

POSITIVE CHANGE AT MOTHER TERESA'S

Therapy and training

Mother Teresa is a home situated in Yeoville. It is a hospice as well as a place of safety and a home for children. Thusanani has been involved with this home for many years, and progress has been slow. Recently positive changes have been seen with the children as well as with the care givers in the home.

Previously at the home, babies and toddlers were seen once a week by the Therapists. Since January 2011, Thusanani was able to employ more staff and therefore we have more time and resources to deliver our service. This has enabled the therapists to see the babies and toddlers twice a week for therapy. As we now see the children more frequently, greater improvement and progress has been seen in a shorter period of time. For example Baby J has improved significantly in reaching his developmental milestones - progressed from pull to stand, to independent walking in only 4 weeks!

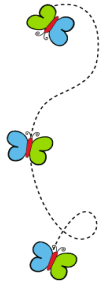


An outing to The Glen

The toddlers of Mother Teresa were given the opportunity to go on an outing to the Glen shopping centre this month. Activities at the Glen included going to the pet shop, where they could touch a snake and an iguana, as well as see fish, cats, dogs etc. This experience was great for the children as they

do not come into contact with animals very often.

The children were then taken to Spur for a free hamburger and dessert. Thereafter they got to play and have fun in the playroom with an assortment of toys, jungle gym, climbing wall, playstation and trampoline. The loved it! A HUGE thank you to the Glen Shopping centre for making this day a success – it was a day the children will cherish and not forget very soon!!





DONATIONS

In February we were very fortunate to receive a generous donation from the staff at Munich Re. We also received small donations of books, children's toys and clothing which will be passed on to the children's homes.

Thank you very much to all that donated!

AIR LIQUIDE

The Thusanani team would like to extend a heartfelt Thank You to Air Liquide for their generous donations in February. Air Liquide donated brand new therapy equipment and a wide variety of educational games and puzzles to the Thusanani Childrens Foundation. The equipment and toys are currently being utilized and enjoyed at our premises during therapy with the children attending our clinics. Some of the games and puzzles are also being taken to various Children's Homes where we provide small group and individual developmental play and stimulation to the children.

The arrival of new toys in the department is exciting and motivating for not only the children but the therapists too. These resources have widened our treatment ideas and options. The new toys and equipment have enabled us to introduce new play experiences to many of these children who previously haven't had exposure or opportunity to enjoy them. This will help us to encourage new skills including different sensory experiences, as well as imaginative and explorative play. In addition the older children have the opportunity to develop their perceptual, manipulative and problem solving skills.



Celeste from Air Liquide together with a few staff members visited Thusanani to see our department where the toys and equipment will be used. They were given an orientation to the department as well as the objectives of our foundation. They were interested in seeing where and what their donations will be used for as well to learn about the other areas that Thusanani are involved in.

Winter Wish List

Curtains

With winter approaching we are finding that part of our therapist's offices and the assessment area for the adoption clinic are very chilly indeed due to the vast expanses of windows. This area is therefore unsuitable to use with the babies during these months and the offices are difficult to work in. Contributions towards curtaining for these two areas would be greatly appreciated. We need 6-9 drops of 2,5m height of baby curtains for the assessment area and 6-9 drops of 2,5m also for the office. Please contact us for more details.

Room / office dividers

We would also like some 'room dividers' to make our large therapy room more intimate when necessary.

New staff at Thusanani

We were very excited to welcome another new staff member Tayyibah, in February and our new Therapy Manager Caroline in March. We asked them to write something about themselves:

Tayyibah Suleman



My name is Tayyibah Suleman. I qualified as an Occupational Therapist in 2009 at the University of the Witwatersrand. My community service was completed last year at Chiawelo Clinic in the Soweto District. There I worked with a variety of patients from paediatrics to adults with varying conditions. I was also involved in doing care-giver training to the community. At the clinic we also outreached to other organizations and clinics around the district to increase awareness of our services as well as to provide therapy where needed. I have a passion of working people especially children. At the clinic, majority of the patients were paediatric based. It was a wonderful setting as I was given a chance to explore my own creativity and strengths.

My first month at Thusanani has been an amazing experience. It has increased my awareness of the great need of services for under privileged and vulnerable children. I regard myself as extremely fortunate to be in a situation to be working with these children. I await the new challenges and days ahead that Thusanani has in store for me.

Caroline Rose



My name is Caroline Rose and I am the new Therapy Manager at Thusanani. I qualified at the University of the Witwatersrand as an Occupational Therapist and worked in paediatrics at Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital for four years before moving to the UK. In addition to hospital work, I have also worked in the community in schools, nurseries and clinics in the NHS and some private in SA, Abu Dhabi and the UK. I have recently returned from the UK and I am very excited to be joining the team here at Thusanani. We have a passionate and dynamic team with varied experiences who are focused and excited to be making a difference to these children and the caregivers who look after them. The challenges are immense but exciting and I look forward to growing the foundation, supporting and developing the team and being able to expand the work that we do and the services that we offer.



If you would like to support us, you can make a secure Credit Card Donation via our website (click on the green button on our home page). Alternatively the following are our banking details:

Bank: Nedbank

Name of Account: The Thusanani Children's Foundation

Branch: Melrose Arch

Branch Code: 196-605

Account Number: 1966 466226

