

Annual Report – St Francis Outreach Trust - 1. March 2012 - 28 February 2013

The Trust was registered in 2009 with the High Court; objectives include relief assistance for disadvantaged communities in the Cape Peninsula and especially to build and manage community centered foster homes.

In March 2012 the St Francis Outreach Trust consisted of 8 trustees devoted to the care of 5 foster children of the “Home to Grow” together with their foster mother in Masiphumelele township.

A remedial teacher took our oldest child, a boy, under her wings which made a big difference not only to his studies but also in his personality and use of the English language.

A vegetable tunnel funded by Pick n’Pay was installed in March by Kevin Johannsen from “Bread Basket for Africa” with the idea to make the home self-sufficient in the supply of vegetable. This did not work, and the tunnel was removed in August and replaced by concrete flooring to give the children more space to play in a fenced and safe area.

We were blessed with a lot of help from people who learned about our project, locally and from overseas. The Ibhongo Trust from the Netherlands, initiated by Germa and Con, supported us financially through their fundraising activities and added generously to the funds for our planned second home.

Joyce received a lovely Christmas gift from them in the shape of 2 couches, new bed linen and new seat covers for the dining chairs.

Just a few days after the house was re-painted inside and outside, a neighbour’s house went up in flames and destroyed a number of shacks in the blast. Joyce sent the children quickly away to a friend to keep them from inhaling the smoke and assisted her neighbours by offering them to place their saved belongings with her in the home. The house received no damage and the children were safe.

The water was tested on our request by the City Water Department and analyzed as carrying extra minerals but nothing infectious.

Child grants were increased by R30 per month.

Tim, our accountant calculated in June that the second new house, including the one year contingency fund (covering running cost), would cost R765 000, of which at the time, we had only accumulated about half the amount, ----- enough for a “bare” plot. Our main goal for the year was to find a plot for our second home. We looked at many options, but rejected them as the plots were either flooded in winter, were situated on a busy taxi road or had a family dispute involved in ownership. We are continuing to search!

In August the third edition of our beautiful hand painted Cape Peninsula calendar 2013 was launched with a special party for friends and sponsors at the St Francis Church Hall. Archbishop Ndungane gave thanks for the accomplishments of the trust and spoke about the need of human devotion to the less privileged as a fulfillment of our assignment on earth.

We received several grants from: Capitec Bank, Old Mutual, the Diocese of Ohio- USA, the Ibhongo Trust- Netherlands and many other contributions as a result of private initiatives from Germany, USA, the UK and locally.

In January 2013 our friends from St Peter's Episcopal Church, Arlington USA arrived with 37 quilts to be handed to the children of the Home to Home circle of foster homes. An exhibition Fishhoek gave everybody a chance to view these marvelous pieces of American folklore art.

For the oldest of our girls it was an exciting month, as she began (the big) school and received her own special quilt on this occasion, a gift from the children and mothers of St Peter's encompassing their love and friendship for our children. Each of our six kids receives a quilt when they enter Elementary school, it is for them to keep as their personal reminder that there is somebody out there in America who loves and cares for them and sent them this gift to keep them warm.

An event which concerned and worried us all, was the scheduled surgery for one of our little girls on the first of February. She spent several days in Tygerberg Hospital with Mama Joyce. After a month of not being allowed to place any weight on her leg and living more or less in a wheelchair, she was gradually able to put more weight on her leg and was soon able to walk on her own. Today only a mild limp tells of her scary experience.

It is a joy and a privilege to work with devoted people like the trustees of the St Francis Outreach Trust. All to the glory of our Lord! May he bless us with the find of a plot for our second foster home.

Monika du Sautoy
Chair