



Project COLORS International

www.projectcolors.com

March /April 2010



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Fortunate Knitting: Supporting a small buisness



*Dedicated to Hugh and Marge (AKA Nanna) Shankland
(Photo)*

A gift of a knitting machine, is making a big difference to one dedicated Zulu lady who can now make her dreams come true.

“An old knitting machine..... what to do with this?” Nanna asks me one evening; “do you think you can find a good

home for it?” Nanna is in her 80's . She is moving from her long time home in George to Capetown, but wishes that some of her things can go to making a difference in peoples lives here in South Africa. “Sure” I said “we love finding good homes for special donations”

Honestly, I was not sure at the time where we would find a home for this big heavy Knitting machine, but I had a feeling that the answer would eventually fall on my lap, as it usually does.

I mentioned this story to our Zulu neighbour, Watson who also runs a centre here in Kleinkrantz. He said... “I know, I



know....Its fortunate!”

“It’s fortunate?” I said..... “yes yes...a lady, she travels for 2 hours every Saturday hitchhiking to sell her knitted hats and scarves, she is desperate for a knitting machine so she can make shirts and jackets, her name is Fortunate”

Perfect! The Answer has fallen.

(Photo: Watson and Fortunate)



The next Saturday I brought the machine to the market. I waited and waited....suddenly I got a phone call....”Hello sunny...this is Fortunate, are you still at the market?” Fortunate explained to me that she had hitch hiked half the journey and had just caught her final ride along with all of her hats for sale and would be there soon to meet me. She said “Wait wait I am coming , this means so much to me...I come I come”.

So I sat, helping Watson sell some of his wooded gems at the market...and Fortunate emerges. We gave her the machine and she said her friend from Malawi would take her back to Plet in his truck with the machine.

(photo: Fortunate reciving knitting machine at market)

“ Thank you to COLORS and Nanna”, she says...”this is exactly what I have been praying for, now my business can grow, this is a special gift”.

Your Wheelchair Ramps are rolling along!



Sorry for this long awaited update, but it was worth the wait for those reciving wheelchair ramps.

Did you sponsor a wheelchair ramp for christmas for a loved one? Yeh, while they are finally done and there are some very happy people who now have full access to there own homes and property with this new mobility.

Mario and volunteers have been working hard to get all the requests done.



Because many of these patients and grandparents have HIV/AIDS some have asked that their photos and names not be in the newsletter but sincerely want to send you their gratitude for such an amazing gift.

As reported before, this project was also teamed up with a care package project where over 20 patients also received many of the household basics that they could never afford (blankets, cleaning supplies, baking supplies, soap...)



Here are some more highlights of this project.

Mr. E Appels has been disabled since 2004. During this time he did not have any access in or out of his home, making it very hard for him to care for his two sons. The sons would lift their father around the house, and neighbors would also have to assist at times.

Mr. Appels was a patient at the hospital, and was in temporary care when our team put in the wheelchair ramps with the help of his son who were home. The sons were very happy and can not wait for their dad to return home to see the new ramp way to the house.



One sad project entailed a grandfather who desperately needed a wheelchair ramp for a long time. Mr. R Macmaster was disabled and had lung cancer for over 3 years. While in the hospital for a stroke his ramp was created as a surprise organized by nurses and his family through COLORS.

Mr. Macmaster, a life long resident of Pacaltsdorp South Africa, passed away due to a stroke unfortunately before seeing and using his new gift. This is a reminder to us how truly important it is to take action when we can!



Deidre has full blown AIDS. She is a recipient of one of our home repairs, making her house more assessable. She and her children live in the township of Lawaai kamp SA. This are many muddy dirt ways to homes, so mobility and any independence has been an issue ever since Deidre lost much of her mobility due to AIDS related illnesses.



Little Lolita raised the concerns of local volunteers helping with the swimming day. After noticing her huge belly and enlarged belly button area, they immediately called a doctor and arranged for COLORS to take her for an assessment, free of charge. An appointment was made at a hospital for a necessary surgery to mend an intestinal hernia coming out of her belly button. COLORS and volunteers have committed to ensuring that she receives this surgery and pays for any extra costs. Update to come.

You're never too old, never too young.....

How Christine , in her 70's in making a big difference here in South Africa through communications.

...“I will sponsor your communications so you can tell the world what you are doing so others can help...There are millions of children , but there is only one of you”

Direct and to the point!



“I am in my 70's, visiting from Switzerland and was very anxious about this new adventure with COLORS in a South African township.

Our first stop was a Catering Supplier where Sunyata and Sylvie organized for a meeting to ask for a discount /donation towards there 20 kilo peanut butter orders for the food distribution program. Amusingly she said that her Peanut Butter ‘was in jail, waiting to be released’ because of the escalating price. I was happy to break the peanut butter ‘out of jail’, we were then able to distribute it to the Crèches children that day so the village people could make ‘Nutty Butty’. At our next stop we gave nutrient rich powdered milk to a baby crèche in Thembaletu where each baby now receives a bottle of the milk each day, which could never happen before due to the sheer cost of the formula .

Our next stop was to meet the Rasta man in his food shop in Thembaletu, he was very friendly and sold us 2 crates of apples and 2 large cabbages for the pre-school crèches. I was told COLORS tries to buy locally whenever possible to keep the donations in the community. As we arrived at Alice’s crèche the children immediately took our hands and showed us inside. Sunyata, Director of Project Color’s only in her late 20’s, spread newspaper on the floor while Alice, 40, and Sylvie (still in her teens) distributed paintbrushes and water colors to each of the 12 children. Pinecones and paper were then given to each child, they were then shown how to paint them and create decorations for the crèche. They were very absorbed in their task and sat in silence which was very impressive. As the paint dried, Sylvie started to sing "Itsy, bitsy spider up the water spout...." and made the appropriate gestures, the children copied her enthusiastically, she then continued with "If you are happy and you know it clap your hands," and all the children clapped.....Sunyata started painting swirly colorful art on the walls to brighten the place up. Alice and the children then began to sing in Xhosa.

Finally we hung the painted pinecones on pink strings from the ceiling as decorations. The kids were amazed.

After all of that fun the children sat on the mattresses around the room and began to eat their lunches, which were bread and pap spread with the peanut butter mix we brought, finished off with apples. The peanut butter mixture needs no cooking, refrigeration or water, and is mixed with muliti-vitamin powders so it is easy to store and serve. After just one month of this complementary diet, the yellowed hair of malnourished children begins to turn black again and the children have much more energy and ability to fight disease with better immunity!



It was sad to leave the crèche, but Sunyata and Sylvie will return next week with more food, more songs to sing, and also care for the street dogs that ran about all day.

The future plans of Colors, is to start up a Mosaic workshop for women suffering from HIV, AIDS and Tuberculosis, where the children will be able to have swimming lessons in the pool, and the lunches will be prepared by local churches.

I had an enriching experience and was inspired to do more reading about nutrition and occupational therapy.

Sunyata has extensive plans for the future and is full of energy...but is often left on her own when volunteers leave. I noticed that internet is a huge obstacle for promoting this great work and communications with other NGOs and donors seems stressed, so I am happy to sponsor COLORS communications this year so more people can learn about this work and support their efforts too."

Christine Kjellberg, March 2010

NOTE:

"Thank You soooo much Christine for spending time with us and helping us reach the world....the SLOW internet cafes and trails getting to them over the years was becoming daunting;

This donation will help support us immensely for 2010"

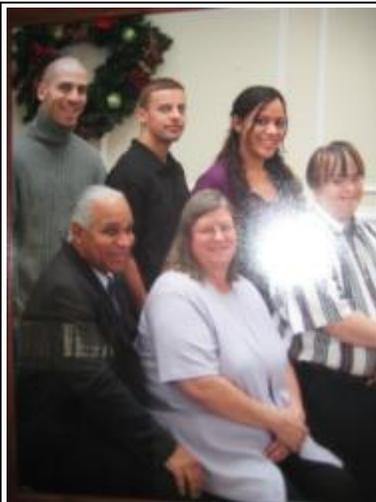


Figure 1: Stokes family, who sent a surprise donation to help us here in SA!

THANK YOU

Thank you to the Stokes family USA, Christine Switzerland and Saga UK, for supporting our 2010 goals! We have an exciting list of new projects for 2010 that need funding & these amazing people have stepped up and come on board to help support our efforts.

**More to come as these aid, skill building, painting, health and communications projects come to life!
!Smile!**

Project Collar's Street Dog Project

OUR 2010 AIM:

To teach the families in the disadvantaged area of Thembaletu, South Africa, about dog care. We are currently educating on the importance of feeding and nurturing their dogs daily, and have started planting the idea of getting their dogs spayed and neutered. (a culturally sensitive idea!) Community members who chose to participate in the program, get a chance to rehab their own neglected dogs back to better health with the support of our Project Collars team. We stress the importance of providing clean water and food for the dogs, getting them treatment for Mange and other parasite

ailments with a Veterinary wash plus we get the dogs their initial shots. Nutritional information is provided and advice on how to train the dogs and keep their tails wagging! The people are truly amazed to see their dogs after just 7-10 days of rehabbing, as they come home full of life and full of fur!

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

The dogs are either taken back to their owners in the Township where we drop them off with an 8kg bag of dog food,

1. Before: Zulu came to us covered in red sores, with little fur...

2. After just 10 days: Zulu was a new dog, all of her fur grew back and her sores

tins of wet food, water bowls and the Mange Veterinary wash. We then advise them when to feed the dogs, and how often to wash them in the Mange treatment. The people are so excited to see the transformation in their dogs! One family has even taken on building dog houses for the community dogs, promoting our program and dog care.



However, if the dogs do not have a specific owner in the township no one is willing to look after them, we spread the word about the and find them a new loving home.

and dog

HOW YOU CAN HELP

We are running this project off of donations sent to us by dog lovers like you who are keen in getting involved. You can decide how many dogs you would like to help by looking at the information below. Here is an idea of how much it costs to support the dogs:

- ❖ R300 (30\$)to Rehabilitate a dog for a week, this includes food, injections, mange treatment and returning the dog to its impoverished owner with a month supply of food, dog wash and water bowls.
- ❖ Any donations of collars, dog shampoo, flea powder or dog food will always be greatly appreciated.



- ❖ We are also wanting to get all of the dogs de-wormed and treated against Fleas and Ticks to prevent them getting life threatening Billary. The cost of treating all of the dogs against Fleas and Ticks by applying the powder and grass pellets to the surrounding area is R350 a month.

Photo: Thank you Nieke for supporting the housing for our street dog project! In honor of this support we called the brown puppy Nieke!

To be apart of this project please contact Sylvie:
projectcolors@yahoo.com

Sylvie's Street Dog Scheme: Project Collars



Good News Story: Seeing results after all of our hard work definitely makes having my flip flops chewed up, garden dug up and nights disturbed by woofing, all worth it!

The Street Dog program has proved to be a great success, with four dogs rehabbed so far and one re-homed, we are about to take on another two dogs. The two I had for 10 days 'Nieke' and 'Zulu' have transformed into unrecognisable dogs, both Sunyata and I were gobsmacked when they came running up to us this week in Thembaletu, they both now have a full glossy coat and no more red open sores, they have filled out nicely and are mange free! This is such a difference from when we first picked them up, they were both very nervous whimpering in the back of the car and only had small tufts of fur on their bodies. Zulu's skin was extremely red and she was covered in cuts and sores and Nieke's face was very scarred from where she had scratched at the Mange. However despite their slightly strange looks, we became very attached to them as they began to settle down and enjoy their long walks on the beach. Within ten days I was shocked how much their skin improved with the redness disappearing and being replaced with soft fur. After just two days of receiving treatment for Mange (an injection and being bathed in the Veterinary wash) their constant scratching stopped. But the biggest surprise was when we revisited the dogs two weeks after returning them to their owners. I was delighted to see that the locals had been continuing with the dog rehabilitation program by feeding them daily with the dog food we provided and bathing them weekly in the Mange wash. The community has also begun to treat many of the other mange suffering dogs on their own and even building them dog houses. There is also a constant water supply provided for the dogs now, and the way the locals handle the dogs has improved no end with them understanding that they must be gentle and patient with the dogs.

After visiting Alice's Crèche recently I was really disturbed by the state of six four week old puppies all that were infested with fleas. Both Sunyata and I had never seen anything like it and the puppies were screeching as the fleas ate away at their skin. Sunyata and Alice bathed all of the puppies in a Veterinary wash designed to kill the fleas, but we knew that this was only a temporary prevention. This however was a wake up call, and has lead us to start a new program, one which Alice has happily taken on. We have given Alice pellets to be distributed around the local area, they treat the ground and kill both fleas and ticks stopping both the people and dogs from being bitten. We have also provided Alice with Flea powder to apply to all of the dogs in the community.



Our latest rehabilitated dog, Themba did not have an owner in the community, so after treating her for Mange and socializing her with other dogs and people she found herself a new home at Jaco and Meis's house in Wilderness. We are extremely pleased that she has found a new loving home and have visited her this week and are amazed at her transformation. She truly landed with her but in the butter! **Thank You Jaco and Meis** 😊

Using nature as art. Lets make something out of nothing.

A group a children waiting for a new pre-school centre were kept in a neighbours yard day after day.

They are bored! They are dirty! They are very hungry!

As we were driving past this yard, after visiting a new roofing project,...we saw over twenty of these children outside out of curiosity we stopped the car.

All the kids were happy we did! They ran towrds us yelling "molo molo". Oh my! All we had in the car was a box of apples, a boot full of pinecones that we had found the week before and some random paints that were donated. (Yes odd things for most people to have in the car boot, but not for project COLORS staff)



Yeh, New Project!

In an effort to build a trusting relationship with these new children and the young carers aged 19-21, we started a small project and brought out the pincones and paints. We could tell right away that they had never seen these things before.

We started a painting class right there and then...everyone joined in and learned the colors...how to coordinate the paint brush...and yes..how to make a big mess. Face painting was the logical next step. At the end we gave the children apples, which the children thought were balls to play with as they were eating (also a mess). One of the women Caroline showed Sylvie and I the side shed that they let the kids use when it rains..and for the babies to sleep in. Yikes. The photo here says more then my words could ever say. Mold, dirt, dark, horribly dirty...the babies lay on rotten wet smelly mattresses.



Photo: Depicting a daily reality for many children here

On our next visit we gave blankets, pillows and started the Nutty Butty project with this group of children! Our next newsletter will highlight what we were able to do with the recent donations just sent to us.





In our next Issue, we are excited to feature our partnership project with Saga Charitable Trust, a sponsorship organized by our current volunteer Sylvie Furlong.

We are so excited to have Saga on board and can't wait to report what is in the works!

Project COLORS International

Children's Overseas Learning Opportunity & Resource Strategies

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