



*Mthimkhulu Village Centre celebrates Tata Madiba. The highlight was sharing the biggest birthday cake Kleinmond has seen.*

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#### **Change agents play their part in advocating, celebrating and educating**

Hazel Apollis

An active citizen is described as someone who takes an active role in the community (as in crime prevention and neighbourhood watch, etc.) and the Change Agents have done this definition justice in the roles they played during the month of June.

On 15 June - known as World Elder Abuse Awareness - Change Agents of Mount Pleasant marched through the streets to create awareness on specifically the effects of substance abuse on the elderly and children, as this is a common problem within this community. The change agents worked together with the Overstrand local municipality, the elderly persons from the Lombardi Care Centre, local crèches and the Community Policing forum. Councillor Opperman addressed the crowd and Jenny Sauls, our intern, handed her a petition from the community asking not to allow the operation of shebeens in the residential area. The day was a great success.

This year the Change Agents dedicated Youth Day (16 June 2012) to all the students that lost their lives during the Soweto Uprising in 1976. The day started off by singing the National Anthem, Nkosi Sikelel' iAfrika and then a video clip of the Soweto student uprising was shown.

Zwelihle Change Agents reenacted the march of these scholars and sang some of the protest songs.

### AUGUST – DECEMBER 2012

#### **Community Development Programme**

##### **Change Agents Training**

- 11 August - How the economy works
- 15 September - Advocacy & Negotiating
- 13 October - Communication
- 10 November - Conflict management
- 01 December - Graduation

#### **Training for Transformation**

##### **8 October - 1 December**

First residential phase of Training for Transformation  
Diploma Course 2012 - 2013

#### **The Grail Centre**

##### **25 August (from 7p.m. – 08:15 p.m)**

A documentary about mothers and daughters followed by discussions with the producer Sarah Jones. Contact Leverne Coert on [grailadm@mweb.co.za](mailto:grailadm@mweb.co.za) or 028 213410  
Cost: R30 movie only / R50 movie and pre-screening coffee & snacks



**“Think Green – Please do not print this news letter unless you really need to“**



Change Agents of Mount Pleasant on 'World Elder Abuse Awareness Day' (15 June).

Afterwards they debriefed on the emotions but also the determination of these young students and also linked it to their work of advocacy in their individual communities. They also took into account how the Soweto uprising contributed to freedom of language and also the significant decrease in discrimination of different races in our country. It became evident from Change Agents' debriefing that in certain areas of Overberg district there are still incidents of racial discrimination and that we need to inform and equip our community members more with regards to their rights and responsibilities as South African citizens.

**Mthimkhulu Village Centre celebrates Tata Madiba**  
Freda Gray

Mthimkhulu Village Centre in collaboration with various local organisations and schools hosted a very successful celebration of the birthday of Nelson Mandela, the "father of our nation".

More than 800 people attended this early morning celebration at Mthimkhulu Village in Kleinmond, including children from the local school, students from Boland College, Kleinmond Police Services, Cape Nature, Department of Social Services and most importantly members of the community, local NGO's and Kleinmond businesses.

The Boland Rugby team was also in attendance, all the way from Wellington, and gave 67 minutes of their time to conduct a rugby clinic for the rugby teams at the local primary school.

The short programme highlighted one of Madiba's key wisdoms: Colour does not matter. We are all people and liberating one, liberates all. Then we added 800+ voices to the LeadSA initiative of people singing Happy Birthday to Tata Madiba.

The highlight (for young and old) was sharing the biggest birthday cake Kleinmond has seen. Measuring 3 meters by 1.5 meters and decorated by the school children, Anne Hope and Sally Timmel (2 of founders of The Grail Centre Trust) had the privilege of cutting and sharing the cake.

Not neglecting Madela's 67min service wishes, the essence of the celebrations, members of the community took up the challenge and participated in various activities such as planting trees and cleaning open spaces in the community.

Various sponsors made the day possible but we would like to thank in particular Ina Paarman (sponsored 70 kg of her delicious Chocolate Cake Mix), Kleinmond Spar and members of the local community that provided the other ingredients and "plaatkoeke".

***As Nelson Mandela said "Change is in our hands" and the community showed that on 18 July 2012. Let us take hands and make everyday a Madiba Day.***

**Mthimkhulu brings 121 new jobs**  
Freda Gray

Mthimkhulu Village Centre has concluded three partnerships with Provincial Government departments to deliver 121 new meaningful jobs to those unemployed in the Kleinmond area. Under the leadership of Doreen Februarie, director of the Mthimkhulu Village Centre, the Mthimkhulu team negotiated these jobs to give hope to those who live on the margins. During the celebration of Mandela's birthday on Wednesday, 18 July held at Mthimkhulu, Doreen Februarie announced that applications for 40 new temporary jobs in Kleinmond were available at the Mthimkhulu office.

This is as a result of a new partnership with the Independent Development Trust (linked to the government's Extended Public Works programme). Says Doreen: "We really want to use this opportunity to assist NGOs and schools to deliver better services to residents and help those unemployed to have a better chance to secure permanent employment in future. That is why we've linked the IDT contract to one we secured from the Department of Social Development, sponsoring our basic "Ready4Work" programme."

A survey by Mthimkhulu earlier this year among employers showed that applicants require some basic skills in order to be employed. The lack of school education necessitates life skills and essential work skills training for youth. The "Ready4Work" programme includes all these skills and Mthimkhulu will also set up a walk-in centre (with internet access) where youth can access job opportunities. "We are delighted that so many youth have applied for positions. We might not be able to place everybody this year, but we now have sufficient proof to motivate even more jobs through the IDT in our application next year" adds Doreen.

Of the 100 jobs that will be sponsored by the IDT, 40 placements will be made in Kleinmond. The other 60 people will work in organizations in Hawston, Zwelihle, Caledon, Botriver and Mount Pleasant. Although these jobs are temporary, Mthimkhulu hopes to add sufficient skills training for participants to successfully secure permanent employment for themselves.

In all areas the placements will be made at schools (teacher assistants), child and elder care (assistant carers), administration and other NPOs.

Mthimkhulu Village also secured two projects with the Department of Health that created 20 new jobs. Ten of these are home-based carers in Kleinmond, who work with people who are very ill at home. The other ten are lay counselors who work with HIV/AIDS testing and adherence counseling, placed at clinics from Gansbaai to Kleinmond. Both these contracts started in April this year.

Besides these initiatives, the Department of Health has recently awarded Mthimkhulu Village Centre a contract to provide food supplements to malnourished children in the Kleinmond area. This project will work with the Kleinmond Clinic that has identified families in need of assistance. Families will be assisted with feeding, weighing and measuring and ensuring that good health can be restored to small children in need.

“We know that job creation is a priority in South Africa and through these programmes we are giving many people work experience and additional training where we can. I see Mthimkhulu’s role as one of understanding training needs and then finding ways to deliver that training and try to include practical experience. We want to help people become and stay economically active”, Doreen Februarie.

### **What I learnt from Tft 2010-11 at The Grail Centre** Anita Mathew (Consultant - Women And Child Rights-Goa, India)

As I sit today in Goa India back at work, the Training for Transformation (Tft) 2010-11 remains etched in my memory as a course that showed me what I have to do to continue my work with children. It brought to focus the need for a vision and how I must head for the goals set to achieve social and economic justice for the millions of children who remain deprived and neglected. The course reinforced what I already believed in best put in Mahtama Gandhi’s words “Be the change you want to see in the world.” I did not know how. The course has shown me the way.

I need to draw strength to continue my work by first realising that it is spiritual values that give strength to bring about transformation in order to face the power structures which have the resources to control the world.

My faith in the spiritual springs from the lessons taught by my religion and the Bible became a book of inspiration with a new meaning. The words of Jesus and his life along with that of great spiritual leaders like Mahatma Gandhi, Gautam Buddha, Julius Nyerere, Martin Luther King and Nelson Mandela reminded me of the central aspect of morality within culture. The course rests on the fact that spirituality means Ubuntu - universal love, truth and justice. The world is one and life is connected. I have to use my head, heart and hands to work to make any cause for justice a reality.

For more than twelve years I have worked in the field of child rights and it has left me wondering about the whole question of moral values. How can one imagine that it is possible that children face incest, rape, extreme forms of abuse, commercial sexual exploitation and female foeticide? They are trafficked and are a prey to paedophiles. Case after case left me disgusted and devastated. I felt helpless. I then began the work I do in Goa India. It started when an 8 month baby died of ant bites in the government remand home. It was a case that kept me going but there was no light at the end of the tunnel as the child had been abandoned and who would fight for a life that was lost before it even began? There are millions of abandoned children in India and millions more that end up in child labour and child prostitution. Discrimination remains rife and child labour continues unabated despite laws.



Anita Mathew on Tft Diploma Course 2010-11.

I began to work on advocacy with government and the police and found out how authorities function - the child remains least priority especially if it's left to the mercy of the state. It led to the formulation of the Goa Children's Act 2003 and I am proud today I was part of working with an NGO to get the Act to see the light of day. It was a vindication for all children of India. Child rights took on a new meaning! Yet children continue to be seen rather than heard. This led me to the idea of setting up a state of the art child participation centre where all children with the use of computer programmes and fun activities learn the UNCRC (UN Convention on the Rights of Children 1989).

India is a signatory of the Convention and all child related legislatures or policies must be based on it. The centre focuses on child participation.

TFT has further helped me to use the participatory methods enumerated by Paulo Freire to get children to speak out, to develop a questioning mind in order to make choices and solve their own problems. The use of 'codes' to bring out emotions has given me the needed insight on facilitation and on how to ask relevant questions to get to the root causes of social, economic and cultural issues. It would then fulfil the aim that is central to TFT to build learning communities and for me: Where better to start than with children?

There is a long way to go but with new found faith thanks to the intensive learning experience of the course, I know that I will not give up even if "The woods are dark and deep..." for "I have promises to keep and miles to go before I sleep, and miles to go before I sleep." (Robert Frost).

### **Women's Month Special: 'Umbilical Cords' on Saturday 25 August, from 7pm - 8:15pm**

Joan Daries

I am a mother of an adult daughter. What can I learn from Umbilical Cords? More than I wish for, I'm sure! Yes, the mother - daughter relationship is wonderful, but also fraught with so much drama and angst.



*'Umbilical Cords' is a "no-holds barred" documentary exploring the love and conflict between mothers and daughters. The Grail Centre is honoured to host a screening of this film. It is a unique opportunity for mothers and daughters from all walks of life in our local community to share this experience and grow their own understanding of each other.*

*The film is about three young women who live together in Cape Town, with mothers from Argentina, Lesotho and Indonesia. Living thousands of miles apart, the women stay in touch over the phone. Yet beneath the daily phone calls, lie*

*years of conflict over religion, race and belonging. Stepping into womanhood, a battle over identity threatens this ultimate bond. Each mother /daughter pair becomes locked in a dance around how much each woman is willing to see the other as a separate, vulnerable, human being.*

*Umbilical Cords offers an intimate, unflinching exploration of what often remains unsaid between mothers and daughters, until they are forced to confront the woman at the other end of the phone.'*(<http://umbilicalcords.co.za>)

Zanele Khumalo, one of the young women featured in the film will be attending the screening and will respond to questions in the discussion time that will follow the screening. This is a great opportunity for women as Women's Month draws to a close. To ensure that you do not miss out, Contact Leverne Coert to book you place for this memorable event. *Booking is essential as the venue seats 60 people only.*

Tel: 028 213410 Email: [grailadm@mweb.co.za](mailto:grailadm@mweb.co.za)

Cost: R30 movie only / R50 movie and pre-screening coffee & snacks

### **ABOUT US**

The Grail Centre Trust is based in Kleinmond, Western Cape. This Not-for-Profit Organisation delivers three programmes, namely Training for Transformation, Community Development Programme and Mthimkhulu Village Centre. In addition, the Grail Centre Conference and Retreat Centre can accommodate groups of up to 40 people.

### **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION**

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***Our work is not possible without the support from funders and donors. You too could help us today to expand our work. Please contact Freda on [freda@grailprogrammes.org.za](mailto:freda@grailprogrammes.org.za) or call +27 (0)83 651 0774.***