

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **SANAS Employees Volunteered on Mandela Day**

**17 July, 2014.** On Mandela Day, over 25 SANAS employees volunteered their time to make a positive impact on the lives of the young residents of the Boitumelo Community Project, based in Soshanguve, North of Pretoria. The days programme included a visit with the children, provided the home with groceries, prepared and served luncheon.

The visit on Friday, 18 July 2014, to Boitumelo Community Project was **not a once-off**, but a long term project in which SANAS aims to provide the centre with much needed equipment and assistance including, computers, sporting equipment such as balls, board games, and toys and funds to pay for education for some of the children specifically for those attending crèche, this is based on a needs analysis exercise previously carried out by the CSI team.

Previous CSI support to communities in similar situations has included SANAS staff donating their time and the provision of various necessities, including the supply of food and clothing items, mattresses, water tanks, stoves, office and garden furniture, floor tiling in bedrooms, refurbished bathrooms, painting interior and exterior walls of buildings to create child friendly and a colourful environment.

“For us at SANAS, everyday is Mandela Day says,” Senior Manager, Strategy & Development, Elsabe Steyn. “CSI is about making a sustainable difference in people lives, and we believe that each organisation especially in the developing world have a social mandate to uplift the communities they operate in,” she adds.

“Mandela Day for us, is all about inspiring people to greater change in their lives, which is something we see in our CSI programmes as our participating employees report that they feel a sense of purpose when they see the results of our efforts,” Steyn concludes.

### **About the Boitumelo Community Project**

The Boitumelo Community Project is situated in Soshanguve Block X, and was started in 2000 by Sophy Msiza and caters for children who are in vulnerable situations, i.e. abandoned, abused, orphaned etc.

The main aim of this organisation is to create a safe and conducive environment for vulnerable children, providing them with good health, basic education, parental care and guidance. The centre currently caters for 38 children, mostly orphaned and street children, and they hope with time to also cater for children from other areas of Tshwane.

### **About Madzibandlela Orphanage Home**

The orphanage is situated in Soshanguve Ext 11 and opened its doors in 2007 and caters primarily for needs of vulnerable children, abused, abandoned and orphaned.

The Home currently has 9 live in orphans, 40 afterschool drop in and 11 live out, pre-school children. The home is now based on much larger premises than the original establishment, however much still has to be done to improve the place and make it suitable for children to live in. The home is managed by three ladies, who volunteer their services and are responsible for cooking, teaching as well as assisting them with their homework.

**Ends.**

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### **Editor's Note: The Media was welcome to attend**

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