



ST STITHIANS COLLEGE

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS 2008

BACKGROUND

St Stithians College is a village of schools. This co-ordinate educational model, caters for learners from Grade 0 to Matric. Involvement in outreach programmes and community service is no longer seen as an "optional extra" for learners, but an essential part of their education in the wider classroom. All Saints learners, from the Junior Primary level to Grade 12, are encouraged to become actively involved in the extensive community partnership programme, which has become an integral part of the holistic education offered to all learners at Saints. A designated member of staff in each of the schools arranges age-appropriate activities in this regard.

St Stithians College aims to make a positive contribution to various organisations and educational institutions in our local and wider communities, at the same time contributing to a broader education for our own children. This is achieved by the following hands-on, ongoing projects:-

CONTRIBUTION TO EDUCATION IN OUR LOCAL AND OTHER COMMUNITIES

- **Refilwe Community Project & Kwena Molapo High School**, Lanseria - Teachers and pupils assist in the following ways:
 - Assist with selected project days and service projects during the school holidays.
 - Girls' College hold RE visits on Wednesdays and run community service projects through the House System.
- **Twananani Nursery School** - The Boys' College provides ongoing support and the Grade 8 boys visit on Thursday mornings. They do interactive drama workshops with the children and take vegetables and sandwiches each week for the children.
- **Ikageng Itiraleng** – The Girls' College provides food and clothing for the child-led homes in Soweto, which address the needs of AIDS orphans. In addition the Junior Prep (Grade R) assist with gifts at Easter and Christmas.
- **Setlamo Centre for Education** is supported by the Girls' College.
- **Leeuwkop Medium B Juvenile Prison School** - College boys visit the school, where they interact with the top learners in a programme of drama, sport and social interaction.
- **Casa do Sol School** (for the intellectually disabled) – Grade 8 boys visit the school on a weekly basis and interact with children in the classroom and in the playground to help stimulate and socialize them.
- **Witkoppen School** – Grade 9 boys assist the Parents' Samaritan Group with organising a Fun Day for the Grade 2 learners each term. The Junior Prep provides party packs for these learners. The Grade 9 boys also visit the school each week, where they assist with teaching the Grade 2 children.

- The Grade 9 boys do community service projects as part of the B2K Leadership Programme during the 1st term of each year. In their House Groups, the boys choose a charity and have to support this charity.
- **Soweto Old Age Home** – Grade 11 & 12 boys have painted the interior of the Soweto Old Age Home, which they visit regularly.
- **Diepsloot Pre-School** - The boys of Collins House have planted grass for the playgrounds at The Golden Seeds Pre-school in Diepsloot.
- **Saturday School** - The College facilities are used for the Saturday School, which is sponsored by corporates and operates under the auspices of the Saints Foundation Thandulwazi Project. Matric subjects are offered to pupils from disadvantaged schools in our wider community. Approximately 300-400 pupils attend the school at present.
- **Diepsloot Akani Saturday Morning Skills Programme** - Pupils participate on Saturday mornings, teaching computer skills and sport to children from Diepsloot.
- **Jordan House Home for the Aged in Westbury** – Grade 8 boys visit on a regular basis and take food each week for the residents. The girls from Stratton House in the Girls' College have undertaken to support Jordan House with Tutor projects this year,
- The Boys' College Interact Club raises funds for various institutions such as **The Compassionate Friends**. They also serve the community in a variety of ways. This year, the Interact Club is raising funds for the **Door of Hope Children's Home** (a project which is also visited regularly by the boys) and for the building of a house in Ivory Park, in conjunction with Habitat for Humanity.
- The Boys' College Interact Club raises funds for **CHOC** at Lifestyle Nursery each year, by selling brochures to the public.
- **Diepsloot Combined School** – Each year, the Matric boys and girls donate school shoes, clothing and stationery to this school. The Grade 10 boys will be undertaking an Outward Bound Project, together with Grade 10 boys from the Diepsloot Combined School. Part of this project will include community service.
- **St Gerard's Community Project** – Grade 9 & 12 boys and staff created a vegetable garden at the school, thus providing a source of sustainable nutrition for the students at the school.
- The Girls' College RE Outings are arranged to **Setlamo; Cluny Farm** and **Refilwe**.
- **Parents' Samaritan Group** - the main focus is on collections and Family Action Days. Large quantities of clothing, sports equipment, foodstuffs, toys and stationery are donated to various institutions. For example, the *Toss-a-Tin Week* resulted in collections of food being delivered to Meals on Wheels and the refugee mission run by the Central Methodist Church; shoes and clothes were collected for the Diepsloot Combined School. This term *Bring-a-Blanket Week* will take place in time to make donations for the winter season.
- **Blood Donor Clinics** – Clinics are held twice a term at the Boys' & Girls' Colleges.
- **De Wildt/ Shingwedzi Cheetah & Wildlife Ranch** - The Matric boys undertake a wildlife project each year at this wildlife sanctuary.
- **Grade 9 Girls' Bush School Project: Koningsdal Children's Home (Babanango)** – In 2007, donations of shoes and stationery as well as old clothes were made to the children of the orphanage; and girls went on a short visit to the orphanage. These donations were based on the Home's request and to meet their needs. In 2008, the Girls' College will check what is needed and organise a donation drive to meet their needs. In

addition, time will be spent there and the Saints girls will be given the opportunity to interact with the orphans as well as work on a community project still to be determined. The activities will be more formalised than in 2007.

- **AKANI – Diepsloot** - The Girls' College girls (all grades) have the opportunity on Saturdays to serve at AKANI in the following ways: helping registration of 500-700 children; making sandwiches and packed lunches for the children to eat or take home at the end of the morning programme; putting out bowls, filled them with cereal, milk and sugar, and handing them out to all these children after registration. All children are then split into their respective grades and genders and led off in different directions for their morning activities. Some of the girls played soccer with a group; others played netball with the girls. Several of the girls helped children to do crafts, like beading or making paper plate masks. The Matric Community Service Committee are supporting the AKANI project by organising an Easter Egg drive which is going very well.
- **Refugee Outreach Programme – Central Methodist Church.** – The Girls' College supported this programme by making donations in the form of clothing, tins of food and baby food in 2007. In Term II 2008, another drive will be organised to meet the needs of the elderly and babies (i.e. collecting baby food and clothing).
- **MCSA Vryburg Pre-school Project** - Due to the distances involved, Saints has provided financial assistance at this time and is reviewing ways of making further contributions in terms of staff development and a possible building project.
- **Ubombo Community Project** - A building project in KwaZulu Natal, where boys and girls work on the school, craft centre and sewing centre. They also teach Mathematics, Biology and Science at the local high school; spend time with the children in the local hospital and at the Ubombo Children's Village. The 10th project will take place in the August 2008 holidays.
- **Regional Round Square Service Projects** – Pupils from the Boys' & Girls' Colleges work at Philippolis and the Tiger Kloof Educational Centre (Vryburg) on building projects.
- **Annual Saints Trek to the Waterberg** - The Saints Trek takes place at Melkrivier every year. There the Grade 10 boys and girls, joined by international students from the Round Square Organisation, spend a whole week assisting with various community service projects in the town and at the school. In addition, they interact with children in the school and play soccer and netball in the afternoons.
- **Round Square International Service Projects** – Saints pupils have worked on projects in Thailand, Honduras, Scotland, Guatemala and India.
- **Refilwe Five Day Community Project** – A new project organised for Grade 10 -12 learners from both the Girls' and Boys' Colleges in the April 2008 holidays. The details of the project still need to be finalised based on the numbers of learners interested in serving. The nature of the project will be three fold:
 - Child care/development e.g. sport, arts & crafts, games, music, homework, etc;
 - Infrastructure development e.g. painting, brick making, gardening, etc.;and
 - Small farming e.g. pigs, cows, chickens, goats, vegetables etc.
- **Ivory Park & Ebony Park Nehemiah Pre-schools** - St Stithians Boys' Prep connect with the Ivory Park and Ebony park Nehemiah Pre-schools. Once a term, the boys in each grade are invited to one of the five pre-schools to interact and connect with the children. First the children play together. Thereafter follows a time of reading together as children mutually offer their abilities to one another. To end off the morning, the boys share their lunch with the young children as a further way of connecting. The class mothers, who are also part of the community programme, arrange transport. Contributions of foodstuffs, readers, stationery, toys and clothing are greatly appreciated.

- **IKM Community College (Izenzo School Hillbrow)** – This school for refugee children is supported by the Junior Prep, which provides stationery, toys and party packs for the learners. It also assists with gifts at Easter and Christmas.
- **FLOC** (For the Love of Children) Nursery School - interaction with children, collections and outings arranged by Grade 7 girls.
- **Agape Home for Street Children** - raising funds for children's school fees.
- **Sunshine Centre**, Craighall – Grade 6 girls are raising funds and visiting.
- **Miracle Mission/ Vila Lubisi Home for Babies** (based in Kensington B, this home for abused and neglected children and children infected with HIV) - Grade 5 girls raise funds for the home and visit several times a year.
- The **Garden Village Methodist Home for the Aged** has been adopted by Grade 4 girls, who visit and entertain the elderly.
- **Animals in Distress** - has been adopted by the Grade 3 girls.
- **Guide Dogs Association** – Grades 1 & 2 support this association.
- **The Heart Foundation** – The Foundation is supported by the Junior Prep on Valentine's Day.
- **Princess Alice Home** – The Home is supported by the Junior Prep's Christmas and Easter collections.
- **Nkosi's Haven** and selected charities benefit from collections held at Christmas time in the Junior Prep.
- **CANSA Shavathon** - The Cross-campus Departments have chosen the CANSA Shavathon as their community service project for 2008. By hosting a Saints Shavathon (to coincide with the national event), the staff hope to demonstrate support for those affected directly and indirectly by cancer; raise campus awareness; and much needed funds for the Cancer Association of South Africa (CANSA). Funds are allocated towards cancer research and facilitating home-based care for cancer patients.

IN WHAT WAYS DO OUR PUPILS AND STAFF BENEFIT FROM THE COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMMES?

- **Two way exposure:** The programme is designed in such a way that it is not just a 'hand- out' to those who do not have, by the haves (this includes life skills). For example, in the Leeuwkop Project, the programme is shared equally. The juvenile prisoners prepared a session whereby one of them was a facilitator on "public speaking". Some of our boys, like some of the inmates, failed to present themselves well, and they gave each other honest feedback but with respect.
- **Building on the Golden Triangle Relationship between Staff, Parents and Learners through Community Programmes:** Involvement in communities less fortunate than Saints is an important team-building exercise. Pupils and their parents become actively involved in the various projects, which builds on the staff/parent/ pupil relationship, as well as the staff/parent and parent/child relationships.
- **Linking Religious Education (RE) with Community Partnerships:** The outings are often linked in the Colleges to RE Lessons/Themes. The relevant Scripture reading is read in the light of a specific topic, for example inclusivity, love in action & servant leadership. For instance, raised awareness on the importance of including all people with special references to the poor (Refilwe pre-primary), disabled (Casa do sol), the aged (Jordan House) and the marginalised (Leeuwkop Juvenile Prisoners & Witkoppen School, which lacks

educational resources). The learners are then asked to give a feedback from their visits in the light of both the practical (visits) and the theory (the Biblical text read before the visit).

- **Fulfilling the Christian ideal of loving God and others.** We are a Christian school and want to build an ethos that it is more blessed to give than to receive.
- **Character building:** The humanity of our pupils is extended as they develop such character traits as empathy, caring, compassion, kindness and generosity of spirit.
- **Exposure and enlightenment:** Our pupils gain knowledge of the often harsh realities that surround them, thus broadening their perspectives. They develop a deeper understanding of the social fabric of South Africa.
- **Gratitude:** Learners come to appreciate their own good fortune. Our pupils develop a sense of appreciation for the privileged position in which they find themselves.
- **Nation-building:** It is hoped that learners will develop a commitment to this country and the development of its people as a consequence. We do not believe in educating our learners for "export", but to become responsible citizens of South Africa, who will become leaders and contribute towards nation building

Our social outreach projects are about "inreach" as much as "outreach". They are as much about our transformation in this new democratic dispensation as they are about service to others.

WHAT ARE THE COSTS TO ST STITHIANS COLLEGE?

Contribution to the education of needy members within the Saints Community

It is a misconception that all students attending St Stithians College are financially advantaged. St Stithians College has taken cognisance of this and established the *One & All* Fund to assist bursary pupils from deprived backgrounds with money for social outings, tours and sports equipment in order to alleviate the emotional distress caused by financial deprivation amongst these learners.

Staff:

- ❑ Chaplains and teachers in each of the schools are appointed to run the community partnership programmes.
- ❑ In the Girls' College, a dedicated member of staff co-ordinates the Community Service Programme.
- ❑ In the Boys' College, a full-time Director coordinates the Community Service Programme.

Transport:

- ❑ Transport costs have been greatly reduced in the College since the donation of a vehicle to the Boys' College and the involvement of parents who assist with transporting learners to the various projects.

Monetary:

- ❑ In 2001, the St Stithians College Council took a decision that, in liaison with the Bishop of the Central District (MCSA), the College would contribute towards projects for the "poorest of the poor".
- ❑ The first such donation was made in our Jubilee Year, 2003, to the Vryburg Pre-School Project.
- ❑ In 2005, the Council agreed to assist the IKM Community College, a school for refugees based in Hillbrow. This school has since been "adopted" by the Junior Prep. While the College assisted the school financially in 2005 & 2006, this funding has been stopped due to questions over the fiscal controls at the IKM Community College.
- ❑ 2007 & 2008 donations - From the Rector's discretionary fund, a donation of R5000 was made towards a special Anti-Crime Drive project co-ordinated by the Randburg Police Station; as well as a discretionary payment towards the costs of the MCSA's Greenside Manse.