

## **Reflection**

Yes we are still around!! 2006, what a year: we have achieved a lot on the soccer field, classrooms, community and even Zimbabwe.

## **Feeding Schemes**

Our FEED A HUNGRY CHILD project was a success, feeding nearly 5000 meals per week at four different schools at the end of 2006.

We went in partnership with a women's group who runs a soup kitchen every week.

We provide food for five different ministries on a weekly basis.

We fed up to 500 people over the Christmas period.

Picture: Feeding in Rainbow Primary

## **Education / Life Skills**

We had the privilege of having four Canadian volunteers from an organization called Care Trek for 3 months from Jun-Aug. They started an after school tutoring program assisting our boys with their school work. It was a creative initiative that made a huge impact, but we couldn't sustain it after the volunteers left. The kids were so excited: they really appreciated the extra help as it's something they don't get at home, and there was a huge improvement in their grades. Picture: Tutoring with juniors

With the solid waste project we ran during 2006, we took another approach to get the boys back into school. We approached the volunteers to run a program during the day after they finished working, with concentration on mathematics and literacy. The volunteers were amazed at their eagerness for wanting to learn, and this is when we realized that we need to approach the Education Department. The Department of Education agreed to do placement testing for an ABET course. The department agreed that they needed help and because of them, Heideveld now has an ABET centre. This is running from Woodlands Primary and more than that, the community is benefiting from them. It is amazing what the solid waste project did. Picture: Tutoring with seniors

## **Sports**

Every year there has been an improvement on the soccer field. We did quite well on the soccer field, yet there is still room for improvement.

History was made in 2006: GCU's first ever trophy was won by our u/15 team, and it was one of the proudest moments in our club. All the teams did well, but the u/15's were fantastic, the senior team won runners up, and the u/11's lost in the k/o final. Picture: U/15 winning team

## **Outreach**

Our outreach was different in 2006, as GCU went to Zimbabwe. Yes Zimbabwe! Mario befriended a blind Pastor and after hearing what the disabled went through, we could identify with them. We raised some funds as they work with blind orphans.

It was an awesome experience and we learned a lot from them, especially how important it is to view the world outside of your own circumstances and look for ways to make a difference.

Picture: Mario walking in Zimbabwe.

## **Partnerships, Job Creation, and Donations**

It's always been GCU's vision to become self sustainable, and in November we pursued that dream. We started a small business making clothing which is run by one of our boy's mother. JDI Foundation sponsored us with two machines to start with, and start we did: it's a registered business called Don Haze Fashion.

Shanni & Andrew Thomas brought GCU an autographed soccer shirt by Maradona after they met him in Germany during the 2006 World Cup. It was given to us to raise funds and one of the Canadians (Larissa) took it with her to Canada to do so on our behalf. We got a donation of \$4000 from a guy called Dan Good; it was our first ever big donation. Larissa registered GCU on GiveMeaning.org in order for us to receive the funds and also so the donor can receive a tax return.

## **Sharing 2007 thus far.**

It's always been GCU's vision to make the boys understand the importance of taking full responsibility of their own lives, and this is actually one of the virtues Mario's eyes were opened to during his trip to Zimbabwe. One of the most striking things he witnessed during his trip to Zimbabwe was the tireless way the blind children worked, fulfilling their duties without complaint and to best of their limited ability. This inspired him further to carry the message back here to Heideveld that everything worth having in life must be earned, and that one should never depend on hand outs but on hands up. As an organization in the midst of positive growth and expansion, we believe that we should lay the foundations for a hand up mentality starting now.

## **Feeding Scheme**

It's been our vision for the schools to take ownership for the feeding scheme. Two schools have taken ownership of making the cereal with GCU provide the ingredients.

“A fire needs wood to keep the flames going, so children need a bowl of cereal to keep their dream going...” If 80 percent of the kids matriculate in the next 5-7 years, we can say we made contribution. It's the small things in life that make a difference, how many times do missed it. Makes you think !!

## **Education & Life skills**

Establishing the ABET centre was a huge success in itself as it's been GCU vision to make a positive contribution towards education in our community.

It was sad to see our tutoring program not be a success last year but it motivated us even more to make a success out of the seed that was planted by the Canadians. Perseverance has kept us going in the circumstances we've find ourselves in, believing in that we can and will make a difference. It was the volunteers again that started the tutoring and this time around we are determined to make it work. This time, we have and will continue to approach volunteers from our community as well as our u/17 players to assist us with the program.

We believe in order for our program to be successful, our community needs to take responsibility. It's not effective as we want it to be, but it's a very good start. Already through our tutoring we have managed to place a one of our boys in a school for special needs. The reality is that he is only one of many: there are still a lot of children who are in desperate need of extra help.

### **Life skills**

You only need to read the newspapers to see how our kids are in need of life skills in the Cape Flats. The drug "TIK" has made its mark on our community and is destroying a lot of lives. Kids as young as 8 yrs old are smoking dagga. It is sad to say that in a month or two they end up using tik, with girls even selling their bodies to feed their habits. They have given up hope, but we believe in them and will not give up on them.

We had various speakers from our community and former drug addicts sharing with the kids their experiences. Darrel Smith, a former u/23 S.A player is working closely with us. One of our volunteers Brianne, a social worker, also made a huge impact.

In the past we only had colored boys playing for us but in the last year several Xhosa boys came to join us. Racism is still big in our communities and this was shown in one of our life skill classes, when u/11's were crying after admitting they don't like each other. We had to work through it and explain that GOD created all men equal. They are like family today, yet there still much to be done.

### **Sports**

In the beginning of the year we started with 230 juniors only, but we brought in some structure with the requirement that they all must attend our life skills classes and tutoring session. This was a challenge for them, and for some of them it was too hard. We never like to see our boys give up, but at the same time we have realized (as we've also mentioned before) that success is not about quantity but quality.

Every year, there is improvement on the field but there is still a big need for development. Three of our teams made the k/o semi finals and one the final, which they lost.

## **Job Creation**

From starting with two machines, we now have six machines. We are still building up a reputation in order for us to get business, and also to employ more people from the community. We currently are making curtains and are hoping for one or two orders to make ends meet. Needless to say, we are learning a lot.

We are in the process of applying for training for 12 ladies from our community.

## **GCU Plant A Tree, Grow Our Future Program**

GCU has partnered with the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry to create our Plant-A-Tree program. This project aimed to green the area as well as instill a sense of accountability in the entire community, who will care for the 1000+ infant trees to be planted at both community sites and private residences of Heideveld and Gugulethu. The planting of the first tree in September of this year (2007) was witnessed by several members of South Africa's local and provincial governments, and was met with overwhelming support by Heideveld residents. Even though the actual planting will not be ongoing, the impact will be: not only will these growing trees be aesthetically and nutritionally beneficial to all members of the community, they will serve as tangible reminders to those who've planted them how their careful work and continued care resulted in something beautiful.

For more information on the Arbor Day ceremony, please visit this link: <http://209.85.135.104/search?q=cache:d-MR41M6ZTUJ:www.capegateway.gov.za/afr/directories/events/161022+gang+violence+Heideveld&hl=en&ct=clnk&cd=12&gl=za>.

## **Outreach**

In the beginning of the year, we managed to raise R14, 000 for Zimbabwe which we donated.

We were happy to see the establishment of a day care centre called Mighty Minds in January of this year. Principal Charlene Johnson

has opened a crèche which serves as both a loving environment for Heideveld children and a great educational beginning as she emphasizes the importance of learning from the very start. GCU has partnered with Mighty Minds and introduced them to the JDI Foundation, who generously gifted them with toys, furniture, books, and more.

We have supplied various sport groups which uniforms which Don Haze made.

Thanks

The project could and will never be successful without your contribution. We want to thank the following people:

People that has been sporting in gifts or kind

- Robert Kerr for monthly financial contribution
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- Harfield Harries for using GCU at there Milk wood running event & donation.
- JDI for there support
- Give Meaning .com for hosting our project
- Claremont Congretional church for donation
- Shanni & Andrew Thomas for marketing GCU
- Tony & Annie Hoare for donation and designing website
- Larissa introducing us to give meaning .com & volunteering at GCU.
- Brainne , Freda , Gail, Evelyn , April , Joanne , Erica , Nancy for volunteering at GCU.
- Merna ( Care Trek) bringing volunteers to GCU

Like so many grassroots organization in South Africa, we are in great need of funding to keep our programs going and flourishing. In the next few months especially, we will need 20,000 rand just to keep GCU functioning until the end of January. Please know that your contribution is an investment not only in our programs, but the very quality of life for our boys.