



Mthimkhulu Community Development entered into partnership with CATHSSETA to offer an accredited 'Bar & table attendant course' for 6 months. The first practical training was a Wedding at The Grail Centre.

IN THIS ISSUE

Mthimkhulu Community Development Programme

. Mthimkhulu ignites the flames of entrepreneurs

By Doreen Februarie - p.1 - 2

. A new & exciting skills programme in Kleinmond: Bar & table attendant course. By Hazel Apollis - p. 2

Training for Transformation

. 'How Tft is impacting my life and work'. By Namatama Wamuwi- p.2-3

The Grail Centre

. The Grail Centre gets a 2 star grading from the Tourism Grading Council. By Joan Daries - p. 3

. The Grail Centre hosts the Presbyterian Church USA Missionary Gathering 02-09 April 2013

By Joan Daries - p. 3

TRAINING FOR TRANSFORMATION

12-18 April

Introduction Course with 'Christian Brothers' in Zambia

22-26 April

Introduction Course 'Women on Farms Project'

6 May- 30 June

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MTHIMKHULU COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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Small Business Training Workshops

13 April, 10 May, 14 June

Change Agents Training Workshops

April

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'Cultural Diversity and Governance'.

Contact: 028 271 5213 or info@grailprogrammes.org.za

THE GRAIL CENTRE

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Mthimkhulu ignites the flames of entrepreneurs

By Doreen Februarie

Unemployment still remains a big problem in the country, and it is no different to the Overstrand community and thus Mthimkhulu Community Development programme has initiated a small business development programme, as an alternative intervention to address this.

The program started on 14 March 2013 with 30 excited entrepreneurs from Kleinmond and Hermanus, thanks to the sponsorship provided by ABSA. The approach to the training is very practical and interactive and will be facilitated by The Cape Craft and Development Institute (CCDI). Classes will be once a month until end November 2013. In addition the participants will also receive coaching on a one to one basis by Freda Gray at no cost to the program. The participants will also be able to utilise the services provided by the Mthimkhulu Business Centre in the next two months, where they will be able to access the internet to browse for business opportunities, ideas and to do some research. The program is also supported by the Local Economic Development Unit of the Overstrand Municipality.

The first week of training was conducted from 18 – 21 March, with the main focus on **introduction to managing your own money & Business vision - understanding 8 areas of business success.**

The purpose of the training program is to facilitate

the business learning process that will lead to better business and financial management by the entrepreneurs.

A new & exciting skills programme in Kleinmond: Bar & table attendant course

By Hazel Apollis

The Mthimkhulu Community Development (MCD) programme entered into partnership with CATHSSETA (the Culture, Art, Tourism, Hospitality and Sport Education and Training Authority) to offer an accredited Bar & table attendant course for 6 months. Twenty nine (29) enthusiastic youth enrolled in this course and on 4 February an induction workshop was done with all the learners, with inspiring motivated speakers – Cathsseta Project Manager, Priscilla Mahlangu; Xolile Kosi Overstrand Municipality LED Manager & Ward10 Councillor Lisel Krige - to address them.

MCD appointed G & D Guesthouse as the training provider and classes officially commenced on 5th of February 2013 with unemployed & employed (from the industry) youth. The learners are doing both theoretical and practical training, and they have been involved in various events already to implement what they have learned during classes.

Their first event was a wedding during which they were assisted the bar tender and waited on the guests – they were professional in their uniforms. We were so proud of these learners, as they were working at the ever popular Kleinmond Blues Festival, assisting the whole weekend and they all received positive feedback from the Tourism bureau.

The learners are also given life skills workshops and basic computer classes in order to prepare them fully for the working environment, and ensure that they become credible for the workplace.



Bar & table attendant course class

Brumhilda Ruiters, one of the learners, had this to say about the course: *“Since the course started, the facilitator & the classes, motivates me every day. I’ve learned how to lay out the tables, how to render effective services to the guests, safety*

& security in any environment, health hygiene and professional appearance. We’ve just finished our 2nd module that was on communication. Customer service & maintaining effective working relations. Every day I feel so enthusiastic and motivated to go to class and develop myself even more because this will be to the success of my life. Thank you Mthimkhulu for this great opportunity.”

How Tft is impacting my life and work

By Namatama Wamuwi, United Church of Zambia

It’s now more than a year since I attended Training for Transformation Diploma Course in 2010-2011 at The Grail Centre, but memories of that training still resonates with me because I live what I was taught there as a change agent. Before I attended the course I was one person who was very quiet even when someone tries to infringe my rights I would rather keep quiet than to argue or challenge that person.

I used to have a very low self esteem but now I am seeing a huge shift in the way I get involved in analysing issues and in asking the right question in search for better life for all. Now I can stand and challenge the leaders in my organization if things are not done well. I am able to influence my community to rise to some of the challenges that we face and we are together able to approach relevant authorities to help us. I have so much courage and energy which I am failing to understand because this was not there before TFT.

When I came back from the training I started working on the plans to establish an organisation which was going to look into the plights of the vulnerable people in the community and the church at large. The organisation has been established and registered with the registrar of societies of Zambia. It is called Francois Coillard Foundation. Our core business is:

- *Nutrition for people living with HIV/AIDS and we are targeting 250 households out of this at least 50% should be child headed households.*
- *Income generating initiatives like training people in the community on how to make energy saving stoves.*

I have started engaging with different Government departments to lobby for funds to assist the Orphans and Vulnerable Children, the aged and women.

In March (2012) when we were celebrating International Women’s Day, I organized Gender Based Violence sensitization talk among the women and men of our organization to discuss about this plague which has become so regular in our country that there is not a day which passes without news on GBV and Child defilement.

Being a faith based organization does not mean we are exempted from such social ills as reports about men in the church battering their spouses are also on the increase.

So we thought it is important as an organization to talk about these issues which are affecting our nation and community and add our voice as a church.

I invited a director of the organization called ASAZA which is looks in to the issues of GBV and child rights to give a talk and the statistics of GBV cases in our community. At the end of the talk, women and men who participated proposed that we have a peaceful march from town centre and to the Government offices and submitted a petition asking for more stringent laws and sentences against the perpetrators of GBV and Child defilement.

In June from 25th to 29th our organisation organised a workshop in OVC CARE and Management for 5 days, we invited one organization which has the OVC programme to come and train 15 members in our organization. Two days before the training I went to collect the programme and handouts for participants, so that everything was in place before the actual day of the workshop. As if I knew what will happen, Monday 25th June participants came as early as 08hrs and I was there to welcome them. I did the welcome remarks, centering, rules to follow during the training and everything which was suppose to be done before the first lesson.

After all this the facilitator was not yet in so I decided to call so that I inform him that we were waiting. He told me that he had just been involved in an accident on his way to the workshop and could not make it. Since I had the programme and the manual I decided to facilitate for the all five days.



Namatama W. facilitating a workshop.

The training went on very well and participants really appreciated the work which was done such that I could not believe that it was me who did such a wonderful job.

This time reminded me when we did facilitation during the TFT course at The Grail Centre, when we were encouraged to plan and designs in such a way that if one came across such a design and they were not there during the planning they can understand it and facilitate the workshop following the design. I am really empowered with facilitation skills. Tft facilitators you are really a blessing and you do not know what you have done in my life I am really proud of the

knowledge I have. I am able to do a lot of things which I could not before I came for this training.

Training for Transformation is the best training that any change agent can ever attend, because transformation starts with an individual then changes the entire community. Good people do not think the work you are doing is in vain you are touching many lives with the knowledge you are imparting to Tft students. Please keep the spirit don't give up I have come to believe that for sure another world is possible one day we shall sing a new song. I wish all the 2012-2013 Tft Students the best in their studies God richly bless you all.

The Grail Centre gets a 2 star grading from the Tourism Grading Council

By Joan Daries

Guests at The Grail Centre now have the assurance that The Grail Centre provides a quality assured standard of accommodation. The grading assessor remarked that first-time guests will be pleasantly surprised when they come to the Centre, because they will get much more than what is expected in a 2 star facility, especially because the environment in which the Centre is located is so picturesque and tranquil. The Centre will soon be proudly displaying its 2 star plaque.

The Grail Centre hosts the Presbyterian Church USA Missionary Gathering 02-09 April 2013

By Joan Daries

The Grail Centre was a hive of activity for a week as the Centre for the above missionary conference. There were 20 children in a group of 84 missionaries serving all over Africa, including Africa's newest country, South Sudan.

The mission workers gathered for a week of strategic planning, training, spiritual growth and reflection, recreation and fellowship.

Rev. Dr. Hunter Farrell, the Director of Presbyterian World Mission, said that the event would equip the church's mission workers to collaborate with partners around the agency's three primary concerns: addressing the causes of poverty, particularly as they affect women and children; sharing the good news of God's love in Jesus Christ; and working for reconciliation amidst cultures of violence. He also said they were thrilled to be holding their gathering in South Africa – as it was a country that has been through remarkable transitions and has much to teach them about justice and reconciliation.

The Grail Centre lends itself for such gatherings for deep reflection and renewal. We invite groups to use our facility for such gatherings.