



Bethesda Newsletter



Bethesda Fundraiser - Scotland, UK

Brief outline of the Project (by Mandy Lucas):

During their holiday in South Africa my sister (Debbie) and her wife (Claire) visited Bethesda and met the children in the Child and Youth Care Centre and the Intermediate Care Facility. They fell in love with all the children immediately and after their first visit we made a trip down to the shops. Between the 2 of them they bought over R800's worth of toys, balls, colouring in books, nail polish, dolls, marbles etc. They were amazed at how the children reacted to these gifts and how grateful they were. They also spoil the kids to a McDonalds kiddies meal some days later. *Claire left here very motivated to do something to raise funds to spoil the children with something they needed and something they wished for or would like.*

We had a short discussion about a possible project before they left for Scotland after their holiday. A few weeks later I received an e-mail from Claire with a form attached and an outline of the project. We had a short discussion with the CEO, Mrs Meyer, about the project and then gave feedback to Claire about some additional idea's we had and in the end we all came to an agreement.

Organizers: Debbie & Claire



There are some things "I NEED" -

AGE: 8

Item	Price (ZAR)	Price (£)	Donated By
Pair of Sandals	R100	£5	
Underwear (Pocket of 3)	R100	£5	
Socks	R100	£5	
Clothing	R160	£10	

And this is something "I'D LIKE" -

Item	Price (ZAR)	Price (£)	Donated By
chips		£5 - £10	

Drawing:

Due to the fact that we are not allowed to expose the children's faces together with their names and ages, we had to come up with an idea to still somehow make the forms special and unique. We then decided that we will take photos of the children's hands and names and then let them fill in their own age and wish. At the bottom of the form there was a space for them to draw a picture or write a message. The idea was that on the night of the fundraising event these forms be presented and individuals could contribute to all or one individual child's need and/or wish.

There are some things "I NEED" -

AGE: 9

Item	Price (ZAR)	Price (£)	Donated By
Pair of Sandals	R100	£5	
Underwear (Pocket of 3)	R100	£5	
Socks	R100	£5	
Clothing	R160	£10	

And this is something "I'D LIKE" -

Item	Price (ZAR)	Price (£)	Donated By
Remote Car		£5 - £10	

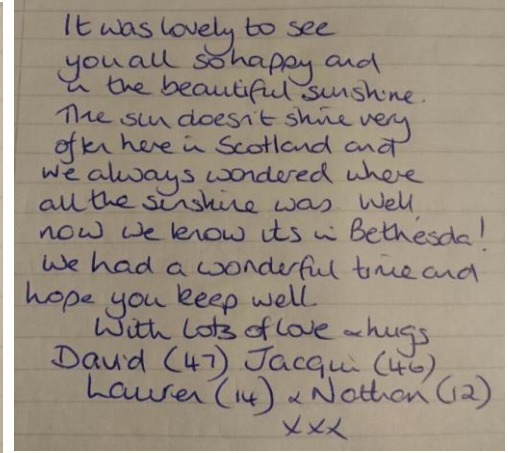
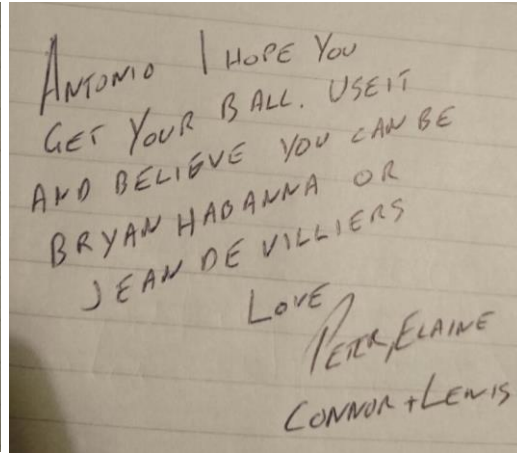
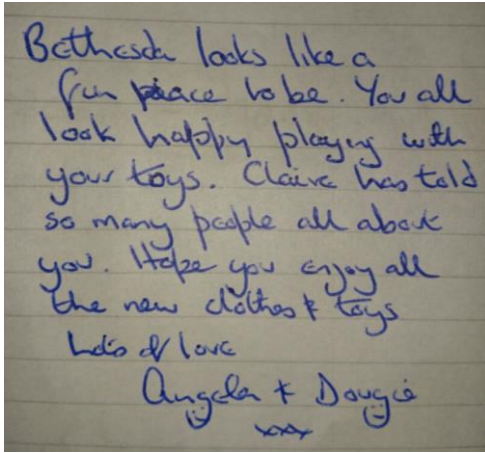
Drawing:

The Fundraiser evening took place on 1 October 2016 and involved the renting of a hall, a DJ, a buffet dinner, raffles, kiddies entertainment and then the opportunity to donate towards Bethesda. Tickets were sold for the event and our organizational slide show was presented as well as a short message recorded by myself.



The total funds to be raised were in the region of: **"NEEDS"** @ £25 (+R450) per child and **"WISH/I'D LIKE"** @ £5-10 (+R100) per child. The grand total we thus needed to cover all these needs and wishes of all the children in the CYCC was +R16500.00. On the night of the event they managed to collect just over **£650 (R11390.00)**. I was so excited when I heard the news. The amount raised was amazing!! There were approximately 50 people at the event including adults and children. *Two stories that my sister told me: One of the men at the event came up to her in tears and put £50 in her hand towards the one form where one of the boys "wished" for a soccer ball. He said that his son, the same age, has an iPhone, play station and more and here this boy simply wishes for a soccer ball. Another lady also came to my sister in tears and gave her £20 for the wish of one girl, 10 years old, who wanted hair bows; again she said her heart is broken as her daughter has a drawer full of hair accessories, an iPhone etc.*

Here are some of the messages that people wrote back to the children:



After the event Debbie and Claire decided to go the **extra mile** and continue collecting funds at their work places and anyone else who is still willing to donate. Therefore we still do not have a final amount raised for this project. Claire's dear sweet grandmother (83 years) also donated £150 towards the project.

This was once again a project that just shows me that there are so many people out there (even as far as the UK) **who care and have such good hearts**. Bethesda is so **BLESSED** to have such wonderful individuals that wish to make a difference in the lives of our children. We would like to say a **BIG** thank you to Debbie and Claire, as well each and every person that made a contribution to this project. We all know that organizing a function like this is hard work and a lot of planning is needed leading up to the actual event. But in the end the one thing that makes an event successful and special is the people who attend and support the event. *We cannot say thank you enough to everyone involved as you all make it possible for us to provide "HEART and HOPE" to our children.*

The project is still far from complete and the plan forward is that once we have the funds paid into our bank account we will try to arrange taking the children to shop for themselves with the money collected for them.

The goal they had in mind was to at least reach a **target of £500** and they were so excited when the total reached on the night was already **over £650**. The recent feedback and total I was informed of is already **£880**. Debbie and Claire are trying their best to search further and reach a round total of £1000.

THIS WAS A VERY SUCCESSFUL PROJECT AND WE GET TO TICK OFF MUCH NEEDED ITEMS ON OUR NEEDS LIST AS WELL AS GIVE THE CHILDREN A GIFT THEY WISHED FOR.

Claire and Debbie's visit to Bethesda in June/July



It is also worth mentioning that Claire and Debbie did not arrive in South Africa empty handed in the first place. Between the 2 of them they gave up lots of space in their suitcases where they packed 2 crates full of clothing, some stationery and some toiletries which they donated to Bethesda. In the pictures is their visit to Bethesda and handing out of all the gifts to our children.



OUR DETAILS

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NEDBANK (Branch Code: 109 114) - Acc Names: Bethesda Medical & Relief Services - **Hospice** (Acc No.: 1091 128 499) or Bethesda Medical & Relief Services - **Child & Youth Care Centre (CYCC)** (Acc No.: 1091 128 510)

This Newsletter was compiled by Mandy Lucas