



All funding raised in South Africa is controlled by the Angel Starfish Management Committee in Cape Town. Details of the management committee are on their website

New developments

The Angel Starfish Charity is currently funding the day to day costs of employing two staff and food for the children along with much needed medical care and educational resources. Without continued monthly sponsorship from the UK the Educare Centre could not continue

Megan and Hannah, supported by staff from Allanson Street School, are making a funding presentation, based on their recent visit to the centre, to a law firm in Manchester in the next few weeks. If successful the funds will help



develop the much needed outside play area.

Jane Marshall who works for the St Helens and Knowsley Health Authority and delivers training on HIV/Aids awareness was first introduced to the work of the charity on a visit to Allanson Street School. She has raised her own funding through the church to help her visit the Educare centre to work with the children and local community on health awareness for two weeks. Jane flies out with her daughter Lauren on 12th August. Thank you Jane for all your support. Have a great trip.

FUND RAISING EVENT. Our friends at TUNZA are once again holding one of their brilliant fund raising events in aid of two causes one of which is our charity. It will be a Masquerade Ball at the Park Inn Hotel St. Helens at a date to be arranged in November.

Thanks to donations of R37,800 (South African Rands) from Goede Mensen in Holland (who already hugely support the Sijonga Phambili Community Learning Centre where The Angel Starfish Educare Centre is based), another teacher and a cook/cleaner have been employed.

Thanks also to donations from Goede Mensen and two choirs *Joyim* and *This Generation* of R22,310 60 brand new mattresses have been purchased.

Malcolm Coppin head of the Sijonga Phambili Community Centre has given the centre an extra classroom for a year. The room is great news as it allows for greater separation of age groups.

The Angel Starfish Educare Centre management committee in South Africa have applied to Goede Mensen for R340,000 for the building of two additional classrooms and R38,000 for the provision of a play area. These are huge amounts so all fingers well and truly crossed!!

More information

The Angel Starfish Educare Centre has its own website: www.angelstarfish.com

How to make a donation:
Account Name: The Angel Starfish Project
Nat West Bank, 40 Eccleston Street, Prescot, Merseyside L34 5TE

The Angel Starfish Project is a UK Registered Charity No. 1122626

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The Angel Starfish Educare Centre goes from strength to strength

This is the first edition of our new newsletter. It will feature news about the work of the our charity and developments at the Angel Starfish Educare Centre at the Sijonga Phambili Community Learning Centre in Hout Bay, Cape Town South Africa.

Story so far....

In 2000 Vuyiswa Mhlahlo started baby sitting children in a shack in Imzamo Yethu (Mandela Park) to allow parents to be able to find work to feed their families. It had no running water, cooking or play facilities.

In 2004 Gertrude Sgwentu offered to help and the pair then met Elaine Maloney who was visiting Cape Town in 2005. Elaine returned to England and set up this charity with some like minded, caring and dedicated trustees.

In order to improve facilities the charity paid for buildings to be converted at Gertrude's house and the Crèche then moved there and was now called The Angel Starfish Crèche. Zodwa Bobele was then added as a staff member.

In 2008 social services advised that the Crèche needed to move to better facilities and the management committee of the Sijonga Phambili Community Learning Centre came to the rescue and Centre Manager Malcolm Coppin agreed to include the Crèche in a new building on the site which was being supported to the tune of R300,000 by Dutch donors Goede Mensen who support the community centre. This could now enable the Angel Starfish a chance to offer early childhood care and education and the Grade R curriculum.

In August 2009 the centre officially opened to provide much needed high quality affordable care and pre-school education for children in the township.

In 2009 Gladys Marange was appointed as Principal/teacher to oversee the running of the Crèche. The Crèche then became The Angel Starfish Educare Centre to better reflect its provision.

Gertrude Sgwentu and her family then withdrew from any further involvement in the centre and on 1st September 2009 the management of the centre was taken over by a local management committee.

The committee has worked very hard to ensure sustainability within the community and has applied for recognition with the local government as an Early Childhood Development Service Provider and as provider of the Grade R pre- school curriculum with the Education Department.

The committee has also applied for recognition as a Non Profit Organisation with the Department for Social Development. These applications are proceeding well.

These developments have led to the centre having a fantastic reputation in Hout Bay and the Imizamo Yethu Township in particular. This has led to increased numbers of children and long waiting lists. To accommodate this two more staff have been recruited: Feroza Moses (a fully qualified teacher) and Nombulelo Majangaza (Cleaner/cook who is

also one of the parents)

The centre has also amended its opening hours to accommodate the needs of parents: now opens 7am-5pm mon to fri. Plus an evening service from 5pm-9pm to cater for parents and other adults accessing courses in the community centre.

None of these tremendous developments would have taken place without the hard work, dedication and love shown by the charity trustees, individual sponsors, schools in Knowsley and St Helens, (in particular Whiston Willis and Allanson Street), Knowsley Council, Tunza Fund raising organisation and the incredible support offered by Liverpool Football club. In recent years St. Helens Rugby League Club have also been great supporters. Thank you!

A very special thank you should also be extended to Malcolm Coppin and other members of the management committee in Hout Bay who are ensuring that The Angel Starfish Educare Centre fully meets the needs of local people and is embedded for the long term in the local community.

There have been many visits to the centre over the years, notably the very successful visit of the trustees accompanied by Bill Bygroves and coaches from Liverpool Football Club in 2008 (who did a huge amount of community work) and trips made by staff and governors from Whiston Willis and Allanson Street schools. In February 2010 two eleven year old children from Allanson Street (Megan Fitzgerald and Hannah Driscoll) were accompanied by staff members Alex Gregory and Robyn Glynn, Chris Maloney Headteacher and Elaine Maloney visited the centre to see for themselves the fruits of their support.

As Megan said, 'It's amazing to see how far the angel starfish has developed and all the smiles on the faces of the children.'

Robyn Glynn undertook fundraising at her local River Bank Cafe church in St Helens raising £650 and bought the vast array of wonderful play resources on display below. Bottom of page from left to right are Megan, Robyn, Hannah, Alex and Vuyiswa

Megan and Hannah meet their far away friends

Hi Geoff...a big thank you

Geoff Peel, site manager at Whiston Willis Primary School in Knowsley is sent a special thank you message from Eric, the child he sponsors. Eric is pictured here with Elaine Maloney on a recent visit to The Angel Starfish Educare Centre. Thanks to the generosity of Geoff and many like him, Eric is one of 75 children currently attending the centre.



PLEASE CONTINUE YOUR SUPPORT!

You are making a real difference to these young lives and giving them life chances they would never have had

Maria Wynn gets a big thank you message for funding the purchase of a security gate

