

your news iindaba zakho jou nuus

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kouga wind farm



WALKING THE TALK:

The KwaNomzamo community joined hands with Kouga Wind Farm for World Aids Day. See the back page for the full story.

Healing our communities

The dedicated team from KwaNomzamo Home-Based Care are spreading healing among the most vulnerable members of their community.

Providing care to more than 800 HIV/Aids and TB patients, bedridden and elderly people, orphaned and vulnerable children, and child-headed households, the organisation is run mainly by volunteers who only receive a stipend when funds are available.

Their services range from supplying medication and food parcels to tending community food gardens and preparing meals for those too weak to leave their beds. Aside from tending to physical needs, the volunteers also provide counselling and run support groups.

Because of their commitment to the KwaNomzamo community, the demand for services has increased and Kouga Wind Farm has stepped in to equip the organisation to reach more people more effectively.

From January this year, the wind farm will be funding four training programmes for office and fieldworkers according to their area of expertise within the project.

The home-based care component will cover aspects like lay counselling and basic nursing, which includes administering medications, patient comfort and mobility, healthy diets,



KwaNomzamo Home-Based Care team

communication, and caring for the elderly and vulnerable groups.

Short courses in project management, office administration and computer literacy will also help personnel to keep KwaNomzamo Home-Based Care running smoothly on a day-to-day basis.

All 16 participants will receive skills development certificates at the end of their training programmes but more importantly will be able to deliver a more effective service to those in need of care.

A new sun rises on Nkqubela



AFTER

Crèche



BEFORE



"Our motto says, 'When the sun rises, there is light.' Today, I feel the sun has arrived."

"Our motto says, 'When the sun rises, there is light.' Today, I feel the sun has arrived." With these words, principal Nomalungelo Margaret Mtsele officially re-opened Nkqubela Crèche in KwaNomzamo in November.

The pre-school, which was razed in a fire three years ago, was rebuilt at a cost of R2.2 million by Kouga Wind Farm and is set to become a leading centre for Early Childhood Development in the region.

Nomalungelo, who opened her own home to her pupils after the fire, describes the new building as "every practitioner's dream and a palace for kids".

"It's for us, the people of KwaNomzamo. Its safety and future depends on us; we must build this place together."



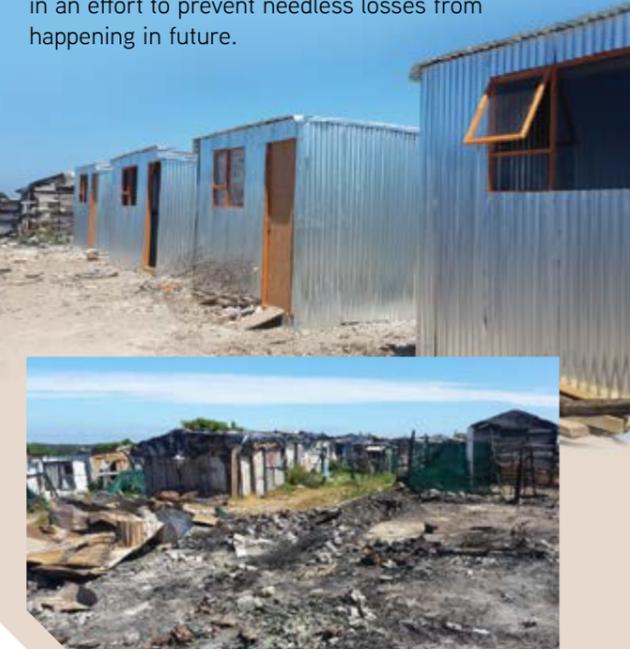
Rebuilding lives

Kouga Wind Farm is working with Luncedo Community Support Centre to help rebuild the lives of 30 Sea Vista families who lost their homes during the shack fires in October last year.

Aside from providing the building materials to put a roof over their heads, the wind farm also funded a community awareness campaign focusing on fire safety and first aid. The campaign highlighted the dangers of substance abuse, which may have contributed to the fires.

Irresponsible drinking and drug taking can have serious consequences for the whole community, as one unwatched stove or flame could kill or injure families and neighbours and destroy many homes.

The wind farm has begun working with Kouga Municipality to install fire hydrants and alarms in an effort to prevent needless losses from happening in future.



Main & middle photo: Outdoor playtime builds strong and happy children.
Bottom row: Local contractors handled the site clearance and building work, which created 42 temporary jobs during the six-month project. Sparkling clean bathrooms and a kitchen add to the healthy learning environment.

Top: Fire-damaged school.
Middle: Nkqubela Crèche now boasts three classrooms, a kitchen and scullery, bathroom facilities, a storeroom and offices.
Bottom: Well-equipped classrooms make learning fun.
Left: Children in the makeshift building that served as the temporary crèche after the fire.

Making a visible difference

Noncedo Khonco was born with a lump on her forehead. "It started small but it grew as I grew," says Noncedo. The clinic in Fort Beaufort, where she grew up, couldn't help and her family could not afford to see a doctor and have it removed.

By the time Noncedo turned 40, the growth was bigger than a tennis ball, covering her right eye completely. "It didn't cause any pain but I couldn't see out of that eye."

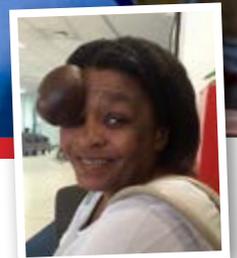
Noncedo says she got used to the curious looks from people on the street but her disfigurement made it difficult to secure employment.

Living in Umzamowethu, she caught the attention of the Kouga Wind Farm team during a community meeting at Oyster Bay.

"I got a call from (former community liaison officer) Babalwa. I told her my story and she asked if I wanted it removed. I said yes."

In 2015, her journey began with a visit to a local doctor, who referred Noncedo to a plastic surgeon in Port Elizabeth.

The specialist diagnosed it as a haemangioma, or a growth of blood vessels in the scalp, forehead and eyelid.



"We have started this journey with Noncedo and must see it through to the furthest point it can go."

According to him, the tumour was not cancerous or life threatening.

To prepare for her operation, Noncedo was put on blood thickening treatment for a few months.

"The treatment was done three times before my blood was ready and I finally had the procedure in November 2016."

About 80% of the lump was surgically removed and Noncedo's eye revealed. This year, a series of injections could

help to shrink the tumour even more.

"We have started this journey with Noncedo and must see it through to the furthest point it can go," smiles Kouga Wind Farm community liaison officer Trevor Arosi.

For Noncedo, the treatment has made a visible difference.

"People are saying, wow, what happened to you? My family are happy and excited for me."

World record attempt for World Aids Day

On December 1, Kouga Wind Farm joined hands with the KwaNomzamo community to attempt a world record as part of its World Aids Day commemoration.

More than a thousand community members, local organisations and government representatives came together to place their painted red handprints on a giant 100m white ribbon, which they held high during a walk through the streets of KwaNomzamo.

This attempt to create the world's longest personalised Aids Day ribbon is now being checked by the relevant authorities.

The day's programme, led by youth NGO LoveLife, started with free HIV/Aids testing and clinic consultations and

also included educational talks, group discussions and a play.

Representatives of the local clinic and KwaNomzamo Home-Based Care received donations of seeds and garden implements for developing food gardens to support the nutritional needs of the community.

Aids is one of the major social and health challenges facing our youth and Kouga Wind Farm has committed to supporting existing community structures to fight this disease. ●

