



Helderberg Development  
Centre

The alleviation of poverty  
through training and job  
placement

July 2015



## Thankful for:

- For students
- People who help
- Donations
- God's Grace

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# Kukhanya Newsletter

HELDERBERG DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

JULY 2015

## Romeine 12:4-8

*Romans 12:4-8 Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. If it is serving, let him*

*serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.*

*This is what the Word of God teaches us, inspiring the members of the Helderberg*

*Development Centre to serve as they do.*

*Many of us already know the Development Centre, but we do not know much about the people involved with the Centre.*

In tis Newsletter we like to introduce you to some of our staff members. So next time when you visit the Centre maybe you will recognize a few familiar faces.



Gideon en Hanna

We gather around the cozy dining room table of the De Wets. While Gideon is peacefully attending to his writing, I sit and chat to Hanna. She tells me that she always intended to serve the Lord after her retirement.

Hanna de Wet was born in Calvinia. She attended Stellenbosch University and graduated with a B.SC degree in Home Economics. She married Gideon de Wet – a senior lecturer of Engineering. After moving around Cape Town, Sasolburg and Pretoria, they decided to “retire” in the Strand area. While living in Pretoria Hanna lectured at the University of Pretoria. During this time she was also involved with community projects and when she heard about the Helderberg Development Centre she immediately wanted to be involved. Soon she was lecturing at the Centre, where she has now been delivering excellent work for the past 13 years. Hanna is now involved in reviewing of course content and purchasing.

Gideon has a career in engineering and also fulfilled management roles in the industry. One of his biggest achievements was his role as founder and manager of the Institute for Maritime Technology in Simons Town as well as the Post Graduate School for Management of Technology at the University of Pretoria. Gideon has been serving on the board of the Centre for the past 11 years, the last 6 years as chairman. Together they make a formidable team - a true gain for the Centre.

**Judith Cross** first visited South Africa 12 years ago with her South African husband for a week. In this time they managed to buy a small home which they used for short holidays every year.

Three years ago they decided to visit SA for a year, to explore and visit all those places they had never had time for. They are still here!

Judith recons that she is fortunate that her visa does not allow her to be in paid employment and so the day after she arrived she offered her services to the Indigenous Nursery at Helderberg Nature Reserve. Her intention was to exchange her horticulture skills for a working knowledge of local flora.

Judith runs the Neighbourhood Watch for the Somerset West CBD and also manages their Facebook page. She visited the Helderberg Development Centre a few months ago to drop some items off for the garden having learnt about the project through Facebook.

Judith loved the concept the minute she stepped into the garden and found herself readily agreeing to support Lee Last, the founder of the project. When Lee had to move on to other projects she rearranged her schedule to step into Lee's shoes.

"I've never taught but with knowledge, passion and a love for this country and its communities I am hopeful for the success of the project!"



**Ina Bezuidenhout** has been involved with the center since 2003. At first she lectured in the subject "Laundry" and was then appointed as secretary. "Under the leadership of Majoma, Hanna, Melanie and Elby, it was one of the most enjoyable working experiences."

Ina has a passion for writing and also shared one of her own poems in a previous newsletter, however, she mentions that both Mathematics and Accounting have never been her strong points. She considers it a miracle that she got involved with the module on Money Management and that this module stays close to her heart.

As mentioned in our previous newsletter, the Development Center now also offers an Entrepreneurial course to the students. Here Ina also makes an important contribution. Together with Natalie Alpers and Liza Pieters, she is involved with the presentation of course material. These three staff members received training from Epic Solutions to equip them for the course.

Just over a year ago Nadia van der Westhuizen established a very successful "Kidskook" course. This course focuses on teaching primary school children basic cooking skills. When Nadia went on maternity leave, **Carina Birch** decided to continue teaching this course. Over the past term the "Kidskook" course was presented on a weekly basis for children ages 7 to 13. The children learn to make basic dishes and also try out a few fun and interesting recipes. More than that, they are taught table manners, how to lay a table, how to manage hygiene in the kitchen and much more.

Carina tells us that she has loved creating different mixtures from a young age. When she was only 9 years old she started baking cakes and soon after that she started taking over from her mother! This is definitely a passion that she was born with. To all parents - feel free to send your children for this fun and informative course!

Carina graduated with a B Ed degree in Home Economics. Thereafter she worked as a teacher at various schools, including Paarl Vallei High School. Now Carina runs her own catering and baking business from home and also manages a guesthouse! Thus it is no surprise that she spent most of her time over the past years lecturing in "Kitchen Skills". Recently she also presented "Family Meals" to the students. Carina heard about the Centre through the Helderberg Outreach and after 10 years she is still involved at the Center and loving every minute of it!

**Thandiswa Tsangani**, also known as Thandi was born in Cathcart in the Eastern Cape, where her parents still reside. She is the eldest of two children; her brother lives in Durban.

In 2002 Thandi decided to move to Cape Town. Here her neighbour told her about the Development Centre and in 2003 she registered for the course. After completing the course Thandi worked as a domestic worker for a while. In 2004 she returned to the Centre, where she still works as a cleaner and even steps in from time to time as receptionist. Thandi also works as a domestic worker for two of the Centre's staff members. *She calls the Centre her family!*

Today she is the proud mother of a daughter, Owam (Grade 1) and her one-year-old son, Ayo. In 2009 Thandi was diagnosed with cancer but after chemo treatment she miraculously recovered.

In 2014 one of her biggest dreams were realized, when the Centre and Pieter van Niekerk helped her to buy and set up her own Wendy House. If you ask Thandi if she has any other big dreams, she replies: "Yes, one day I want to drive a Mini Cooper!"

Without dedicated people the Development Centre would not exist! Thank you to each and every one who contributes to the success of the Centre. We thank our Heavenly Father who sends various people our way. Maybe you have also considered getting involved – now is the right time!

Kind Regards  
The Helderberg Development Team