

Kukhany'okusha Cares® 2011 in Review



SUCCESS!

According to all involved in **Kukhany'okusha Cares®** – the Staff & Volunteers, the Churches, the Mothers, and of course, the Children – the first year has been a great success! Here is a snap shot of 2011:

65 FOOD DELIVERIES

14 TONS OF FOOD DELIVERED (12,575KG OR 27,750LBS!)

2651 LITERS OF PETROL USED

3984 CHILDREN FED

→ 3984 SMILING FACES 😊 AND THEN SOME!

THANK YOU

A BIG THANKS to our friends in the United States. We cannot be more grateful for the prayers and funds from our donors – this work, this FOOD, and the stability it provides in the life of children and communities in need, is made possible in part because of you. Your dollars keep food regularly in supply, where once it was unpredictable. Your funds create possibilities and hope in the life of these children, more than words can express.

Kukhany'okusha Neighborhood Care Points are a light in their communities, critically meeting needs not otherwise met, providing food, education in some, and even clothing donation centers in others. As we launch into the second year, we have learned much from this first year, with some basic first-year learning curves. But with that, we have even grander visions for the growth of the program. This year we will stabilize and regulate our business practices, while engaging in **Sustainability Projects**. These projects – already started in two of our care points, will create less dependence on foreign funding, provide stable work, provide a stable and reliable food supply (some foods purchased have almost doubled in cost due to the poor economy) and most all, create a sense of solidarity and unity for all involved, serving the mission of Jesus Christ through the work of the church – responding to those with the deepest needs in their own communities.

2011 HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE TEAM

President Stephen Mhlanga, KC Coordinator –

- Each time we pull into a Care Point, it is always a joyous occasion, both for us, and for the children. There is nothing in the world like running children, with smiles from ear to ear, excited to greet you! The screaming, giggling, and sheer happiness that comes from those children, every time, makes us so happy to return each month.
- In the beginning of the project, we held meetings with community members. So many volunteered to help and pledged their commitment to the success of these community endeavors. It was so encouraging!

Bishop Samuel Mkhonta –

- I love talking with children at care points; they express their happiness – five year olds saying *Siyabonga umBishopi!* – Thank you Bishop!
- This past year, when giving our volunteers a small incentive, the caregivers were so happy, some even cried. We desperately hope to be able to do this more in 2012. These women are the backbone of the Neighborhood Care Points.

Thanda Dlovu, Driver –

- My very 1st day at work is one of my favorite memories: learning new roads, how to write reports (I would mix siSwati and English in the documentation!), meeting new people, including Lizzy, the crazy white lady from the US. I remember being scared to talk to her, but as we traveled together often, we became close friends. I will miss her when she goes back to the US.
- One visit to Shewula, Make Mnisi took us over the nature reserve near the care point. It's one of the most beautiful places in Swaziland, with amazing views – a reminder of God's beautiful creation all around us.
- My first overnight to a Mthombe NCP was unforgettable, staying up late, talking with the elders, and the next day meeting with the youth.

Lizzy Beach, Global Ministries Volunteer-Missionary from the US –

- On one visit to Mgazini, we arrived just as the women were cooking. They immediately took me under their wing, and showed me how to make 'orphan stew' as one young mother joked. They greatly enjoyed teaching me how to stir *liphalishi*, the thick porridge (a staple in the Swazi diet), and beans in the big black pot, cooking over fire. Let me tell you, it is not easy!! We all laughed til we cried that day!! 😊
- Both Thanda & I agree, playing and singing with the children is the best – playing catch with three year olds, singing and dancing, teaching each other songs, like "point to the window, point to the door..." or "head shoulders knees and toes...", playing soccer, or volleyball. I remember one of the most fun visits was in July 2011 at Mbekelweni. My sister Emily had come from the US, and we had such fun playing duck duck goose – even the *bomake* joined the fun!

THE GREAT NEED

Neighborhood Care Points serve as a critical piece in the puzzle of survival and hope. Rural life is not an easy life; this life becomes even harder for children when one or both parents are sick, HIV/AIDS positive, or have passed on. **Kukhany'okusha Zion Church**, through their **Love & Care** mandate have established the **Kukhany'okusha Cares®** NGO to invest in a healthy future for Swaziland's children. NCPs bring communities together, encourage a healthy, stable upbringing, education, and supply love, hope, and faith in a brighter tomorrow. With reliable volunteers, and a regular food supply, KC NCPs provide a safe place for children to play, learn, and grow. With the spirit of *ubuntu*, together we make it happen. ♥