

Swazi Kids Society Newsletter 2009

2008 was a year of significant gains and a few sad losses. I traveled twice this year to get Swazi Kids' business handled. In no particular order, here is what is going on in our grassroots charity and what your money goes to support.

Matjana Food Program: Due to the incredible generosity of a family from Langley, Swazi Kids was able to provide two meals a day to our junior students attending Matjana Elementary School. With the rapid and unrelenting loss of parents, due to the aids pandemic, children are increasingly left alone to fend for themselves. With Swazi Kids' help some are able to attend school but many are hungry. World Food Program does supply maize (ground corn) to the schools with a bit of oil and salt, but it barely sustains life. The money provided has meant that the school has been able to feed them a combination of different meals from: corn, beans, oil, peanut butter, dried vegetable soup and rice. Our teachers report significant increases in energy, alertness and learning since the food program began.



Cook ladels food provided by Langley family



Mick Reilly shows us trenching done by villagers waiting for piping

Water: In 2008 Swazi Kids

helped with a smaller water project by supplying funds for piping, taps and tanking, providing water for 12 homesteads. It is a water collection project, gathering rainwater as it falls down a huge rock face.

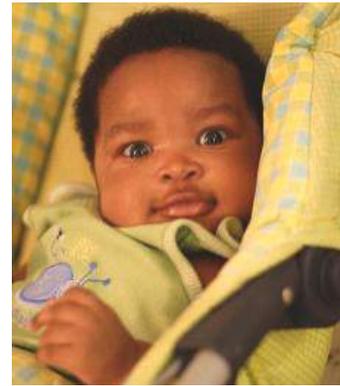
We also completed a project in a drought ridden area near Mkhaya, with our last installment of funds for piping to bring water from a good strong well to a new group of homesteads.

Boarding School: Two of our clever older girls are now attending St. Michael's School in Manzini. Angel and Phindile found the transition from the rural high school to this competitive city school a tough one. They persevered and have both passed into grade 12. Phindile wants to go on and study sciences at university and I think Angel is interested in nursing or medicine if we can find a way.



Students receive food at Matjana Elementary School

Elementary School: In 2008 we had 30 children in elementary schools dotted around Swaziland. That number is down from 2007, as we had a large class graduate from grade 7 into high schools. '08 was the first year that we had more students in the senior schools than were in the junior schools. Our students are growing up!



Secondary School: Swazi Kids kept 38 students in 8 different high schools in 2008. In '08 we enrolled 16 children at Lavundlamanti High School, a school with a strong reputation and that number is 19 for '09. These children require bussing to and from school and their sponsors are to be given special thanks, as this education is more expensive than the other public schools.



Zwele almost made it to Canada

to us, as it takes an education at this level to make a larger and more tangible difference, not just in their families but also in the country at large. In 2009 we are hoping to enter one student each into: nursing, travel and tourism and auto mechanics in addition to Simphiwe who is now in 2nd year in her B. Comm., thus making four university students by way of this Swazi Kids sponsor!

University: 2008 marked the first year that we fully sponsored one student at university. We have offered partial sponsorships at the college level in years past, but this is the first student who is working towards a degree. This student is a young woman named Simphiwe and she is taking a B. Comm. in South Africa. We were able to do this with the solo support of a husband and wife in our program who feel called to help out students in achieving higher education. This is particularly thrilling



Abandoned fraternal twins (L) now on Van Is. Amara Gottwald (R) now lives in Langley, BC.

Orphans and Adoption: With a personal interest in adoption and the rescuing of these unwanted and abandoned children, your charity devoted some resources in '08 to: relocating children into safer surroundings, hiv testing, medical examinations and otherwise preparing them for potential adoption. About 8 babies made it out of Swaziland and into Canada in 2008, the first 3 were with some assistance from Swazi Kids. All Swazi-Canada adoptions are now fully handled by Sunrise Family Services in North Vancouver. To some degree doors were opened by Swazi Kids, initiating an international adoption program from Swaziland, by adopting and bringing home our daughter. Thula arrived in Canada, January '08.



All of the children on this page are or were unwanted children. Zwele, (above with the yellow background) was one of 2008's tragic losses. Just months before he was due to come home with his new Canadian family, he died due to inadequate medical care, from a condition imminently treatable in a decent hospital. The crew (above left,) are at the Manzini Region Halfway House, most are unadoptable and face completely uncertain futures. Swazi Kids helps out these children with food, clothing and payment of some medical expenses.



Gogo's old house and one grand son

home for an absolutely destitute family in Mbabane. We have yet to raise the funds, but are determined to have \$15,000 by July for this project. We are building a 2-3 BR home for a family of 9, with low education and no income. We will be working with SOS Children's Village on this project and I am anticipating a wonderful experience for all coming.

Thula Carlson: For those interested, our 2 yr old little girl adopted from Swaziland last year is wonderful. She is loving, sweet, smart and completely adapted to her new life. Thula has stolen our hearts and those of all who meet her. We are blessed.



Thula Carlson, 2 yrs old, February 2009

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Ways to Help at Swazi Kids

Plans for 2009: We will continue with our **EDUCATION PROGRAM**, which is the foundation of Swazi Kids. All students once they are in the program, will stay in the program. For '09, that will be at least 80 children at elementary and secondary levels. As mentioned earlier, we ambitiously plan to place a total of four students in **UNIVERSITIES** and colleges this year. One is enrolled and three soon to follow.

We also have another large **BUILDING PROJECT** slated for late August '09. A group of 17+ is headed from Canada to build a

Ways to Help 2009

If you are already an education sponsor and you wish to continue please find an individual letter included in this mail out. If you are not an education sponsor and wish to donate, please find attached "Ways to Help..." page. This will give you options as to where to direct your contribution. For 2009, what we really need more than anything is donations to our building fund.

Contact Us:

Email: swazikids@shaw.ca
Phone: Pam or Bruce Carlson 250-541-0122
Fax: 250-541-1002



If you wish to make a contribution, tear off or print out this page and include with your cheque. Make cheques payable to: Swazi Kids Society. Post to the address at the bottom of this page.

I wish to help out in the following way(s) Please tick the appropriate box/boxes and fill in blanks

Contribute to BUILDING PROJECT 2009 _____

Sponsor ____ **elementary student(s) @ \$200 each =** _____

Sponsor _____ **secondary student(s) @ \$400 each =** _____

My secondary student(s) is/are at Lavundlamanti High School, tuition =\$500 each, plus bus fare= \$200 each

Total __ **students @ \$700 each =** _____

Provide uniform(s) for needy students \$50 each= _____

Provide funds for orphans and vulnerable children

(food, medical, hiv testing etc.) any amount _____

Please make cheques payable to: Swazi Kids Society Please post to: 536 White Court Place, Vernon, B.C., V1B 4B1 CANADA

Email: swazikids@shaw.ca

Web: www.swazikids.org