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### October 2009

The year is drawing to an end and the work still continues ...

#### GENERAL PEBBLES NEWS

Pebbles is working with 11 wine farms, supporting 9 crèche and 9 after-school clubs, two crèches in the suburbs of Lwandle and Kayamandi, and improving the education of over 500 children. We are working with the farm owners, parents and communities to try and offer the children the best that they deserve. Without the help of our sponsors, donors and supporters, none of this could be possible, and without the dedication and hard work of our wonderful staff, none of this would be achieved!

The new **Bellevue crèche** opened its doors in July, and welcomed 25 children with dry, warm and clean classrooms, a special baby room, kitchen and toddler toilet. The crèche building was generously sponsored by **JF Hillebrand**, long-standing supporters of Pebbles, and the outside area was transformed into a wonderful playground for the children with the help of the farm owner and community.

A donation of R12000 from **Wines With Heart** made it possible for Pebbles to purchase many months worth of art resources for the after-school club weekly art lessons. The children experience working with a range of art medium and creating some beautiful art and craft pieces.



On the subject of art, we welcomed **Cathy Milner** as a volunteer at the beginning of June and she now hosts groups of after-school club students in her studio to learn the finer details of painting. Some children are showing a real talent and we aim to exhibit some of their artwork soon. Thank you so much Cathy.

Pebbles received sponsorship from **L'Avenir, Laroche and Constellation** for our new **promotional DVD**, which was completed in August. The making of the DVD was overseen by Geertine Blok, a Dutch intern student who spent 3 months with Pebbles, and her hard work has enabled us to create a DVD which we hope will inspire many new sponsors to support us, and allow many of our existing supporters to see how much we have achieved so far.

Pebbles was extremely fortunate to be chosen as the nominated charity for the **Stellenbosch Wine Festival**, where Pebbles could interact with the festival visitors and provide a kiddies play service for the younger crowd.

We have also been given a stall at the **Stellenbosch Fresh Goods Market**, where we will be able to sell the items made by the youths on the farms that are busy with our Entrepreneur Programme. All profits from the sales of their items go back to buying equipment and resources for their clubs and the kids get to choose what they want.

In June, Pebbles was given a table at the **Somerset Mall Charity Book Fair**, and we raised over R18000 from the sales of books donated to us by friends, family and supporters at local primary schools. We would like to thank all of those who helped us by collecting books and to ask if you will help again next year?!!

Pebbles received funding from the **Department of Agriculture** in the last quarter towards our ASC programmes, and with these funds we aim to maintain our homework programmes, art classes, sport activities, music classes, drama workshops and lifeskills programmes that we offer to the 6 - 16 year olds on the farms, with a specific focus on substance abuse reduction and skills development.

We have been involved with the creation and starting of a new **ASC at Fairview** farm, which now caters for approximately 50 students in a superbly renovated building provided by the farm. These students are being offered the full Pebbles ASC programme and already seem to love the activities.

In July 09, Michelle Hendricks, one of our crèche support teachers (with help from the rest of the Pebbles staff) organised a **World Play Day** event at Bellevue farm for over 50 children. The kids participated in a range of exciting and challenging play activities and enjoyed every minute of it.



On August 27th, we held our third AGM at Manuka in Somerset West and were proud to share our achievements with loyal supporters who joined us for the event.



9<sup>th</sup> September 2009 was an exceptionally special day as it marked the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of **International FASD Day** in South Africa. Pebbles was involved with the organisation of an event at St Georges Cathedral and Mandela Rhodes Hotel, which was well-attended by medical specialists, government officials and interested parties.

The outcome of the event was a commitment by all present to continue to try and reduce the incidents of FASD and prevent more children being born with this 100% preventable but 100% irreversible disability.



The **Toy Library** continues to be a roaring success with the children, and we aim to expand the project next year to include the babies and some of the older children.

We would like to offer thanks to various individuals and companies who have supported us in the past few months -

- Jonkershoek Fly Fishing Festival and Develoflies.
- SOS Farm in Villiersdorp.
- Our volunteers who organised holiday programmes for the children.
- Off Piste Wines for your generous donation (again!)
- Angela Lloyd for your continued financial contributions.
- Love That Wine website for choosing Pebbles as your charity.
- Lindsay and Risto Talas who completed a sponsored walk around the Isle of Wight and raised £2000 for Pebbles - congratulations and thank you.
- John Dickinson from Wine Pages Forum who ran the Great North Run and raised almost £1600, and Charles Morgan who raised over £1000 but could not participate in the run due to medical issues. Well done both of you!
- Our two fabulous Dutch interns - Annelous and Nikki, who are putting together a Teenage Pregnancy programme for the Pebbles youth and working with children in the crèches and after-school clubs.

The Pebbles UK fundraising event was held on 14<sup>th</sup> October in London - titled **Viva Las Vegas**, which was a celebration of Pebbles 'Elvis-style!' The event was generously sponsored by **THIERRY'S**, with the bar drinks sponsored by **FIRST DRINKS**. Thank you to both of these sponsors and to the wine farms who also contributed wine for the evening. We raised R84000, which will go towards buying school packs for all of the children who are starting Grade 1 in January, as well as funding some of our other crèche activities.



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