkes, who visits all the farms to assess the physical, psychological and social functions of the children we are concerned about. Pebbles has also employed special needs support teacher, Phillipa Carolin, to work alongside the Occupational Therapist, crèche and ASC staff.

We were thrilled to receive a donation from the **DG Murray Trust** which has gone towards the employment of a support teacher to work in the After School Clubs. Three students in particular have been receiving on-going tutorship to help them get through the difficult stage of Grade 11 and Matric.

All of this is further enhanced by our social worker, Mineke. Her work has been invaluable to our services as a whole and once again she has made a big impact on the families that she has been involved with. Big breakthroughs have been made in terms of drinking behaviour within one community and introducing more positive activities that benefit the whole family.



We also cannot forget our wonderful team of volunteers who have all given so much to the children.

Pebbles has received incredible support during 2010 both in terms of funding, events and gifts of time and expertise 💎. We would like to mention a few of them here but a great big thank you to all those who have given in some way to our projects.



Cathy Milner, who has been organising weekly art classes at her studio, for the Pebbles children during 2010. The art that the children have been producing is amazing and an exhibition is being held on the 5th December at Grande Provence in Franschoek.

In September 2010, **Joe Fisher, Guy Dennis & Ray Abercromby**, having spent the previous 5 months training and getting themselves into shape, geared up and cycled over 300 miles in 4 days from London to Paris. Through local fundraising from friends and family, drawing attention through local newspapers, selling charity logo embossed t-shirts and a final fund raising lunch very kindly organised by **Keith Prothero**, they managed to raise a combined total of approx 💎11,000 for the Pebbles Project.



On Sunday 19th September 2010 ten of the 54,000 runners who took to the streets of Newcastle ran to raise money for The Pebbles Project in the BUPA Great North Run. The final total raised through their efforts and the generosity of their sponsors will be just a few pounds short of 💎8,000. Special thanks to Charles Mussett and John Dickinson for the organisation and to **Russell Faulkner** and **Druin Burch** from the Wine-Pages community for actually running the race. **Russell and Sema Faulkner** must be especially commended for the substantial sum raised by their own efforts which included a number of dinners.

We would like to say a special thanks to **Keith Prothero** who continues to lead and support Pebbles in the UK. In the last year, Keith has raised over 💎40,000 with numerous projects and the support of the Wine-Pages community at www.wine-pages.com. A friend of Keith's, **David Wainwright** has also done sterling work during the year, organising dinners for Pebbles, raising in excess of 💎6000.

Other major donors include:

HCI foundation / Uthando / Wines with Heart / Faith Fund / J o Clifton Award / Department of Social Development/ Department of Agriculture/ Off Piste

We have received amazing gifts from our supporters over the year, to mention a few:

- **Inn on the Square** - who donated over 200 beds
- **Commodore Hotel**
- **Chrissie Sherwood** - who inspired numerous UK knitters to knit scarves and hats for the children
- **Operation Shoebox**

Looking forward to 2011, we intend to extend our services to three new farms, whilst sustaining all our other projects. Work with the parents and community as a whole is also becoming an important feature to the

organization and we will be looking to develop our services in terms of workshops and community health.

We have been working at extending our fundraising initiatives and now have some restaurants, hotels and lodges on board who are actively raising money for us through inviting their guests to make a donation. We will be looking to grow this number throughout 2011 but many thanks to the establishments who have come on board already.



If you feel inspired and are looking for ways to get involved for 2011 - go to our website www.pebblesproject.co.za but in the meantime here are just a few ideas for Christmas:

For a wonderful Christmas gift, **sponsor a child** for a year ... **sponsor a school pack** for a child starting school in 2011 ... **sign up for a ♦My Village♦ card** (South Africa only) and give to Pebbles whilst shopping for the family or **simply tell a friend** about the work we are doing!

From all of us at Pebbles - wishing you a wonderful Christmas and a great big thank you for all your support.

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