

KHULA NEWS

THROUGH LOVE AND EDUCATION WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE



September 2017

Fieldworkers, foot soldiers and the eyes and ears of Khula

“Fieldworkers are the foot soldiers of Khula. They do not only go and find the children who have dropped out of the school system, they take an immediate interest in the children’s circumstances. The role Fieldworkers play once they step over the threshold of a home, is incredible.”, say Elmo Cairncross, Principal at Orleansvale Primary School in Chicago, Paarl East.

Orleansvale is one of 26 schools where Khula has rolled out its programmes to integrate primary school learners who are at risk of dropping out, back into the school system. “Khula has 26 fieldworkers and they are our eyes and our ears in the communities we serve. They walk kilometres every day—exposed to the elements—with their Khula backpacks to visit the homes of children who have reportedly dropped out of school. Their security is often at risk and they receive many threats. They also suffer verbal abuse because some people link them to the removal of their children as a result of the information they provide. Fieldworkers face many challenges breaking down people’s resistance and gaining their trust,” explains Carien van Zyl, Principal Social Worker, Khula.

“It is not an easy task,” says Uncle Theys Stuurman, a retired missionary now working as a Khula Driver/Fieldworker. “You need a lot of wisdom and insight and you need to hear the Lord’s voice in it all. You must be humble. Attitude is everything; even when the

conditions are beyond bad at a home, do not flinch, take a seat, the family will appreciate it.” The Fieldworkers agree that passion, preparation and asking for the Lord’s blessing is key. “It has to be your calling to work with children and families and you must allow the Spirit to guide you because you never know what to expect at the home of a referred child, we are often very scared.”

“Every three weeks we debrief Fieldworkers and they work in pairs for security purposes,” says Carien. “They know all about each other’s trials and tribulations but Khula also has an open-door policy; Fieldworkers can at any time approach management to address issues, be they of personal or work-related nature.”

“But it is not just children who need our help. Parents often need more help—an ear to listen, a shoulder to cry on or just to know that someone cares and there is still hope,” continues the Fieldworker group. “Sometimes the community will call upon us, even after hours, because they believe we can help. We cannot then refuse to render our service. Khula taught us to sow love in the community and in our own homes and to respect other and recognise their pain.”

Elmo adds: “These Fieldworkers easily identify with the circumstances as well as the challenges that parents in our communities face every day and they are the ones who show us which children need more love and attention. I don’t even want



to think what would happen with this community if Khula terminates its services to our school, there is no replacement for the services that Khula provides and the access we have gained through them to other social services. They are the extra hands and feet in communities such as ours that enable educators to focus solely on their task in the classroom.”

Carien continues, “The work of Fieldworkers is the vehicle to fulfil their calling. It is not job satisfaction that keeps them going; they are passionate about what they do. Even though the progress may be slow, they do see the fruit of their work in the positive outcome of some cases; also in the appreciation of children and parents whom they have helped and teachers with whom they collaborate.

“However, it appears that for them it is more about sowing the seeds and watering them than about the results; those, in a sense, are not within their control. They are only instruments of change and it remains people’s choice to change. But they are our heroes and we are very proud of them!” concludes Carien.

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Orleansvale Primary's dream comes true

For years, Orleansvale Primary School in Paarl dreamed of constructing a roof over the school quad to protect learners from the sun and rain. Khula together with the Val de Vie Foundation helped the school to realise this dream. "It is part of Khula's work to help and urge more privileged communities to understand the risk

of not being involved in their surrounding poor communities," explains Erns Labuschagne, Khula Chief Executive Officer.

Principal Elmo Cairncross, Orleansvale Primary with learner leaders and delegates from Val de Vie Foundation and Khula Development Group at the unveiling of the roof.



Khula participates in National Prayer Week



As part of the Nationwide 24-7 Prayer Week initiative, Khula organised prayer meetings at nine of the schools where Khula works. "It was wonderful to see children testify how they experience the love of Jesus and how they received Him as their Saviour," says Daleen Labuschagne, Khula Chief Operating Officer.

Khula, Harcourts spoil Social Workers



Carien van Zyl, Khula Principal Social Worker (centre) with the personal gift bag that Paarl and Stellenbosch social workers received at an appreciation lunch facilitated by Khula and sponsored by the Harcourts Foundation. Ralph Thomas, Harcourts Estate Agent (back row, sixth from the left) represented the Harcourts Foundation.

Primary schools celebrate girls

Khula, in partnership with Dr Nelmarie Pitout from Girls' Talk, reached out to three primary schools: LK Zeeman, Simondium and Daljosaphat. The talk addressed womanhood and encouraged

girls to look after their bodies and to value themselves. The Happy Ethan Project, Noord-Eind Primary and WA Joubert Primary Schools donated gift bags for the girls.

Statistics update

Khula is developing a client database to ensure complete and accurate individual client data. The aim is to capture the data of every client from their first referral. This will assist the Khula Reintegration team to ensure a holistic decision-making process and action plan for each client. The mammoth task will only be completed by the end of the fourth quarter. As a result, data for the six months ending on 31 August 2017 is not yet complete and therefore not accurate. Khula will publish updated statistics in the next newsletter.

Koek-en-loer treats parents

The Khula Explorers programmes in Klappmuts and Stellenbosch presented this Khula trademark event to engage primary caregivers and encourage them to support their children's school attendance. Parents also participated in activities with their children to build better child-parent relationships.

