



## Our Mission

Sunshine Association is committed to the empowerment, development and inclusion of children with intellectual disabilities and developmental delays in partnership with families and communities.

## Issue number 4

### From the directors desk

In the last year a lot has changed within the Sunshine Association and it was time to take a look at our organisation as it currently stands – a snapshot, if you will.

We needed to see what we looked like from an operational viewpoint; applaud ourselves for what we have gotten right, and critically discuss how we could do some things better.

House of Performance joined us as 'photographers' for a few weeks and visited our schools and projects, interviewed staff, asked us a lot of questions and

facilitated some exciting workshops.

It was important for us to consolidate the restructuring process that was started in 2008. The process did provide us with sufficient information and a basis from where we could plan for the next year/s with the intention of strengthening our service delivery and capacity.

We are extremely thankful for the willingness and commitment of House of Performance to make their expertise and time available in assisting us on this exciting journey.

We hope they will enjoy a satisfactory partnership with us in the future.

Melinda Cupido  
Director



### Happy birthday Madiba!!

Children from our Craighall Early Intervention Centre showered Nelson Mandela with praise on the 31st July during the dedication of the site where the Nelson Mandela Children's Hospital will be built - next to the teacher training facilities and near the Wits Medical School.

The occasion was also part of the annual children's celebration and Mandela's 91st birthday celebrations.

Dignitaries included Graça Machel, singer Yvonne Chaka Chaka and Deputy Chief Justice Dikgang Moseneke, who is also chairman of the Nelson Mandela Children's Fund (NMCF) board of trustees.

The celebrations were concluded with the cutting of a birthday cake for Madiba, who smiled happily as the children sang his praises and presented him with gifts.



### Our bank details for a direct deposit:

Sunshine Centre  
Association

Nedbank  
Hyde Park  
Branch Code  
1972 05

Account Number 1972  
028 464

Please don't forget to  
put your name and  
number as a refer-  
ence!

### News from our Early Intervention Centre's

There is never a dull moment at the Sunshine Association Early Intervention Centres! There were many exciting activities that the children were involved in with the highlight being the Special Olympics Young Athletes Programme 2009.

Sunshine Association were honoured to be selected as a pilot project for the Special Olympics Young Athletes Programme in 2008. Sunshine Association is the first organisation to be involved in this initiative in Gauteng.

An annual demo day was held on the 9th of May to showcase the abilities of all participants – this included all the children from our Early Intervention Projects. Not even the weather could discourage children from the opportunity to display what they had spent time practising at school whilst parents cheered them on with great joy and pride.

The Young Athletes programme strengthens physical development and self esteem for children between the ages 2 to 7 years by building skills for future sports participation and socialization. One of the Young Athletes goals is to engage children with intellectual disabilities through developmentally appropriate play activities designed to foster physical, cognitive, and social development.

The Young Athletes programme is an innovative sports play programme for children with intellectual disabilities, designed to introduce them to the world of sports prior to Special Olympics eligibility at age 8.

The Sunshine Association would like to extend a sincere thanks to Special Olympics, Active education and Lets Play for their contribution to the ongoing success of their programme.

#### Elsburg

In June, one of our mothers, Lucky Chuene was presented with a wheelchair for her daughter Karabo from the Wheelchair Foundation. Both mother and child were thrilled with this donation.

A big welcome to June Jefery, who has filled the long awaited position of Social Auxiliary worker.

#### Craighall

Welcome to Trish Baker who fills the position as Pre-school teacher and congratulations to Pretty Mnisi on her appointment as Senior Practitioner at Craighall.

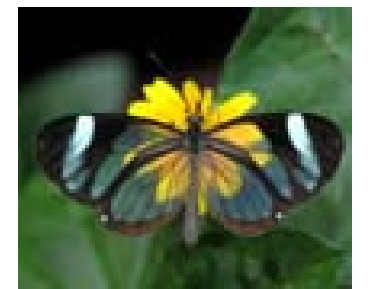
#### Soweto

Our centre has the pleasure of welcoming Busi Nkabinde who is the Family Support Worker specialising in food gardens and nutrition. She will be setting up food gardens in all our centres. We have 10 women who have started with the project.

**Congratulations to all the staff who graduated from ECD ( Early Childhood Development) Level 4.**

*“Disability is the disadvantage or restriction of activity caused by society which takes little or no notice of people of disabilities and thus excludes them from mainstream activity”*

*- The British Council of Organisations of Disabled People*



### Child Protection Week and Children's Day 2009

The National Child Protection Week is an annual campaign of Government led by the Department of Social Development (DSD). The goal for child protection week is that all children grow up in an environment that is safe from abuse, neglect and exploitation.

This year's celebrations were conducted under the theme "Caring communities protect children" and in line with that we felt it would be fitting to invite officers from the Parkview Police Station to address the children at our Craighall Early Intervention Centre.

The officers spoke to the children about the importance of not talking to strangers as well as how important it is to tell your parents should anything happen to you. Once the formalities were out the way all the children were allowed to try on the bullet proof vest

with the police hats and badges and a great deal of fun was had by all!

The following week, in celebration of Children's Day, all the staff, children and volunteers went to MacDonald's in Craighall for lunch. They walked from the Craighall Early Intervention Centre with a Police escort.

The International Children's Day is observed worldwide to promote the welfare of the world's children. The South African government has passed various pieces of legislation which guarantee children's rights to care, protection, education and socio-economic rights.

A big thank you to the Parkview Police MacDonald's and the volunteers who made the day possible.



### The Community Development Team is at it again—Welcome aboard Ebenezer

During the partnership term (2006—2008) with Nelson Mandela Children's Fund (NMCF) extensive research was conducted to determine the feasibility of using our capacity building model elsewhere in the country.

The positive results pre-empted the extension of the partnership with NMCF in view of implementation in the Mpumalanga and Limpopo Provinces.

These provinces were identified because of the need for development by existing partners of NMCF.

Extensive planning and organizing with the NMCF team led to the joint visit and assessment of the Ebenezer Welfare Supporting and Caring Organisation in Shatale outside Bushbuck Ridge.

Apart from the natural beauty of the area the project stakeholders were observed to be extremely committed to take responsibility for the positive change in their community as well as surrounding villages.

The long journey was extended even further with the assessment of the Thusang Disability Day-Care Centre in the community of Phiring.

Both projects are keen to develop skills and undergo training to strengthen their existing structure.

Our Community Development Capacity Building Model will be the most sustainable approach to facilitate better care and stimulation for children with disabilities as well as enhance leadership and sustainability within these provinces.

Further funding will enable us to strengthen our capacity and training and make the model available to other communities in desperate need of development and training.



Above: The Ebenezer Welfare Supporting and Caring Organisation. Below: Woman involved in income generating at the project.



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### School Holiday Programme June/July

The objective of our holiday programme is to support and develop our youth and siblings in order to reduce the risk and vulnerability of these participants.

We have ensured and enhanced commitment from our participants and will continue playing a role in building responsible youth who are sensitive and responsive to the challenges of leadership and empowered to make their own ethical decisions.

Youth from our 3 Early Intervention Centres attended the programme at each of the centres daily through out the school holidays and the experience was phenomenal. Sister Susan from the Dept. of Health facilitated a workshop on HIV and Aids .

Our youth benefited greatly from the session as a lot of misconception and myths around the issue were raised and proper clarification given.

We also treated our youth and siblings to an outing to Trevor Huddleston Memorial Centre in Sophiatown. The outing was very educational as they got to learn about the history of the country.

Love life co-ordinators facilitated a session on lifeskills in order to empower youth with coping skills to enable them to deal with the challenges of life. We also had a fun filled day at the park where youth played soccer with a lot of people enjoying and watching the game. All of our youth just love school holiday programme and promised not to miss it for anything.

Thank you to SANCA, SAPS (Parkview and Moroka), Lovelife, Teddy Bear clinic, Human Trafficking, Sister Susan from Thabo Memorial Hospital and staff from the Trevor Huddleston Memorial Centre as well as our drivers, who all contributed to the success of our programme.

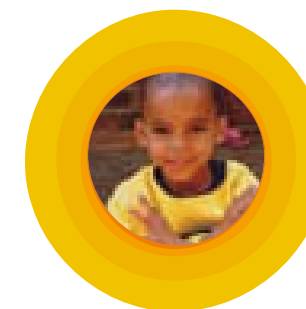
### Training

The second quarter went extremely well with two training sessions being conducted in two provinces. In total 28 candidates were trained with 14 candidates for the first time being successfully trained in Cape Town.

Our sincere thanks to our two trainers Rosie and Faith for their support and wonderful work that added to the success of the Cape Town Session.

Our next START training will be take place from the 30th November - 2nd December 2009 at the TMI building in Braamfontein.

For more information please contact Mpho Moswane on 011 642 2005 or [mpho@sunshine.org.za](mailto:mpho@sunshine.org.za)



Amy Kleinhans—Sunshine Association Patron with children from the Craighall Early Intervention Centre.

**Supporting and strengthening families and communities of children with special needs**