



Spring 2012 Edition

# REPORTER

SOUTHERN AFRICA TERRITORY

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## A Haven of Help, Hope and Healing

The Hesketh King Treatment Centre was established in 1905 after the Cape Town City Council approached The Salvation Army to help solve the problem of released Pollsmoor prisoners without skills returning to crime to survive, and many were substance abusers.

The Council gave The Salvation Army land in Rondebosch where Captain Hesketh King established a social farm for skills training. Soon afterwards a rudimentary rehabilitation programme for substance abusers was started. Both initiatives thrived for 38 years, until 1943 when the Council needed the land due to rapid urbanisation. Using the Council's compensation, Captain King found and bought new land in Muldersvlei, near Stellenbosch.

### Roughing it

As there was no rail link and no trucks available – World War II was on, remember – all the people, animals and equipment had to be moved by foot. Although the distance was only ± 50 km, the move took three days and involved sleeping in the bush for two nights.

Tents accommodated all but Captain King, his wife and two small children who were housed in a hastily-erected barn. A few months later the Captain ventured out to meet neighbours and raise funds for proper accommodation.

A main building was built for the patients and a small cottage for the superintendent and in 1947 the rehabilitation programme was officially re-opened. In the following years a dairy and pig farm flourished, but in 1993 it was decided to prioritise rehabilitation so the farm was sold.



### Current programmes

Today the Centre, run by Major Valerie (*left*) and Captain Lionel Potgieter, focuses on the treatment of substance abuse and runs separate programmes for adults and youth.

**For adults:** Each year, this 12-week residential programme caters for 120

men between 21 and 75 years who are chronically addicted to alcohol and drugs (60% are aged between 21 and 30). The programme was established to help the 'low to no income groups' – the unemployed, the indigent, and those living on disability and old-age grants. It covers medical care, individual and group therapy, psychiatric and psychological assessments if needed, pastoral counselling, HIV and AIDS information and counselling, information on health, hygiene and drugs, life skills information and training, recreational activities. Monthly family meetings facilitate re-integration.

Unfortunately the adult programme, which caters for 120, now receives a subsidy for only 40 patients. This situation now forces us to levy a nominal fee. But we have a minimum of paying patients and are still under enormous financial pressure.

Money is thus a constant concern and to prevent a fee increase and help as many as we can, we desperately seek support from communities, business and caring individuals to *Sponsor a Bed* (our new year's fund-raising theme). It costs between R21 500 and R30 000 for one person to complete the three-month residential treatment. If you are interested in sponsoring a bed – or donating towards a sponsored bed – please contact Major Valerie Potgieter on 021 884 4600/01.

The Centre celebrates 65 years of service in October this year.

*The Hesketh King Treatment Centre*

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## A NEW HAVEN FOR KIDS IN NEED

Over the years, Crossroads has hit the headlines for all the wrong reasons, for poverty breeds crime, violence and alcoholism: poor soil for a child to grow in. To alleviate the position of children in this area The Salvation Army Crossroads Church has created a Kids' Club.

Run by Lt. Slinolokuhle Mbuyisa, fondly known as Lt. Sli, every Monday and Wednesday from 3.30 to 5.00 p.m., the Club has become a haven for some 30 to 40 children from four to fourteen years.



*Kid's Club, Crossroads Church*

In addition to receiving a nutritious meal, they listen to a story, play games, sing songs and learn to pray. Naturally they are all encouraged to come to Sunday School.

“Sometimes we give them clothes – like jerseys for the shivering and shoes for the barefooted,” says Lt. Sli. “But what happens? Next time they arrive at the Club they are still shivering and still barefooted, because the uncaring parents have sold the clothes, invariably to buy alcohol! Over time we hope to change these attitudes by looking for support from local communities, either in terms of food or clothing. The more people we get involved in the area, the better our chances” she concludes, optimistically.

## THE COLD ISSUES FACING EASTERN CAPE

Every winter you're bound to see headlines along the lines of 'snow blankets Eastern Cape'. This winter has been no exception, and the bitter cold has highlighted the desperate need for blankets and, of course, food for the poor. The good news is that The Salvation Army's Port Elizabeth Corps has been providing both food and blankets to 40 to 50 people three times a week.

On Mandela Day, the staff of the Eastern Cape Division used their 67 minutes to feed people on the corner of Clyde and Rose Streets, Port Elizabeth. According to Captain Themba Mahlobo, Divisional Commander of the Division, this was a good opportunity to get involved with the community – to chat not only with the homeless but also with those on their lunch break, spreading the word about The Salvation Army's work.

## Babies from 'Place of Hope' Dedicated to God



*One of the babies in her finery*

Ethembeni Children's Home in Doornfontein, Johannesburg, is literally a 'place of hope' for that is the translation of 'Ethembeni'.

Appropriately it was from here that 26 babies, looking adorable in their special white clothing, were dedicated to God on Sunday, April 15, 2012, by Captain Brendan Browski.

A Salvation Army 'dedication' is like a christening: in a formal church service the baby is blessed, accepted into the church, then presented with a certificate. A 'host' – the person who takes the baby to the altar for blessing – promises to keep the child in his or her prayers through all circumstances.

Ethembeni falls under the care of Captain Neil Rossouw, Finance Officer, and Captain Heather Rossouw, administrator, who had this to say: “Both Neil and I feel strongly about giving the children back to God as we don't always know what their start to life was. Dedication gives the child a new and blessed start.”

When a child leaves the home for whatever reason, he or she will be armed with the dedication certificate as a constant reminder of this blessing. In Matthew 19:14, Jesus said: “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.”



The case was taken to the Justice Department and The Salvation Army offered hands-on help.

*Community feed on Mandela Day*

# Suffer Little Children to Come Unto Me

In the spirit of God, The Salvation Army is reaching out to help more and more children in those areas where good parenting is virtually unknown. Where the children suffer because of high unemployment, teen pregnancies, young parents, drug abuse, violence and TB – conditions prevalent in both Mitchell's Plein and Mannenberg. Let's visit each.

**Mitchell's Plein, Church, Day Care Centre & Crèche**  
Majors Andrew and Audrey Moholoagae are the newly-appointed Church Officers for Mitchell's Plein where 70 children, ranging from 1 to 6 years old, are looked after each weekday, 95% of them from the community.

They are divided into three classes – 1/2 years, 3/4 years and 5/6 years – where they enjoy breakfast and lunch and all kinds of activities appropriate to their age group and help expand their minds; reading and painting, for instance.

Gail Fortuin (*right*) has been with the Centre for seven years and teaches the 3-4 year class. "I have 25 in my class," she says, "and I teach them to sing, read stories, paint, draw, paste and enjoy puppet shows. I love working with young ones."



Both Majors are dedicated to being of service to the community. Major Audrey Moholoagae is also involved with a Women's League group which regularly visits the community's old age homes, meet to discuss issues like family and children, and do skills training.



*Happy little faces at Mitchell's Plein's Day Care Centre*

## **Mannenberg Church and Crèche**

Last year Major Lorna Fillies arrived at the Mannenberg Crèche where there are 92 children aged from two to six years. Many are grant children with very young, single parents, and most are back-yard-dwellers, living in shacks at the back of a house.

Like Mitchell's Plein, the children are divided into three, age-related classes where they follow a pre-school educational programme, Mondays to Fridays, and enjoy a much-needed breakfast and lunch. For this parents pay just R55 a week.

There's a Junior Miss programme for 12 teenage girls who are taught baking, sewing, values, the 'taming of the tongue' (curbing bad language), and take part in spiritual and 'girly' talks – and attend Sunday School.

Major Lorna Fillies is a filly champing at the bit. Among her ambitions is to set up a permanent soup kitchen. She has done a trial run, feeding between 40 and 50 people and *desperately needs donations for this project*. She'd also like to run a life skills programme and teach group parenting skills.

The crèche is also in dire need of paint and replacement of the floors' lino. Any assistance will be appreciated.



*Mannenberg's Day Care Centre*

## **... and a great time was had by all**

On July 13, Major Frankie Burgoyne and some of the ladies currently at Care Haven, did a 'soup run' among the poor at an informal settlement close to home. Major Burgoyne felt this would be an excellent opportunity for the ladies to reach out to those less fortunate than themselves.

It turned out to be a wonderful event, with Major Burgoyne and the other Salvation Army 'visitors' feeding over 200 folk, singing with the kids, and handing out blankets to as many of the adults as possible. One of the visiting mothers was so touched, she even gave away her own jersey and scarf to one of the children.



*Kids warming up with their soup*

# Dignity and Care The Order of the Day



Captain Robert Hendricks chatting with Louis van Rooyen one of the residents

At the Beth Rogelim Men's Home in Cape Town there are currently 93 gentlemen enjoying the benefits of this Salvation Army sanctuary, run by Captain Robert Hendricks. They need shelter, nutrition and care and fall into three categories: pensioners receiving a grant, disabled on a grant, and those employed but unable to pay the full cost of service.

Once accepted he'll receive three meals a day and probably share one of the rooms, which he will clean. Common areas are kept immaculate by two paid cleaners, and a laundry lady takes care of the washing and ironing. The resident also has access to the library and shares group therapy and occasional outings with the other residents.

Beth Rogelim is fortunate to have the service of a professional Social Worker who helps residents with their social and emotional needs and guides volunteers who run various therapeutic programmes.

In 1965, 68-year-old Louis van Rooyen came to Cape Town for a hip replacement. He was subsequently involved in a train accident so receives a disability pension. "There's lots I love about the Home," says Louis, "especially the security and absence of liquor abuse and fighting. Here everyone treats us with dignity and care. It's a happy place, with a lively, friendly atmosphere."

According to Captain Hendricks, the biggest challenge – besides balancing the budget and coping with minimal staff – is getting the Home into a better condition. All rooms need new curtains, mattresses and a fresh coat of paint.

"My biggest reward," says the Captain, "is working with people who are honest and frank and seeing how you can change their lives for the better. It's all about making a difference in the lives of those who are down and out."

## Seen from here

Winter is certainly the The Salvation Army's busiest time, with it is a major increase in the number of hungry, homeless people turning to us for help for food and blankets.

Through the **702 Talk Radio** Blanket Drive held on June 2 this year, the public generously donated 5 000 blankets, and we were further blessed to receive 2 500 from **Jacaranda fm** and 2 000 from **Dis-Chem Pharmacies**. Our heartfelt thanks to all contributed.

More news... a warm welcome to Lieut-Colonel William and Thalitha Langa, our new Territorial Leaders, and a fond farewell to outgoing Commissioners, André and Silvia Cox. Since their arrival in October 2008, they have made a significant impact on The Salvation Army's work in southern Africa. They will be missed – but their work will continue.

Officers from Territorial headquarters in Braamfontein did their part on July 18, giving their '67 minutes' unstintingly, helping out at our children's homes, eventide homes, and some Social Centres, with painting, general repairs, maintenance and cleaning.

Finally, in these very difficult financial times, I implore you to be as generous as you possibly can in your support of The Salvation Army. *You* are our constant lifeline, for which we bless you. To know more about our work, visit our new website: [www.salvationarmy.org](http://www.salvationarmy.org).



Major Carin Holmes  
Public Relations Secretary  
Southern Africa Territory

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**Youth programme:** This was initiated in response to the massive escalation of drug abuse among the Western Cape males aged from 16 to 20 years old. Fully subsidised by Social Development, it is an eight-week residential programme which caters for 80 patients annually. Variations from the adult programme include occupation and life skills information and training, HIV/AIDS testing, adventure camps and hikes, sport and recreation, spiritual counselling.

### Alcohol and drug seminars

Over many years the Centre's alcohol and drug treatment programme has gained valuable information on the assessment, referral, treatment and after-care of addicts. It acts as a source of reference and training used to provide *ad hoc* training to social workers, students (including medical students), the clergy, prison services and a host of other.

"The hardest thing is saying goodbye to patients," says Major Valerie Potgieter, "especially when we've shared their pain. Tears of sadness and tears of joy are shared along the journey."

According to Captain Lionel Potgieter, there is a physical change as well as an emotional growth and a new life in their eyes. "For the first time they want to have a balanced lifestyle, eat, sleep, work, play. They become self-sufficient and responsible, learning to cook, iron, clean and garden. They leave here clean, healthy and committed to God – and family relationships are restored."

A heart-rending comment from almost all patients is that it's the first time people have shown them love! They know they are trusted and accepted and appreciate the freedom of expression encouraged in group sessions.

Before they leave, patients are taught to watch for symptoms of impending relapse, summed up in HALT:  
H – hunger; A – anger; L – loneliness  
T – tiredness.

Finance is, as usual, a major problem: the 65-year-old building urgently needs re-painting and all the fencing needs repair.

Carin