



PIN



PROJECT NEWS

Autumn 2007

Dear Supporter,

As we go into Autumn I must apologise for the lateness of this Summer newsletter. Life has been very busy and there have been many new developments and events with the Project during the last six months.

Three Supporters, including myself have visited the Project. In return we had one of our older orphans, Siyabonga Zulu, visiting us. Last time I wrote to you I was anxiously waiting for Siya's visa to be approved. At last, after two postponements, he arrived and spent four happy and successful months at the St Anne's School in Windermere. We were very proud of the way Siya conducted himself in such a different social and cultural environment; he was an excellent ambassador for the Project.

I would like to thank those who helped to make his visit possible and enjoyable. Anne Winstanley of the Ashton under Lyne Soroptimists made Siya her Presidential charity for the year and I hope this Branch was charmed when he visited. I would also like to thank Helen Barnes for her personal support to me in deputising as his legal guardian. Jessica Strang and husband Tim likewise helped me with the numerous publicity visits we had in the London. What would I do without your photography Jessica!

Finally, staff and students at St Anne's were so welcoming and supportive that I know Siya will always remember his time at this school and his English friends and also his Scottish friends.



Siya and friends

Those of you who received the appeal letter for the continuation of Siyabonga's schooling in the UK will be dismayed to know that the British High Commission in Pretoria lost his passport!! This loss meant that we had to cancel his programme and now he has just started at an excellent boarding school in South Africa.

Your generous contributions are being used for his boarding and future education needs. Please do contact me if you wish to know more about his progress.

On to other events and developments. I visited the Project in June and July and concentrated on building the next stage towards sustainability. We now have 'children' who are in the twenties. These 'graduates' of the Project have all gone to College and are now in employment.

We are very pleased that they are making a success of their lives. As a result we have asked four of them to be part of an ACTION GROUP, administering the Project with the help of 4 older women and the paid Accountant. We hope this will give them experience in management and leadership, within the security of the main structure. They will be responsible for the running of the children's activities and for the initial screening of applications for bursaries.

So we have moved away from the conventional Committee structure and hope that this new system will give more autonomy to those who have benefited from the Project. Sonia McCann and Pat Chase have just visited to see how they are progressing. More next time.

One of the satisfying events to report is a link with the Bay Hospital in Richards Bay, S.A. The pharmacy department visited the children and gave immunisations and, with a local Baptist Church, collected many boxes of clothes and presented Easter eggs and presents. This local support is what we hoped would develop.

There have been many enjoyable and successful fund-raising events in the last six months. My friend and milk lady from Buxton, Alison Tapp and all her family, friends and neighbours held an amazing 'pig roast,' together with local band and all the delights of a country fair. We all had a great day.





At the Bay Hospital



In July, I received a surprise gift through Lisa Green from Leeds. Her daughter Megan's dance class performed for three evenings and the Project received the proceeds. Lisa put up her display of PIN photos so that the audience knew what they were supporting. It is always nice to think of children supporting children.

A highlight for me was a visit to Siena in Italy. We have a support group there, founded and nourished by Barbara Curtis, who is married to an Italian. Barbara's fund raising is unique as she organises musical evenings and those who donate to the evening receive a pin. I was amazed to see banners and posters announcing these concerts in aid of the PIN Project; all in Italian of course, but very professional and impressive. I was also introduced to the Italian Supporters and we had a lovely evening in the centre of this awesome medieval city

Soon it will be World AIDS again and early preparations are underway. The one I would like to tell you about is a new development with a long standing Support Group. The 'Help the Aged' organisation has always been supportive of our activities, especially their international arm.

This year we have come together with an idea which links us more closely and will benefit both elderly in South Africa and in this country. Two thousand pins have been purchased from the grannies in Zululand; quite a feat to complete! These will be sold in fifty of the top Help the Aged Shops throughout the country, from November onwards, specifically highlighting World Aids Day. Celebrities, who support Help the Aged, will be publicising the events. So watch out for these people wearing our pins and, if you have a shop in your area, please pop in and check the display boxes. There should be a press release around World AIDS Day. I feel this is such a good link since elderly worldwide often have the same problems and need similar support.

As always, I cannot mention all of you who give support and also make great efforts for the Project. I know you understand this and realise that I must select who or what I refer to each time I write.

Two months only to World AIDS Day on 1st December. The plaque of HIV/AIDS does not diminish and your support for the children we are able to help is still needed.

Perhaps you will have a little think about what you can do

this year, however small.

Thank you for continuing support, especially those people who give monthly through direct debit. These are very reliable and appreciated donations.

Best wishes,
Alice

With World AIDS Day just six weeks away the PIN Project is hoping that you may wish to purchase the beaded AIDS pins made by the grandmothers, who support children orphaned by AIDS in the townships of Esikhwini and in Zululand. All profit from the sale of the pins is returned to the Project to support the education and training needs of the children. In addition, child-headed families, are given regular food parcels and assistance with other expenses.



Each pin costs £2.50.

The Thoko Fairy - Thoko means 'be happy' in Zulu and has been named in memory of one of the founding grannies. This lovely, silver-beaded fairy comes with gift card and envelope, ready for you to send to your special friend. Ideal for the Christmas tree or even a dramatic lapel badge.

Thoko Fairy costs £4.00.



Orders need to reach us by 20th November to ensure they arrive in time for World AIDS Day. Please make cheques out to: 'PIN Project UK' and send to Alice Searle, PIN Project Liaison Worker, 32 Nevile Road, Upper Kersal, Manchester. M7 3PT.

Name of person or organisation

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Address

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Tel. No. or email

.....

No. of pins ordered

No. of fairies ordered.....

Cheque amount and cheque number

.....

Donation to Postage

Signed

Date

Helping children in South Africa orphaned by AIDS

www.pinproject.org

The PIN (People In Need) Project is a not for profit organisation registered in South Africa, number 012-273

United Kingdom, The PIN Project (UK), 32 Nevile Road, Salford, M7 3PT, 0161 792 8712, info@pinproject.org