

WORLD CUP 2010

Ke nako! Now that the vibes, vuvuzelas and visitors have filled our lives, it is time to all find a way to harness the energy, "gees" and "ubuntu" - and to join "LEAD SA" and turn it into something that will sustain us for years to come. This newsletter is dedicated to the projects that gave so much of themselves, and to show the donors and friends of Gumboots what went on in SA during 2010... thank you for all the support during this extraordinary time.

For more information or to become a Gumboots donor, visit our website www.gumboots.org.za or phone Jenny Prangley on 082 928 8806

Sigiya Sonke Sonke

At the Fan Parks

The dancers had an opportunity to showcase their talent at several of the Fan Parks during the World Cup. They performed 4 times at different venues, including the opening concert at Orlando Stadium. Zenzele sums it up:

"There are no words to describe the feeling of performing at the Fifa fan parks. We were very happy to do what we love (which is dance) during a superb event of the world. We even had the opportunity to meet international artists and football players such as Shakira and Zidane. Many dancers wanted this opportunity and they did not get it, plus we made a name for ourselves because many people who did not know that we existed now know us!"



Traditional dancing at Innesfree Fan Park

Well done to Jack and the group for helping to make the World Cup such an awesome event.



Mandela Day 670 minutes

Jack, Beauty and Zenzele gave 100% more than the requested time by helping the young community in Hlau Hlau near White River over the "Mandela-give-67-minutes" weekend. They conducted dance workshops for about 100 children in the school hall - and above all established an ongoing link between Hlau Hlau and Sigiya Sonke.

Ten of the dance leaders are coming to Jozi in a few weeks to carry on the training - and Jack has promised to return there for follow-up. It was a fun, noisy and worthwhile weekend. With his boundless energy, Jack even ended up re-cementing the hall floor - that really went beyond the 67 minutes call of duty! Thanks to all who hosted us.



Zenzele leads the Hlau Hlau dancers in an Afro-Fusion number

Ratang Bana Bana

The gogo soccer club

Launching this club of 35 grannies was cause for a big celebration. Every Saturday they gather at Eastbank Park for the two teams to practise. But the club is about more than that – these brave women look after their orphaned grandchildren and face huge challenges at home, so the soccer gives them the opportunity to get out and focus on themselves for a change.

The gogos are in dire need of boots, tights and refreshments – can anyone help?



Laduuuma! The gogos in action

A once-in-a-lifetime honour

It was a day that 8 orphans from the Ratang Bana "family" will never forget – they were taken to the Ellis Park Stadium, given soccer kit and burgers, before 2 of them were chosen to escort the USA and Slovenia teams onto the pitch. They went out proudly holding the hands of their heroes while the other 6 kids cheered from the stand.



Ke nako – 2 of the orphans enjoy burgers in preparation for escorting the teams

Red Roses's special day

For just one day the boys from Ingrid's Red Roses Football Club were the heroes of the World Cup – they organised their own championship at their club and each chose to represent one of the 32 countries. Soccer shirts for each country were supplied – and the fun began as they battled it out for the trophy.



The Red Roses 2010 players in team colours

We salute you Ingrid and wish you good luck for the Jet Community Awards nomination!

Leratong

Leratong helps the community

So typical of this wonderful country of ours with its many contradictions, we should not forget that while the 2010 flags flew and the vuvuzelas vibrated, there were others in Alex who were unable to feel the joy.

Leratong pre-school was closed for the month (as were all the schools in SA), but that didn't mean Peggy had a break. It was a time of hard work and tragedy when 42 shacks caught fire, 4 people died, and many were injured and badly burnt. The 70 homeless slept on the floor of the Leratong classrooms, and food was brought in to help – 'bread for Africa', chicken and juice. A desperate and sad time.

It seems as if a young man killed his girlfriend out of jealousy and set her shack alight. With the wild fire spreading through the flimsy wooden and corrugated iron homes, President Zuma was giving his "Football for Hope" speech nearby in Alex.



The extraordinary Peggy with her loyal support, Reggie

Visiting with Peggy

The truth and reality of what it's like to live in Alex was revealed during a visit to 3 desperate families... In a tiny room a little family struggles to cope – a massive tree with huge gnarled roots is collapsing their home exposing it to the elements. Inside, Makhosi (23) tries to look after her 5 nieces & nephew (ranging in age down to 5). Her mother, grandmother and 6 sisters all died last year, she is unemployed, and without food. How they manage to be so cheerful and full of smiles, I do not know. Gumboots is helping with blankets, food and hopefully assistance in getting government grants.



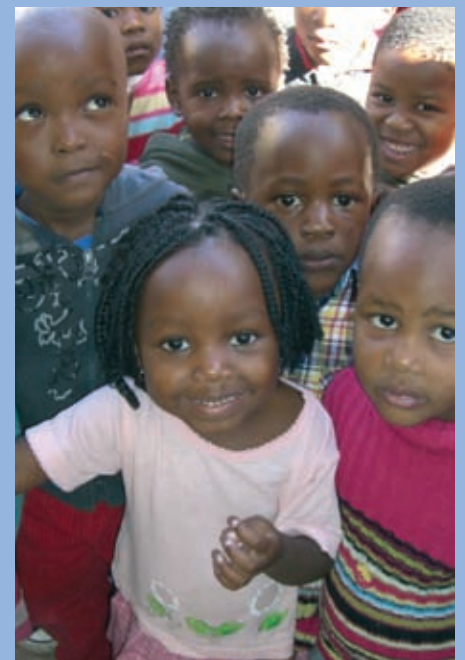
Makhosi is still so cheerful in spite of the poverty & insecurity that surrounds her

The next family visited was a gogo-headed household. Her daughters having all died, she is left with 31 grandchildren and great-grandchildren to support – all in one room! One of these is a 3-year-old on permanent oxygen for a heart condition. When the electricity is cut off, they have to rush this tiny girl plus oxygen cylinder to the other side of Alex where there is power until it is restored in their home. Nobody is employed and they survive on small grants. Peggy is hoping that the Housing Department will help this family as well as Makhosi's, but bureaucracy and lack of resources remain a problem.

In the next home we met another mentally ill grandmother who lives with her 15-year-old grandson, Sibosiso. He goes to school without shoes or uniform, and Peggy is afraid that he will inevitably get caught up in the crime and drugs that abound.

There can, and must, be a positive end to these stories. With the ongoing help of our donors, we can make this happen.

Thank you to all who continue to support Gumboots and the projects.



Happy pre-schoolers

Ke nako - Now is the time to keep the momentum going.