



Destiny House

Children's Ministries

Newsletter *October 2017*

Dear friends of Destiny House,

As promised, in this Newsletter we will share a bit more about the educational side of Destiny House. We are busy setting up a multi-disciplinary team for our medical needs, which we will hopefully be able to share more about in the next Newsletter.

We would like to thank you for your ongoing support. If you have any questions after reading this Newsletter, please feel free to come and see us or drop us an email.

OUR CHILDREN



In May we admitted three more children which brought our total number of children to 24, our maximum. A newborn baby boy needed a place to stay because of family issues. A 3 year old girl was found in town without parents and was brought to us. This month she was reunited with her family. A 1 year old girl was brought to us from a place of safety (short term care) and has now settled into the Destiny House family.

The little boy we took in in March suffered from neglect and malnutrition. Monitored by the hospital we gave him food supplements and we saw some improvement in his development. In August the doctor had him admitted to the hospital for further care. They found out that he has a very rare kidney condition. With the right medication he is now back at Destiny House and doing much better! We are happy to report that one more child was recently reunited with her biological family and another child was placed in a foster family. We are currently working on one fostercare placement and one possible adoption.

We believe every child deserves a family!



EDUCATION

Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.

Nelson Mandela



At Destiny House we encourage our children to **dream BIG dreams!** A quality education is an important part of their journey towards the fulfilment of their dreams. This is the reason we started Destiny Preschool in 2016 (for 3-5 year olds), which doesn't just serve the children who live at Destiny House but also provides a quality Early Childhood Development Programme to the community. Since 2011, Mtuba Christian Academy (MCA) has been welcoming the older Destiny House children in their midst. MCA is a school with around 350 students in grades R-12. The classes are not too big and the children receive lots of individual attention. The school building is on the same property as Destiny House, which gives the children a real sense of community. Our Social Worker meets with the teachers on a regular basis to discuss the progress of the children.

Grand-Parents Day 2017 At MCA



Some of our children attend Thuthukani Special Needs School in Empangeni, an amazing school where they are free to develop at their own pace and learn practical skills. Officially Destiny House can be home for a child until he or she turns 18, but we hope that by that time we will have either reunited them with their family or found a foster- or adoptive family. At the moment our oldest girl is 13 years old.

Both MCA and Thuthukani school offer a lot of extra's such as sports and fun days. Two of our girls recently participated in a school fashion show and won!

A big thank you to Chyrese Coetser for providing the dresses and shoes!



DESTINY PRESCHOOL LEARNING



Grade RR teaching time



Grade RRR craft time



Parents evening: how to stimulate your child at home

MONTHLY SCHOOLING COSTS

In South Africa quality education is costly. For the 10 children who attend school (at MCA and Thuthukani) we pay around R8,800.00 per month in total which includes the school transport to Empangeni. It doesn't include uniforms, stationery and outings. We are very grateful to those people who give on a monthly basis because this enables us to keep giving children the best education. If you are willing to support us financially specifically for schoolfees, please contact Esther on info@destinyhouse.org.za or 076-0488734.

PRAISE & PRAYER POINTS

Praise * For growing support from the local community
* For the recent reunification of 2 children with their families.

Prayer * For the future of our children (possible family reunification or adoption) * For protection over the house. * For spiritual, emotional and physical growth of our children * For enough financial support * For the children who are physically challenged to receive the professional help they need.

IN LOVING MEMORY: GOGO THEMBI



This picture was taken a few weeks before Gogo Thembi passed away, during one of our weekly prayer meetings.

On the 10th of October 2017 Mrs. T. Kuzwayo, one of the heroes of Destiny House traded her earthly home for her heavenly dwelling. She loved the Saviour with all her heart and she was an example in quietly doing things "for the least of these". Even in her sickness she was strong and full of peace. We celebrate with her the welcome she received in heaven as she entered the joy of her Lord. Destiny House was privileged to have her as a board member, grandmother, mother, prayer partner and friend. Her favourite verse was John 14:27 where Jesus says:
"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give you" (John 14:27).

Thank you Jesus for the peace you gave to Gogo Thembi and the peace you give to us.

Destiny House children, staff and Board of Directors

MISSION OUTCOMES

Destiny House was started in 2008. Since then we have been home to 55 children. Currently there are 22 children who live with us. The other children have either been reunited with their families, found a foster family or were adopted (some were transferred to other Children's Homes for various reasons).

Reunited with family: 33%

Found a foster family: 15%

Were adopted: 7%

Job creation: We currently have 16 staff members working at Destiny House who are earning a salary to support their families.

STAFF TRAINING



Our Social Worker participated in a play therapy training organised by Childline South Africa. She is enjoying putting into practice the new things she learnt. Three of our caregivers are doing an Educare Course with Siyakha Early Childhood Development. They are bringing home new educational materials (like the weather chart) and sharing with other staff what they learnt.

SERVICE EXCELLENCE AWARD

Destiny House was nominated by the Department of Social Development for a Service Excellence Award. On the 20th of June 2017 Busisiwe Nxumalo (our Social Worker) and Esther Hurter (our Centre Manager) were invited to a ceremony at the Sibaya Casino in Durban. The big awards went to other projects but we took home a certificate of participation. We were also blessed with a free overnight stay and complimentary breakfast at Al Marrakesh Guesthouse in Ballito. What a wonderful experience!

LOCAL SUPPORT

During the last few months we have been so blessed by the local community!

Air Products Empangeni supported Destiny House with a generous cheque.



Louis Pita from Roots Butchery gave us two trolleys full of food donations. Spar Mtuba sponsored the food for our Heritage Day Celebrations.



Lewis Stores gave us a brand new washing machine!



Shell Mtubatuba (Eastside Filling Station) also blessed us with a very generous financial donation!

KZN Wildlife and Heritage Tours sponsored a holiday outing to the Hluhluwe-Umfolozo Game reserve. The children had never seen big animals like elephants and giraffes in real life and they were so excited! They were also very happy with their KFC lunch, sponsored by Heritage Tours.



The Mtuba Round Table collected clothes and food in the community and delivered it to Destiny House.



We are so grateful to our regular local sponsors:

DAVCO'S TAVERN, AL MARRAKESH GUESTHOUSE, INYALA SECURITY, FEAST BISTRO, MTUBA CHRISTIAN ACADEMY, DIS CHEM RICHARDS BAY, RIVERVIEW POULTRY FARM

We also greatly value and appreciate our regular international sponsors:

CCC ALBURY (AUSTRALIA), CCC PENGE (UK), HEART FOR THE NATIONS (NETHERLANDS), FRIENDS FOR AFRICA (NETHERLANDS), TRADELINE INC (USA)

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South African Banking Details:

Bank: First National Bank, Mtubatuba
Account name: Destiny House Children's Ministries
Account number: 62202105286
Branch code: 220330
Swift code: FIRNZAJJ

For Australian, English and Dutch Banking details please contact Esther.

Every little bit helps!

Board members: G. Galloway, P. September, E. Hurter, W. Rall, I. Rall, B. Nxumalo, E. Chabinga