



Children of Fire
Tel: (011) 726-6529 www.firechildren.org



Quarterly Newsletter
2005/2006

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January 13th 2006 outing

Literacy drive for Jo'burg prisoners

This Christmas they were not dogs. Mary-Ann rang me on a sunny afternoon just before Christmas. Her brother has been in jail for five years. He has another ten years to go. She said: "He's the sweetest man. He just kept bad company." She rang to thank Children of Fire for reaching out to prisoners. She said, between sobs: "No one else does."

In the maximum security prison in Johannesburg, the prisoners behaved impeccably. They helped carry in the more than 15 000 magazines that we had collected from the general public. They were ecstatic to have the games that had been donated as well.

All the crisp orange uniforms were immaculate; the cells spotless. On the ground they had a hand-drawn Ludo game but now thanks to kind donors they had a lot more variety to choose from. On hearing that more magazines were by the gate, some prisoners swiftly sought permission to take shopping trolleys

down to collect more for their section. One grey plastic trolley was quite clearly from Checkers!

A young Indian prisoner said: "We have never been brought something like this before. I've been here since 1990. The people outside, they just think that we are dogs, not humans like them."

Another prisoner immediately took out a notebook and recorded the games donated to his area of the jail, "to make sure they are shared fairly".

There are people in prison who study for matric and even for degrees. Samantha Ramsewaki (26) Manager: Communications for Correctional Services, said: "The ones

that study get a lot of distinctions even if they are housed with huge numbers of other people." But generally people living behind the fortress-high walls, the coil upon coil of razor wire and the electric fences, have little to occupy their minds and almost no attention from outside.

The 32 babies of prison mums had five Christmas parties in December and there was one for juvenile offenders. But for the rest, so we as society have dictated, they must simply rot.

Through a squatter camp injustice, Children of Fire became more aware of the huge number of people in jail, awaiting trial. For some, bail is denied because they have no formal address or they do not have the means to pay bail. A certain percentage of these people are entirely innocent.

But they are living in communal cells meant to accommodate 38 people but which instead house 100 people or more. Even the "single" cells have four people in them.

This horrible over-crowding persists in all parts of the jail - from the 7000 people awaiting trial to the 5500 long term male offenders, more than 1000 women, the 1000 or so juvenile offenders.

In total there are about 15000 lives being wasted behind bars in Meredale and nearly half of those are innocent until proven guilty. Because crime is so rife in South Africa, public sympathy seems largely to have gone. There is no forgiveness.

But what a waste of human potential with able-bodied people just being housed and fed and no chance to contribute usefully to society at all.

In terms of space, conditions at the SPCA are better. So Children of Fire requested



magazines, books, newspapers and board games from the public to at least give these men and women something to do during their incarceration.

Now a mass of Cosmopolitan and Get Away magazines, Readers Digest and novels, games of Cluedo and chess, Risk, Life and even Roulette are being shared among the cells. Some people donated 1000 piece jigsaw puzzles with beautiful artworks like Vincent van Gogh's Irises. Some gave games of Trivial Pursuit.

It doesn't make up even a fraction for taking away someone's liberty. And for people who

have committed heinous crimes, the herd urge remains to punish and hurt them as much as possible.

But when the innocent and the guilty eventually re-emerge from behind bars, some will have benefited this Christmas from a touch of human kindness. And that in turn might reflect in their actions towards the wider world.

Children of Fire thanks the general public who responded to this call for help.

BACKGROUND

Why Children of Fire became involved

In mid-November 2005 a fire started at a squatter camp in Coronationville, Johannesburg. The cause seems accidental. But the petty squabbles that have divided residents there for so long resulted in an innocent man being falsely accused of arson. He has sat in jail awaiting even a bail hearing, since that date.

He did not receive his free phone call when arrested. After a few days in police station cells he was transferred to Johannesburg prison, known colloquially as "Sun City". He was entitled to free legal assistance but no lawyer was appointed.

Because his home had burned down, he has now lost his registered shack and the chance to rebuild. Bail is harder to achieve because with the shack gone, he had no fixed abode. But in this case relatives in brickbuilt housing will assist with a formal address where he can stay.

Children of Fire is a community safety charity which, among its many activities, tries to make squatter camps safer places to live. We

obtained pro Bono legal services for the man from major legal firm Bowman Gilfillan. Most large legal companies have a pro Bono unit and we appreciate the help of many of them for different people and organisations in need.

Prison Gifts - fact file

If you know someone in prison, you can take them an apple but not an orange.

Why? because something can be injected into or hidden in an orange it seems.

Likewise a pear is ok but a banana is not.

They are fed basic food. Families are allowed to bring in additional plain boiled rice and a maximum of five pieces of cooked meat just once a week on Mondays. No pasta or other carbohydrate except breakfast cereal. Sugar is ok and powdered milk but no fresh/long-life milk or cold drink containers - though one can buy cold drinks inside the prison walls to give to them.

Toiletries are ok as are books, magazines and games.

Children of Fire will continue the Meredale prison literacy project bi-monthly throughout 2006. People can also take publications to the prison direct. For further information contact prison governor Kenny Bouwer on tel 011 933 7000/7132.

Children of Fire thanks Louis Rutstein of Greenside Trading and Ernie Brough of Greenside Plumbing for providing the means to transport the magazines.

A visit was arranged to the Medium B Maximum facility where +- 5000 male maximum offenders live.

Sicelo and Zenette



Sicelo Maduna, a seven-year-old burns survivor from Volksrust area, is growing a nose on his forehead. More precisely, he is undergoing the familiar tissue expansion process, where a small balloon is planted

under the skin on his forehead and gradually small amounts of saline are inserted in order to stretch the skin. He has had four saline injections to date and has still many more to go until there is enough skin to form a nose. We estimate him to be with us for at least another three months. The process is complicated by the fragility of the skin and by his HIV status.

Seven-year-old Zenette van Wyk had her index finger on her right hand released and Z-plasty on the back of her neck in December 2005 at Johannesburg General Hospital. She has recovered



well and had a happy time with her sister Precious at the Johannesburg School for Blind, Low Vision and Multiple Disability Children. She can now move her head more freely and has better functionality in her right hand. She is still undergoing psychological assessment with Dr Hugo Rust.

Next we hope to arrange for her to have a contracture release on her left foot with probably removal of two toes. This might take place during the Easter break. MN.

Feleng Mahamotse

A new child joined the Children of Fire crew in late 2005. His name is Feleng Mahamotse, he is four years old, speaks Sesotho and a little bit of Zulu, and he and Sizwe are already coupled to make the 'Duo of Disaster'. Feleng has managed to integrate himself into the group very quickly, especially considering his lack of English language.

This child has spent his first year of life in Baragwanath hospital after being burned at the age of one month. He was then, alongside with his sister and two brothers, put in the Van Rhyn Place of Safety. His father committed suicide in 2005 and his mother is allegedly an alcoholic. The Van Rhyn Place of Safety referred Feleng to Children of Fire in



October for first assessment, and he finally came to stay with us in December.

He has already been seen in Joburg Gen three times. He has a huge bony deficit in his skull, his right hand fingers are missing (apart from the thumb) and his face has also been damaged by the fire. His next operation will be on February 28th 2006 – a contracture release to his eyelids, as he cannot close them when sleeping. His skull can only be fixed when he is older - somewhere between the age of seven and twelve. Another operation will be done to his finger stumps to

improve their functionality, but again he has to wait. The doctors introduced two methods that are common for making fingers: One of them is to take toes (from the patient's own foot) and put them onto the stumps. This is a

very complicated operation though as all the arteries and veins have to be connected properly, and there is the risk that the toe might just die and everything was for nothing. The other option is less risky, and is going to be applied to Feleng: With a device that is inserted into what is left of the fingers, the bone will gradually be stretched, encouraging the creation of more bone, until they are at a length where they can be used more effectively. However, the stretching

equipment is not available for fingers as small as a four-year-old's so Feleng will have to wait until about age eight.

Up till then we all hope that he will make good progress otherwise – educationally at our school, and also emotionally. He has had many unpleasant hospital experiences and is still scared when he has to face doctors. Nonetheless he has shown very positive development since he came to us.

Cape Town Trip

On a trip to the SA Burns Congress in Cape Town from 3rd to 7th October 2005 Bronwen Jones took toys to burned children at the Red Cross Hospital in Cape Town. She was accompanied by Bridget Scoble of the Quakers who is a part-time Children of Fire volunteer in the mother city. They gave one toy to every single child in the long outpatient queue on Wednesday and spent longer time with the inpatients.

These included: Ryan (1½) who had pulled hot water from the stove on himself. He was given a fluffy chick to take home with him. Thokozile (3) was burned with hot water. She received a cloth book, a koala bear and another soft toy. Asemahle (1) was burned with hot water. He received a lion and a rotating toy.

Sandiswa, an 8-year-old boy burned with hot water, received a large colouring-in book that came all the way from Children of Fire's Canadian outreach in September 2005.

Kumba, a little one-year-old boy, enjoyed his fire engine soft toy.

Khanye, an 8-month-old boy was burned when a pot on the stove fell on him. He was so glad to have some attention. Jemaine, a

five-year-old girl, was also absorbed with her new toys.

Ten-year-old boy Percival had electric burns. He was given a rugby ball, a soft toy and a colouring-in book.

Bronwen and Bridget also went to visit Babalwa (5) at St Joseph's Children's Home but unfortunately the little girl was not yet back from a weekend visiting her mother. One of her ward mates, Jenna, promised to look after the very special china dolls that were a donation to Children of Fire and which were, in turn, handed on for Babalwa to enjoy with her friends.

Then they went on to visit Attie (10) and Anthony (11), two older boys who had in the past been forced to drink caustic soda or other acid. We gave them each a rugby ball and a fine metal red car. We learned that Anthony was not able to attend his gymnastics lessons because, as he had progressed to a more advanced grade, the classes were set later in the evening and transport - the perpetual problem of charities - meant that he could not attend. Bridget has arranged to help him.

Holiday Activity Week

Johannesburg School for Blind, Low Vision and Multiple Disability Children (Beka) wrapped up another exciting Holiday Week this past September with the help of some local organisations and some wonderful children from Abraham Kriel's children home

and Joe Slovo squatter camp. The focus of September's Holiday Week was to teach the children about different aspects of South African culture (animals, people, food, art, and dance) as well as the life of someone who is blind. The children participated in

activities such as colouring-in the South African flag blindfolded, and a blindfolded taste test.

Some of the highlights included a visit from the Johannesburg Zoo, giving the children an opportunity to hold snakes, pet rabbits, and learn about different insects. Capsicum Kitchen taught the children how to bake ginger biscuits from scratch, and then treated everyone to a delicious chicken and curry lunch. Other events included a disco with Kinetic Sound, a play at the Johannesburg Youth Theatre entitled 'I'm a Special Person',

and dance and drama therapy from Rea and Abri Le Roux.

The next Holiday Week will be held from 3-7 April 2006, and is sure to be as exciting as the last. Some of the events being planned include:

- ✍ Zimbabwean culture
- ✍ Ghanaian dancing
- ✍ African story telling
- ✍ Egyptian history
- ✍ ... and much more

HIV training as first burned child diagnosed with the virus

The deadliest virus of South Africa has sadly made its way to our children of fire. One of our boys, only just seven and a half years old, was tested in the last week of November (special thanks to Dr Peter Cole of **Lancet Laboratories** for testing pro Deo): positive. We do not know where he got it – possibly from birth or blood transfusions from earlier surgery – but we do know that if we had not tested him now (and it is very unlikely that his family would have noticed the symptoms in time), he would have had not more than another year to live...

Now Children of Fire and Beka have to make radical changes. The children must in some way be informed about the danger that this boy's blood exposes them to. Likewise, the staff must have very detailed knowledge about the virus so that they can take necessary precautions for the safety of themselves, the boy and the other children. For that purpose Charlene Smith came to the school to talk about HIV and AIDS. Charlene Smith was raped a few years ago. But instead of letting it destroy her future, she transformed her rage into energy and changed the law. She had to wait for months

until her attacker was tested for HIV, now everybody has the right to have this determined immediately and the right to receive necessary emergency treatment. Charlene gave her time to tell teachers, volunteers and others involved with the school everything she knew about HIV and Aids.

The child is not yet in a dangerous state – he was lucky to find out fairly early – but now he has to follow a controlled diet in order to keep his CD4 count of 350 up for as long as possible. His viral load was not measurable. In time, he will need to start taking medication to stop the virus from destroying his immune system. Just a normal cough can now be dangerous for him, so whenever a child has a cold he or she would ideally wear a mask in order to prevent bacteria from infecting the boy.

According to Charlene, he will be able to lead a reasonably normal life with a relatively normal life expectancy if he starts taking anti retrovirals in time and maintains a good diet. Let us hope for the best for this young boy – he has the promise for a great future. MN

Beka trip to see Guide Dogs

On 29 November 2005 pupils from the Johannesburg School for Blind, Low Vision and Multiple Disability Children (Beka) went to visit the Guide Dog training centre near

Sandton to gain insight in the association that not only provides well-trained and suitable guide dogs for blind people, but also offers orientation and mobility training for blind

people and for trainers) as well as other support for blind or visually impaired people. Pieter van Niekerk, the manager of fundraising and P.R. and blind himself, explained to the children what a guide dog means to its owner – it is a guide, a friend, and the dog shows other people its owner's blindness. Pieter also described the process of training a guide dog.

Later on the children could see and feel the energetic and playful puppies that were to become calm and responsible guide dogs. It was a pleasant and interesting day, not only for the children but also for the adults. Beka will visit the guide dog centre once a year and obtain a companion dog for the school when we can afford to fully fence the premises.

Dreamnight at Jo'burg Zoo

What a splendid idea Dreamnight at the Zoo was. Even though the late November weather was not as obliging as everyone hoped and Dorah ran out of prosthetic nose glue so her nose fell off and.... the blind children need a bit more time to touch animals.... and the Alex taxi driver was a little lost, the glowing Christmas tree was just stunning and the animals-in-lights were lovely. The children chuckled at the middle aged horse rider who lost his wig among the branches of a tree and they appreciated the enormously friendly staff and volunteers. The children enjoyed the food, the chat, the T-shirts and teddies so much. They all hope that this will become an annual event.

UMashesha meeting

Children of Fire's UMashesha (quick mover) volunteers continued their long-established pattern of volunteer meetings on the third Saturday of every month throughout 2005. In December there is no meeting but instead a thank you dinner mid-month for volunteers both at Children of Fire and at our school. Each UMashesha meeting is held at the old Alexandra police station which is still owned by the SAPS and which is used for serious crimes research. The SAPS is kind enough to allow us the free use of the boardroom there. Children of Fire in turn assists the SAPS by helping to multi-skill its staff, through free First Aid courses as well as courses in fire fighting and fire prevention. The charity provided a large well-equipped First Aid box to the old police station. In November 2005 the speakers included Bernard Awerbuch, 41, a wrestling fan from Bloemfontein and his colleague, avid chess player Robert Stott, 33. Bernard has a background in the car business, selling parts and accessories. But he became interested in how paraffin and primus stoves functioned



and has spent more than a year finessing his designs.

The catalyst for his interest was a course run by Bloemfontein's Central University of Technology's Rapid Prototype section. The course intended to train people to manufacture stoves using hand tools and a target production of two stoves a day (so

helping job creation), but Bernard saw the potential to mass produce the stove (potentially far-cheaper products).

He says that the central pipe and the workings inside are from the original Technikon design but the rest of the device is his.

As the stove is turned on, first 2-3 teaspoons of (methylated) spirits are warmed up as this gets the paraffin into a gaseous state.

The paraffin supply in an old cold drink bottle, hangs from a hook on the shack wall or ceiling, a bit like a patient's drip in hospital. So the fuel supply is far from the flame and flows down a relatively-thick-walled plastic tube through a non return valve to the stove.

Then the tap on the valve can be used to adjust the flow, or the height of the fuel bottle. The paraffin can even hang outside the shack so long as it is relatively cool. The valve has a "flashback" so that the flame cannot go back up the tube to the fuel supply.

Bernard anticipated that his stoves would be on the market from February 2006 and later he will expand to two-plate stoves and even to a 20 litre geyser.

While having to use both spirits and paraffin could discourage the user, the fact is that the fuel is still the most widely distributed fuel in Africa and combined with the robust relatively low height device, Bernard's design might pave the way to more efficient and safer cooking.

He is hoping to provide a franchise arrangement where the network will be

supported by the manufacturer but not have to pay the conventional franchise fee. Each franchisee will simply buy some R5000 worth of stock to get started. Bernard says the company will even make a little trolley with the burner on, for street vendors to use - both to cook their food and to market the stoves. There is already BEE involvement in the project and Robert will use his business skills to commercialise it.

One litre of paraffin burns for seven hours. The stove takes a little time to warm up but works well indoors and outdoors. If the igniter is taken off the flame dies instantly.

Children of Fire's website will host a stove design section by mid 2006 where other designs will be discussed.

Happy Healthy Christmas Packs

Many charities are approached at Christmas time by people who feel like giving, especially to children, the aged, the infirm or the sick. Many people want to give what they perceive as luxuries - chips, sweets, fizzy cold drinks and similar.

In 2004 and again in 2005 we asked people to think a little deeper - and then to give to any truly reliable organisation. We urged them to check for themselves to check that gifts really reach those who are meant to get them.

The poorest children in South Africa often get more sweets and chips (crisps) even than brown bread and peanut butter. Often they do not even know what salad is. In fact it is so unusual that when we have given some children fresh vegetables, they scrape them off their plates as they don't think vegetables are real food. Give them a bunch of grapes and they ask their mothers if they are safe to eat.

Protein for poor children is chickens' heads and chickens' feet (commonly known as "walkie talkies"). High sugar snacks can be cheaper than real food and they curb the appetite.

But a poorly educated parent will give the child something cheap to eat to keep them quiet. These children do not grow.

Some have kwashikor; many have worms.

They do not gain weight, they do not receive the protein needed to develop properly, they are apathetic and generally fail to thrive.

The worst cases are marasmus - long term starvation leading to severe stunting. These children can be half the weight and half the height that they should be. Not only that, but their brains do not develop well. They will never reach the potential that they once had.

A starved child will not learn well at school. Giving food once a year is very kind, but it would be even better to pool resources with a church, a mosque, a reliable community organisation or similar and help children on a sustained basis. Even multivitamins can be given out if there is someone to administer them safely.

That requires more effort and more money than most people are prepared to give.

But then ask yourself - are you giving so that you feel good - or are you giving to make a child's life better?

The most common problems related to diet in South Africa are:

Not enough food. Too much sugar; too much salt; un-iodised (or insufficiently iodised) salt leading to iodine deficiency; no fresh fruit or vegetables; too much carbohydrate; too little protein; too much caffeine and too much

tartrazine.

So Children of Fire's Happy December/Christmas pack contains:

A box of Ceres fruit juice and a box of Liqui fruit juice (the brand doesn't matter, we just urge variety).

A packet of South African macadamia nuts (but be careful with toddlers because these nuts are big and the child could choke).

A large roll of dried guava.

A packet of Safari prunes, apple rings, peach and apricot pieces.

A packet of peanuts.

A packet of super C sweets.

A packet of biltong or a ring pull tin of tuna fish with vegetables that does not need cooking.

A large pack of dry savoury biscuits.

A small jar of cheese spread.

A plastic jar of peanut butter.

A jar of fish paste.

A plastic knife. A toothbrush and toothpaste. A packet of colour pencils.

An exercise book. A South African story book. A pencil sharpener, ordinary pencil, eraser and ruler.

A pencil case.

One or more pieces of fresh fruit if they can be delivered only on the morning of Christmas Eve.

(We don't have facilities for long term storage of fresh produce.)

An old school bag or sports bag to put everything in.

What's listed above would be enough.

However, wash things and "doing" games (chess, drafts, checkers, snakes-n-ladders) are always more appreciated than soft toys. Dress up dolls, toy cars, balls of all sizes, skipping ropes, are also liked.

Small homes don't have clean flat surfaces for jigsaw puzzles though. And it is generally better not to wrap a present so that e.g. marbles suitable for a ten year old boy are not given to a two year old who might swallow them.

Many squatter camp children also have just one pair of underpants. Multi-packs of underpants/panties for children aged from 3 to 18 make them not have to wash their only underwear and hope that they dry overnight.

Many food items we'd like to give will not work without a fridge. We would welcome ideas of other nutritional items with a long shelf life to add to the Happy Healthy Christmas pack.

The Chocolate Fest 2006

The preparations for the Chocolate Fest 2006, held on the 1st April 2006 at Beka, are in progress.

All sorts of chocolate companies have been contacted and asked to donate their articles – National Brands, Côte D'Or, Cadbury, Mugg 'n Bean, Geldhof, ... many have kindly agreed to help and donate whatever they can; others delicately wriggled their way around a direct confrontation with us by promising "We will definitely get back to you!"... We are managing. The raffle tickets are printed (thanks to Montage Print) and ready for sell; the prizes are so attractive that ChiFi staff considered **jokingly** manipulating the draw to their favour: an overnight-stay at the

South African Ingwenya Spa with a chocolate and African potato body wrap; a meal for two at the prestigious Chaplin's restaurant in Melville; electric goods from Furniture City; a family outing to Goldreef City... and much more.

Print media still need find out that the Chocolate Fest is the event of the year, that it just can't be missed and must be covered in their March issues.

The Chocolate Fest will be a day full of happiness, good appetite and sweetness as the young and old, blind and sighted, disabled and un-impaired come to check out the world's most-loved sweet.

Barclays Bank at Beka

In November 2005 on the 'Make a difference Day', 15 Barclays employees came to Beka and dedicated several hours of their work time to the school for the blind and disabled. A full day of hands-on work gave our Beka school a whole new face. While the school pupils children enjoyed the beautiful weather and the company of so many friendly helpers, they tackled many random tasks like painting the inside walls, fixing old furniture, cutting the wildly-grown trees in the garden in shape, giving the rooms a thorough clean-up, and to everyone's joy they made a good amount of fresh Halal hot dogs for lunch. And as if that was not enough: One week later the group returned and had another go at the school.

Apparently they were so fond of the children that, on December 13th, after our quarterly visit to the Johannesburg Youth Theatre, they took them on an outing to the Johannesburg Zoo.



Birthdays at Moscow State Circus

For Tristan (15) and Sizwe (5) probably their biggest birthday party ever began, when in the early afternoon of 13th January 2006 buses rolled into Montecasino to bring their 200 guests for a show of the Moscow State Circus. Children from Beka, Joe Slovo, Melpark Primary School, Marang House, Hamilton Crèche and Coronation Training Centre were invited, and crunching chippies from the goodie bag they received, they watched full of admiration and amazement as the flying trampoline artists, the daring acrobats, the trained poodles and



the rapidly racing motor bikes showed their stunning performances.

This event was an organisational masterpiece as all the children had to be invited, then enough buses hired and sponsors found. **Rotex and Mr Hindson (through the kind help of Delphine Hindson)** kindly financed the bus hire – special thanks for that – and Montecasino donated all the tickets for free. Each child made a birthday card for Tristan and Sizwe. Not just anyone can say that they received about 200 birthday cards but Tristan and Sizwe certainly can! MN

Tactile Advent calendar for blind and low vision children

In long hours of arts and craft work Richard Walls and his Christian colleagues created a masterpiece of an Advent calendar for the Johannesburg School for Blind, Low Vision and Multiple Disability Children. One metre high and almost two metres wide, the big calendar naturally attracted the attention of all children. 24 ice cream tubs, attached to the back of the board, keep little scrolls with a part of the Christmas story and some goodies for the children for each day. Tactile pictures, including a dog with real dog hair and an angel with real feathers for wings, illustrate the story for both blind and sighted children. With this special gift, we hope to let the children feel the very special atmosphere around Christmas and to understand its story

each year.



Volunteering Opportunities

Children of Fire has a range of volunteering opportunities for people with time or skill. We need people to: **Work with the children**

- ? Teachers of cookery, music, dance or drama to work at the school one day a week.
- ? Speech, physio and occupational therapists to work pro Deo on a regular basis in Auckland Park, Johannesburg.
- ? Counsellors to help children when depressed about appearance or the original cause of the injury, especially people able to speak Sesotho or Nguni group languages.

Research

- ? Researchers on burns statistics in Greater Johannesburg hospitals.
- ? Young lawyers to visit squatter camp communities where disabled children have been denied education, and to guide less-skilled researchers as to how to gather information needed.

Professional Support

- ? Accountants to maintain the charities' accounts – e.g. one day a month.
- ? Private social workers to help, free of charge, with fostering and adoption of different burned children, especially across provincial and national borders.

Odd Jobs

- ? Anyone willing to take the burns children on an outing on a weekend either as a once off or regularly – this can be as simple as a walk at Emmarentia Dam, in Auckland Park.
- ? Hospital visits – when we have children in hospital for surgery they sometimes stay for several weeks. They always enjoy having visitors, even from people they don't know well.

- ? Children of Fire has some wonderful volunteers but one of our biggest day to day problems remains transport. We need short regular lifts for injured children mainly in the Mayfair-Auckland Park-Parktown-Crosby areas of Johannesburg.

The charity cannot offer any salary but can cover the out-of-pocket expenses of volunteers.

Children of Fire would like to thank:

Kim Viviers and colleagues from **Barclays Bank** for enthusiastically tackling garden and maintenance work on the "Make A Difference Day" activities.

Judith Herbert for her continually inspiring science lessons at our school.

Fatima Pahad for physiotherapy sessions with Dorah and Dhriti Valabh who has taken over.

Tristan Jones and **Thabo Lekgau** for continuing work on the disability transport project.

Dr Giuseppe Trincherò, a trustee, for seeing our children pro Deo.

Belinda Newman for her elephant and giraffe outings with children.

Moray Hathorn of **Webber Wentzel Bowens** for always being on hand for legal issues.

Helene van Rhyn for taking on the Disability exhibition.

Cape Town Fire Brigade for hosting Bronwen at Seapoint Fire Station while she attended the Burns Congress.

Bridget Scoble for helping with visits to burned children at the Red Cross Children's Hospital and St Joseph Children's Home in Cape Town.

Lauretta Edeling and colleagues at **Ad Outpost** for placing the billboard in Cape Town near the airport for the burns congress.

Jae Lee and **Jam Architects** for architectural advice at the school.

Ron and **Gwen Marnitz** and **Kehla Vilakazi** for work in Children of Fire's Newcastle office.

Julia Hill and **Marita Irvine** for continuing support of cookery lessons at our school.

Charmaine van Eeden and others at **Jobmates** for helping with the washing machine.

Margaret Hirsch for sourcing an Islamic loo seat that will be of great help to children with no hands.

Louis Rutstein, **Ernie Brough** and **Vaughan Cliffe** for help with electrical and other jobs.

Johannesburg Youth Theatre for letting the children see a wonderful performance of "Cinderella".

Marita Irvine for organising delicious food for a volunteer-thank-you-Christmas-meal at Beka.

Jürgen Bochow for a donation to help volunteers to accompany children on hospital visits.

Kulsum Hoosan for teaching Madressa classes at the Johannesburg School for Blind, Low Vision and Multiple Disability Children once a week.

So many people support Children of Fire and it would be impossible to thank everyone. We are always grateful for any help you can offer and this organisation could not exist without your support.

Contact Us

Fax or tel: +27 (0)11 482 4258

Postal Address: PO Box 1048, Auckland Park,
Gauteng 2006, South Africa

Email: firechildren@icon.co.za

Children of Fire is entirely funded by the public; donations can be made to:

Children of Fire
Account number: 614 920 23919
Sort code: 25-65-05
First National Bank
Melville, Gauteng
South Africa

Children of Fire
Account number: 901 033 30
Sort code: 20-17-92
Barclays Bank
(East Kent branches)
United Kingdom