



Thabiso Skills Institute

Volume 14, June 2011

Skills Development NEWS

Dear colleagues

The last few months have been very busy ones for the Thabiso team, as well as many of the centres. Some of our recent activities include:

The Thabiso Skills Institute will be holding its Annual Conference on the 1st and 2nd August 2011. The theme is *Planting Seeds of Hope : Working together towards sustainability in our network*

The New Venture Creation Learnership that is being rolled out at St Anthony's Educational Training Centre and the Thabiso Skills Education Centre are on track. Learners have completed the bulk of their theory and are now focussing on the workplace component and self development. Mentoring and coaching is taking place on a monthly basis right up till December. The learners are very excited about this course.

The Train the Trainer course for centre facilitators was conducted in Gauteng (two sessions) and Cape Town (one session). The course is intensive and conducted over five days. Training occurs over the first three days, and the last two are dedicated to individual mock lessons, videoed and assessed by the facilitator. These lessons are also assessed by their fellow trainers. Three more courses are scheduled for the Free State, Cape Town and Gauteng in July.

St Anthony's Educational Training Centre is one of the first centres in our network who recognised their long serving employees and paid tribute to their dedication and commitment at a "**Long Service Awards Ceremony**" held on Monday 13 June 2011.

30 staff members received awards for 10, 15, 20 and 25 years of service at the Centre. A special mention should be made of the longest serving staff member, Denis Esau – Library Manager, who received an award for 36 years of service as a librarian at St Anthony's Educational Training Centre.



Learners on the New Venture Creation Learnership

Several of our centres participated in the **Solomon Mahlangu Freedom College (SOMAFCO) Trust Prize Initiative**.

Given the large number of existing education initiatives across South Africa today, the prize initiative, was aimed to identify, spotlight, and support the most promising initiatives that are making a difference in the area of education and youth development in South Africa. Three of our affiliated centres made it to the top 10 of the SOMAFCO Beacons of Excellence. They are the Don Bosco Educational Projects (placed in the top 5), St Anthony's Educational Training Centre and DWT Nthathe Mercy Skills Centre. Congratulations to you and well done.

It is wonderful that there is recognition of the extraordinary work that you are doing for people and the community upliftment.


thabiso
skills institute

Our Vision:

We create an enabling environment for people and skills centres to work together towards excellence.



The Don Bosco Educational Projects

The Salesian Sisters, Priests and brothers, together with their co-workers have a long history of educating and empowering the youth and children who for various reasons are unable to sustain a formal education and who find themselves homeless, parenting orphaned families, suffering from HIV/AIDS, subjected to social degradation, dire poverty and abuse. These young people are in desperate need of life skills and manual skills, which can lead to personal development and employment.

The Salesian fraternity recognised the demand for the establishment of such a life and practical skills centre in Ennerdale. This centre is situated close to the poorer surrounding areas of Finetown and Lawley.

The area is economically depressed and blighted by extreme poverty, unemployment and underdevelopment.



Plumbing training

The Salesians of Don Bosco have been working in Ennerdale, Finetown and Lawley since 1970 and the Salesian Sisters have been

working in the same area since 1992, in spite of being subjected to robberies, hijackings petty crimes and even at the cost of the life of Fr Declan Collins himself. They believe that this is the very reason that these communities need positive interventions of this nature.

They have now just about completed the Don Bosco Educational Projects new buildings at Ennerdale, thanks to the funding received from the German Government. Ten workshops and an ablution block have been completed. In fact, the carpentry, brick laying and plumbing workshops are already operational. Both the computer and the craft centres are in the process of relocating to the project building

The entire project was designed with environmentally friendly concepts and building materials such as making use of hydra form bricks, rain water gathering facilities, solar power heating and lighting, solar powered toilets (zero water usage) and sustainable permaculture gardens for food and medicinal purposes



Don Bosco Educational Projects' undertaking and aim is to ensure that their learners are successfully employed or assisted in setting up viable small business ventures should they be so inclined.

The Don Bosco Educational Projects offer:

- Life skills which incorporate numeracy, literacy, physical, mental and spiritual health care, prevention of HIV/AIDS, parenting skills, first aid, home-based nursing, recognising and reporting child abuse and trauma counselling.
- Fitness programmes and sports as a tool for socialisation and identification of special talents.
- Self sustainable Permaculture (organic) gardening.
- Skills such as brick-laying, welding, carpentry, plumbing, house wiring (electrical), cookery and catering and craftwork.
- Computer and management skills to compliment the practical skills.

Due to the hard work and enthusiasm of the small team headed by the capable and experienced Alan Kichenbrand, great strides have been made in getting the skills centre up and running.

Don Bosco Educational Projects' undertaking and aim is to ensure that their learners are successfully employed or assisted in setting up viable small business ventures should they be so inclined.

Carpentry training



When one visits the Centre in the dilapidated and barren area of Ennerdale, one can't help but be struck by the beautiful buildings and the hub of activities - it is like an oasis in the desert.



Don Bosco Educational Projects new buildings at Ennerdale

Please visit the CIE website www.cie.org.za where you will find a link to information on The Thabiso Skills Institute.

Retha@cie.org.za – Director

Yvonne@cie.org.za – Training and Materials Development

Fawzia@cie.org.za – Accreditation and Quality Assurance

Hilda@cie.org.za – Administration

Contact the Thabiso Skills Institute at:

Telephone: (+27) 011 433 1888

Fax: (+27) 011 680 9628

Email: info@thabiso.org.za

PHYSICAL ADDRESS:

66 Nelson Road Booysens 2091 Johannesburg South Africa

POSTAL ADDRESS:

PO Box 2083 Southdale 2135 Johannesburg South Africa