



Purpose:
To improve the quality of life of the people of Missionvale, through love, consultation, participation and self development.



We respond to the many needs of the people in the circumstances in which they live.

January 2009

NEW YEARS BLESSING FROM SISTER ETHEL

Franciscan Benediction:

May God bless you with discomfort at easy answers, half truths, and superficial relationships, so that you may live deep within your heart.

May God bless you with anger at injustice, oppression, and the exploitation of people, so that you may work for justice, freedom, and peace.

May God bless you with tears to shed for those who suffer from pain, rejection, and starvation, so that you may reach out your hand to comfort them and turn their pain into joy.

And may God bless you with enough foolishness to believe that you can make a difference in this world, so that you can do what others claim cannot be done.

Amen.

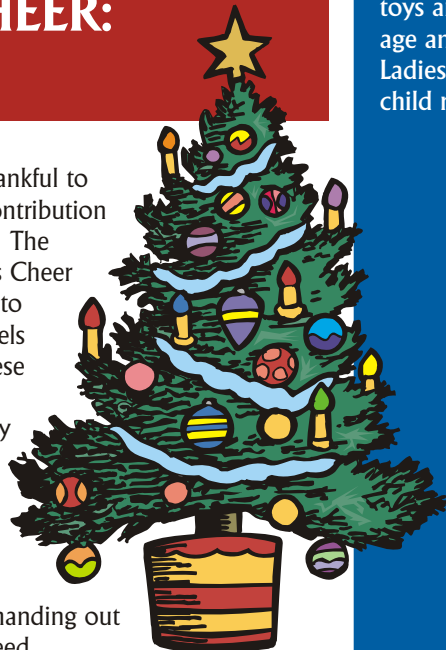
My gift to the people of Missionvale and everyone reading this is to pray for you every day and bring you before God.

God Bless,
Sister Ethel

CHRISTMAS CHEER: DECEMBER 24

Missionvale Care Centre is very thankful to The Herald and all who made a contribution to the Christmas Cheer fundraiser. The donations received from Christmas Cheer were used to purchase items used to create special Christmas food parcels for the people of Missionvale. These parcels were handed out on 24th December so the families can enjoy a nice meal on Christmas day and for the next few days after.

Sister Ethel and some of the Missionvale staff spent most of Christmas Eve at the Care Centre handing out 2,050 food parcels to those in need.

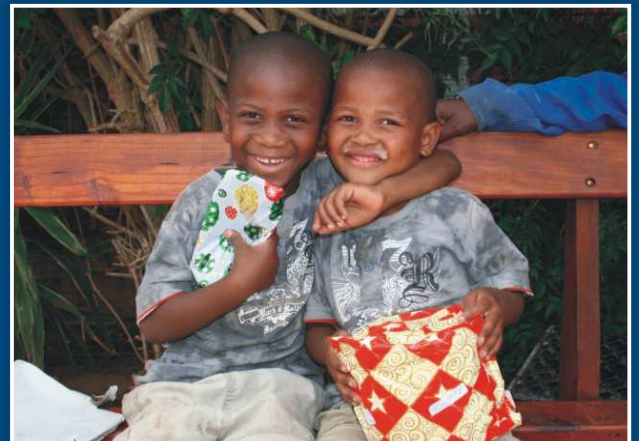


FATHER CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

The children of Missionvale could be seen running to the Care Centre from all directions on the morning of 8th December. This is the day Father Christmas visited and handed out wrapped presents to all the good little girls and boys of Missionvale. Approximately 7,800 children had the chance to see Father Christmas, receive a special present and also enjoy a tasty ice cream treat.



Missionvale Care Centre and its group of dedicated volunteers begin preparing for this celebration in January, collecting donated toys and gifts, wrapping each gift and sorting it accordingly to age and gender. A special thank you goes out to the Christmas Ladies who meet every Thursday all year long to make sure every child receives a present.



PRIMARY SCHOOL GRADUATION

On the 21st of November many people celebrated! The children celebrated, the teachers celebrated and the families celebrated the great accomplishments of the young students.

The students' achievements were recognized as they received their certificates of accomplishment. The graduates looked very triumphant in their cap and gown as pictured below with Andre Raga, Manager of Missionvale Care Centre.



The graduation ceremony had many special performances by each Grade including Spiritual Dances and songs. The audience was in full participation on many of the performances as they clapped and sang along. It was a very special time for the children and they gave their all while on stage.



The Graduation ended with a nativity play of the birth of Jesus performed by the Grade 3 students. Each child recited their lines flawlessly. As the children shared the message and blessing to us for the holiday season, we also wish to pass that blessing on to you in the new year.

MISSIONVALE AGAIN WELCOMES THE IRISH

Another group of volunteers from Ireland will visit Port Elizabeth in January 2009 to assist in building a new Caretaker's Cottage. We are very excited to have them as our guests.

The preparation of the site and foundation will be completed by local hired professionals. On 19th January the first group of 15 Irish workers will begin construction on the first phase of the building. On 29th January, the second group from Ireland arrives to finish the project.

The Caretaker's Cottage is an important addition to the Care Centre. With the recent growth in size and the number of people we serve, it became a necessity to have a Caretaker onsite all the time. The Caretaker is now able to provide a tighter eye on security and maintain the grounds when needed.

A huge thank you goes out to a group of friends/visitors of Missionvale for a majority of the funding for this project. Thank you to Paul Tagg, Martin Hadaway, Alan Fretwell, Alan Willett, Clive Hartley, Michael Arnold, Norman Lyle, Robin Peard, and Tim Linton.

MISSIONVALE IRELAND

The people of Missionvale, the Care Centre staff, and Board of Directors would like to congratulate a group of volunteers from Ireland. After the momentous building of the new Resource Centre in the beginning of 2008, a few of the dedicated supporters returned to Ireland with a mission in mind. On 17th November 2008, Missionvale Ireland Limited was recognized as a Charitable Organization enabling fundraising efforts to begin, with all funds raised going directly to our Missionvale Care Centre.

Kieran Mc Dermott, a Trustee of Missionvale Ireland Limited stated, "This is a huge milestone for us within an incredibly short timescale."

"We truly appreciate the hard work and dedication of all the Irish volunteers to help build a strong future for the people of Missionvale," Sister Ethel said. "Albert Einstein once said 'The most beautiful thing we can experience is the miraculous' and I believe in my heart the Irish have made miracles happen for Missionvale Care Centre for the past 21 years."



YEAR END STATISTICS

The Missionvale Care Centre is proud to have continuously added services since its inception in 1988. Even in just the last year, there has been a particularly dramatic increase in the number of people served. Thanks to all our staff, donors and volunteers who make it happen.

	2008	2007
Nutrition: # Families that receive bread and soup everyday	739	500 - 600
Nutrition: # of Food Parcels given out each week	768	422
Average # Children that attend the Child Support and Development Program Daily	668	500
# of Families assisted with clothing parcels	1,340	1,284
# of people helped by the Social Assistance Office per week	250	45
# of Children that received presents from Father Christmas	7,800	6,623
# of Gardeners participating in the Community Garden project	35	26
# of Crafters making a sustainable living	20	20
# people that received service from the eye clinic	645	NA

Additionally, 19 Care Givers make on average 28 home visits each week. The Care Centre also has 12 individuals that work hard each day learning new skills in the Carpentry Unit.



YOUR CONTRIBUTION AT WORK

The Missionvale Care Centre operates strictly from the funds it raises. We thank all of you that have made a contribution over the past year. Some of you have asked for an idea of how your contribution is used and what it will support. The examples below will give you a small idea of the huge need for the people of the Missionvale community!

For a contribution of R100,

you could provide the opportunity for a child to attend daily a safe, educational after school program which includes a nutritious snack. We have 650 children who attend daily!

For a contribution of R1000,

you could provide basic food (weekly parcel and daily bread and soup powder) for three families for a month. We have 750 families we provide for.

For a contribution of R1500,

you could provide all the seeds, fertilizer, and tools necessary for the entire community garden project for one month. We have 35 gardeners who harvest enough vegetables to provide for their family and neighbors.

For a contribution of R5,000,

you could provide medicine for the clinic for one month's time. There are 12 months in the year.

For a contribution of R10,000,

you could provide an education for 15 children at the Missionvale Primary School. We have 173 students that attend our school.

Every cent counts and we are grateful to each and every one who contributes!



CHILDREN OF MISSIONVALE

One of the goals of the Missionvale Care Centre is to follow the success of students who attend the Missionvale Primary School. We would like to send out a special congratulations to the children listed below who have done exceptionally well in their academic pursuits as they have entered the public schools!

Luchaun Mc Claune:

Graduated to Grade 7; award for academic achievement and neatness and will be deputy headgirl for 2009.

Aliceson Lewis:

Graduated to Grade 7 as a prefect and award for academic achievement, attendance and neatness.

Sinovia Du Toit:

Graduated to Grade 7 as a prefect and award for academic achievement, attendance and neatness.

Raneesha Williams:

Graduated to Grade 7 and award for academic achievement in all subjects.

Laraun Rondganger:

Graduated to Grade 8 as a prefect and award for academic achievement, neatness and attendance.

Stacy Solomon:

Graduated to Grade 5 and award for literacy, numeracy, neatness and kindness.



The kids of Missionvale, from toddlers to teenagers, enjoyed Father Christmas' visit on 8th December!

MEET THE MISSIONVALE CARE CENTRE FAMILY

In this newsletter we would like to introduce you to one of our dedicated teachers, Helen Du Toit.

Hello, my name is Helen Du Toit and I am the Grade 1 teacher at the Missionvale Primary School.



I met Sister Ethel when I was nine years old growing up in the Missionvale community. I admired her for all the hard work she was doing. After I finished matric in 1994, I didn't have any direction in what I wanted to do. Sister Ethel saw the potential in me and helped me to start a course in Early Childhood Development in which I obtained my certificate. That was only the beginning. I am currently busy obtaining my National Diploma in Education at Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University and will be graduating in 2010.

Being part of the Missionvale Care Centre family with Sister Ethel as my mentor, I've learned that we are here to serve and not to be served. I was given a chance to give back to the community I came from. It makes me proud that I am able to educate the next generation and to teach them that they are in charge of their own destiny.

Reflecting on the past and seeing the way Sister Ethel has walked makes me think about a statement my mom made when we were talking about the new Resource Centre that was completed the beginning of this year. She said, "Sr. Ethel has achieved so many things in such a short time that the government couldn't achieve in 10 years." I couldn't agree with her more and I am proud to be a part of it.

As the new school year begins on 21 January, Helen looks forward to the new group of children to whom she will provide hope, inspiration and love.

If you are interested in learning more about volunteering or would like to make a contribution to Missionvale, please contact us at the details below. If you make an electronic transfer to the Missionvale account, we ask that you PLEASE contact us so we can track and confirm your donation.

Address Missionvale Care Centre
PO Box 11053
Algoa Park
Port Elizabeth 6005
Phone # 076 873 6699 or 076 205 0497
Email missionvale@netsurfers.co.za
Website www.missionvale.co.za

Bank Details Missionvale Care Centre
Standard Bank, Newton Park PE
Account Number: 080 364 152
Branch Code: 050017
SWIFT S.B.Z.A. ZAJJ

