

## THUSANANI IN THE MEDIA

August has been an exciting and varied month in terms of marketing and media exposure. We were very fortunate to feature on Top Billing through one of our Trustees, Michelle Rosen. Top Billing presenter Simba and his team came to Thusanani to interview Michelle and to see some of the work we do here with the children at Thusanani.



And more recently in September our gross motor therapy room was transformed into a 'hospital ward in Afghanistan' for a TV shoot for BskyB. The original part of Childrens Memorial Institute (CMI) where we are based was built in 1923 and was the first children's hospital in Johannesburg, before the Johannesburg General, now Charlotte Makexe Hospital was built. Due to its age, CMI provides many an atmospheric corner for a period or location scene and as such it is often used in local or international movie or TV shoots.



The BskyB team moved into CMI for the day and shot in two different locations. It was interesting to see behind the scenes and they were happy to help us out by adding to our collection of empty water bottles (for our toy making workshops!).

Thank you!

## TRAINING, TRAINING, TRAINING...

August heralded the start of several large workshops with over 60 participants from Tembisa and in September another 40 from Boksburg North. The feedback from participants has been very positive and we are expecting up to 120 participants to attend our workshops over the next few months.

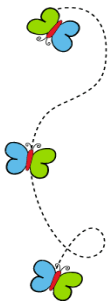


### A New Side On Stimulation

Through much deliberation, we have decided that the care workers from the homes attending the “Homes Training” needed an observation period before their certificates were handed out. Although they were not initially impressed with this news, the feedback has been excellent, as the carry over of information learnt is now evident. After the third day of training, each participant is given a list of 10 new behaviours that they need to be observed doing. The therapist in each of these homes or the manager of the home is to observe the participant for a month.

On speaking to the manager at Florida Baby House, the results have been significant. She was quoted saying: “the care workers are actually sitting on the floor playing with the babies. I should have taken a photo!” Ethembeni and Mother Theresa’s care workers are taking the babies out of the cots far more and showing initiative in stimulation ideas. They are posing more questions to the therapist and generally seem more enthusiastic about exercising and stimulating the babies. We hope that the “habit” continues so that these precious children can receive optimal stimulation and care to aid in their development.

## WAITING AREA



Michelle Mynhardt with her enthusiastic team from United Stations has undertaken to refurbish our waiting area. This was originally a wash room in the hospital ward and is tiled to well above head height. Typically it has been a very cold room in winter and bleak in summer so we are looking forward to some comfort and colour for the ladies who bring the babies and toddlers in for assessments.

Watch this space!

## NEW CHILDREN'S HOME AT MOTHER TERESA'S






Months of planning, dedication and hard work from various people has paid off beyond expectation! The children at Mother Teresa's recently moved into a newly built section downstairs. The new children's home is bigger, brighter, well equipped and easily accessible! As it is on ground level, (rather than the second floor) the children can now play outside, and can often be seen riding up and down on scooters, playing ball and climbing on jungle gyms. The children have more play opportunities which in turn promotes good development and also gives them a chance to use up their energy - making bed times less of a fight with the caregivers. The caregivers' morale has improved as well! They state that the environment gives them more space to do what is required of them and added that the clean feel and bright sunlight boosts their mood!

The fact that both the children and the caregivers are happier can easily be seen. Children are less tearful and agitated while caregivers are less stressed and can put more time and effort into stimulation programs for the children. Overall, the move has resulted in great improvements at the children's home and will continue to enhance their development!

### New computers for Thusanani!




In September we were fortunate to receive *five brand new computers* at Thusanani. This very generous donation was kindly made by **Ebsphere**. It was an exciting event for all the therapists who now have their own dedicated work spaces. We are also very grateful to **Russell Davis** of **RMD Technology** (0827169203) for helping us with installing and setting up everything. We couldn't have done it without you!

Other generous donations that we have received recently!

-  20 liters of paint from **Plascon**
-  Room dividers from **Transvaal Burglar Proofing**
-  A Digital Camera
-  All our wonderful supporters who have been collecting water bottles for our workshops -  
**Sappi, The Forum and ABSA Capital**
-  And the team at **Intrepid Bundu** for colouring-in puzzles.

*Thank you very much. It is much appreciated!!!*

### Wish list

-  A second hand dish washer – our current one has broken and it is so useful for washing up after training. It also frees up our cleaner to wash toys and equipment, instead of washing dishes
-  A document binding machine
-  Contributions to training costs are always appreciated

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

