

Greetings to you all in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord and our Saviour AMEN

Here is the news from Phakamisa in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2018.

### **DEVOTIONS**

Devotions are still taken at the beginning of the day and are a very important activity for our care givers. They sing and pray together. There is space for them to share both their troubles and joys. One care giver recently shared that she was having trouble with her daughter who she found with Zulu muthi (traditional medicine that is for witchcraft). Being able to support each other in prayer means a lot to the care givers.

### **PROGRAMMES:**

2 graduations ceremony took place towards the end of last year.

### **EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT(ECD)**

During our ECD graduation we had a 68-year-old teacher who received her certificate. She was so excited that day, really showing that it was big achievement for her. This is what she said after receiving her certificate.

*"I can't wait to go home with my certificate - my grandchildren were making fun of me when I told them I was studying to improve myself and my creche. Doing the ECD course here at Phakamisa has brought changes to my school, even the Social Workers from Social Development have recognised the improvements in my school. I thank my teachers/trainers for being so patient with me and thank Phakamisa for giving the old people like me an opportunity to learn and for not judging us"*

### **WANDERING SCHOOLS**

25 children, who were ready to go to the big school, graduated from our wandering schools. The idea came from the parents/care givers and it felt so good when one of the care givers said

*"We thank Phakamisa for bringing this help to our area. My grandchild would not have been able to attend any creche/pre-school as I could not afford it. She started going to the creche when she was three years old and now she is five. I have already found the school for her for next year. We thank their teacher for giving them so much love. Onwards Phakamisa onwards!"*

### **LEVEL 4(Accredited Course)**

The course is doing well. All our students managed to submit their end of year portfolios to the SETA and they all passed. Thumbs up to our trainer Cathy for doing such a great job. The students are now doing their second year as it is a two-year course. Recruiting for the second group is now being done and classes will start beginning of the third term

### **SKILLS DEVELOPMENT:**

380 care givers are training in the following skills:

Beadwork - where they are learning how to make earrings, bracelets and necklaces

Sewing - this group are learning to cut, alter and use patterns and to design aprons, and

Cooking - where lessons have included how to cook vegetable biriyani, meat balls, samosas and how to bake scones.

It has been good to see the care givers empowered with the skills that they are learning. Three care givers from group 2 have joined together to start their own small business. They have decided to bake jointly and sell in their local schools and for their neighbours as well. Here is their story;

*" One day, after learning how to bake scones, muffins and steam bread at Phakamisa we sat down together to work out how we could make money out of this. We then decided to work together and target our local schools. We wake up at four o'clock in the morning - one bakes the muffins, one bakes scones and one bakes the steam bread and we rotate, we meet around half past six and we divide equally what we have baked, and we then go to separate schools to sell the goods and it's working. Even the school teachers are now supporting us by placing some big orders, especially when they have family functions or school functions. We thank Phakamisa for the skills, now we can make our own money to support our families and we can see the difference"*

## **SPECIAL EVENTS**

### **Women's Day Celebration**

This was a high tea event to celebrate women's month and the theme of the day was "FILL UP MY CUP". The dress code was bright colour and head-wrap. The event went very well, and attendance was good. We had a guest speaker who reminded care givers that they are important, and they are "THE WOMAN OF VIRTUE". Dinner was then served by the males and, that on its own, made them feel special. It was special in such a way that there's a couple who attend the groups, the wife said

*" I wish baba (Baba means Father, which is how a wife refers to their husband when not calling him by his name in our culture) would do this (serving) more, even at home"*

and most of the women agreed with her when she said that.

### **Care Givers Fun Day**

Before closing our year, care givers had fun day at the Pinetown Senior school grounds next door to our offices. Different sports were played, and the winners received medals and trophies for each game played. The care givers did the marathon aerobics for an hour. One of the instructors who came for the first time at Phakamisa said:

*"This is the first time I've seen old people have such stamina. These grannies are so fit! I wish there were more centres doing what Phakamisa is doing for our elderly people. Keep up the good work"*

## **CHRISTMAS PRAYER**

At the end of term in December, we decided to have a Christmas prayer meeting. We would like to thank the people who donated bibles to our care givers. All the care givers who attended that day received a gift of a Zulu bible. A bookmark was also given to them with a verse note. They were so happy with their gifts. When opening in January this year, one of the care givers in the devotions sang and came forward to say to me.

*"I couldn't wait to come back to Phakamisa this year. I wanted to share with you these words from my bible that I received here. I used these words from the book of Acts to pray for you as you were admitted to hospital"* They all prayed for me, thanking God for my recovery.

In conclusion we would like to thank all the people who've been supporting Phakamisa. Your support, of any kind, really makes a huge impact in changing people's life. We really appreciate it; no words can express our gratitude towards what you are doing for our needy community. May God Richly Bless you. *Thokozani*

**"PHAKAMISA- TOGETHER IN MAKING A DIFFERENCE"**