



## NEWSLETTER – NOVEMBER 2015

Hi everyone

It has been quite some time since our last update and as usual a lot has happened.

Thank you to each and every one for the support during this year. **We cannot do the work we do without the support of the organisations and individuals in our community.**

**As we rely heavily on the support of our community we ask that you please forward our newsletter to your networks so that we can inform as many people as possible of our projects.**

For more info on our organisation please call Alta McMaster on 082 940 6230 or view our website: [www.epicfoundation.org.za](http://www.epicfoundation.org.za)

**Please refer to the end of this newsletter for a list of our needs**

### **UPDATE ON PROJECTS**

Our **Comfort Pack Project** has increased with additional centres we support such as Netcare hospitals over South Africa and various other centres outside Gauteng. We are excited about our Comfort Pack Project reaching other provinces as well. *With the Festive Season around the corner we aim on packing 1000 packs to double supply all centres during this time when, sadly, crime is higher. Anyone who wants to get involved or donate, please let me know.* We have distributed 6733 bags since January, adding the 1000 we are currently busy with will bring our total to 7733. We expect this figure to go up for 2016 with the addition of more centres who have approached us for assistance.

Our **Fairy Godmother Project** was mainly aimed at girls as we just did not get in any donations for the boys. We were absolutely thrilled when we received a call from **Bride&Co** advising that they have suits available to donate to us through **Eurosuits**. We received a massive delivery and it has been such a fantastic experience being able to assist the boys as well. The children who do not have financial means to get an outfit and know they might not be able to attend due to this, go through tremendous stress at a time when they should focus on schoolwork. Being able to assist them and allow them this opportunity makes a big difference to them. This year we have dressed 413 children for their matric farewell – making it possible for them to attend. We still have approximately 30 more children to dress before year end.

Our **Step-Up Project** – we have been struggling a bit to get this project off the ground due to a few reasons. Computer equipment donated is unfortunately very old and not in working condition. It is, at times, difficult to get the shelter ladies to our offices as most of these shelters in the province do struggle with

transport. We have unfortunately not been able to secure transport for the Epic Foundation to date. We do therefore have a request for donations of laptops which will allow us to take our training to the shelters.

With the growth in our projects we ran out of space in our offices and managed to move into much larger premises on 13 September 2015. We would like to give a special thanks to **Elliot Mobility** for sponsoring the move for us. We appreciate your support.

## **NEW DEVELOPMENTS**

### **Charities4Change**



In January this year the Epic Foundation together with Renay Bunke took over the charity networking organisation Charities4Change from our friend Karen Landi from Community Hours SA. This is a charity networking organisation where our aim is to bring organisation together every 6 weeks in an effort for us to share what we do, what our needs are and what our challenges are. The purpose of this is to encourage organisations to support each other.

We are now taking a further step in the process in inviting CSR representatives from various organisations to attend these functions as well. This will give Corporates an opportunity to share with NPO's what they are looking for when they are approached by NGO's and also an opportunity for Corporates to see what NPO's are available in the community and what our needs are. The first corporate to attend our function at the end of October was **PricewaterhouseCoopers**.

**If your organisations CSR would like to get involved with this, please let me know.**

We have several organisations who have joined such as: The Tears Foundation, Matrix Men, The Grace Factory, Childline, Teddy Bear Clinic, Choc, Jhb Mini Counsel, Stepping Stones Hospice, Lifeline, Brain Boosters, National Freedom Network, Women & Men Against Child Abuse, POWA, The Viva Foundation, Community Hours, The Marion Rose Foundation, Team Zodwa, Amcare, Tsohang Youth Project, Afrika Tikkun, Cansa, Lerato Educational Centre, Alberton Lions, Dignity Dreams, CPF Mondeor, VEC Alberton, Sunshine Association, etc. We also have several organisations assisting NPO's such as Community Hours SA, ForGood, My hands and my heart.

**If you are aware of any other NPO's who might benefit from this, please forward their details to [info@epicfoundation.org.za](mailto:info@epicfoundation.org.za)**

## **MANDELA DAY 2015**

What a great response we had to our Comfort Pack Packing on the day, we had way over 60 people arrive at our office to help pack bags – at some point we lost count. Also assisting was several girls from the Holy Rosary School. At the end of the day, we had no stock left in our cupboards and we managed to pack 500 packs!



We then also had several organisations who did collections of items and did packing in their offices on that day, adding to our number of bags for the day. We had support from the following organisations for Mandela Day:

**Netcare** who assisted with comfort packs – Thank you Sharlene Swartz

**Huizemark Sandton** - Teresa Slake supported our Fairy Godmother Project in asking for donations to bring the total to 67 items donated to the project. Hazel Schreiber, our faithful volunteer in the North, attended on behalf of the Epic Foundation and collected the items for us.

Some of the other organisation who supported on the day:

**Kagiso Tiso Holdings** for the Comfort Pack Project  
**Insure Group** – Sarie Breedt for the Comfort Pack Project  
**Digby Wells** – Kirsten Straus for the Comfort Pack Project  
**Osiris Trading** – thank you Mandisa for the donation of R5000



## AVON/JUSTINE

As an NPO to Avon/Justine we are privileged to be part of all their initiatives/events etc. I take my hat off to them for the wonderful support they give their NPO's. Below are some of the functions we attended:

AVON *Justine*

- The Avon/Justine walkathon for Breast Cancer on 25 October where we had a display stall
- 24 and 26 September we had a display stall at the Avon/Justine conference
- During July we were invited to attend the Vital Voices training and the launch of the Institute on the Investigation and Prosecution of Domestic and Sexual Violence.
- On 4 July we attended the Avon Light up to Speak out Candle Lighting Ceremony in Soweto where we also had a display stall.

## LEAD SA CHANGEMAKERS CONFERENCE



We were fortunate to be invited to have a display table at this conference which was held on 15 August 2015. The conference was aimed to allow like-minded people, who are already doing great things in their respective spaces, to network, share stories and inspire each other. They also had a very interesting line-up of speakers. Looking forward to the next one!

## BEYOND PAINTING CLASSROOMS CONFERENCE



Of great benefit to us was attending the Beyond Painting Classrooms Conference through the **Charity Aid Foundation** on 22 and 23 September 2015. Discussions were based around Building Relationships for



Socio-economic Change. We were also able to participate in sessions on employee volunteer programme design, volunteer mobilisation, NGO readiness for employee volunteering, skills-based volunteering, community development, mentoring and transformation, moving beyond the donor/recipient relationship and more. This is a great platform for corporates and NGO's to connect and we are pleased that we attended this conference.

## **702 WALK THE TALK**

This year, the Epic Foundation also took part in the 702 Walk the Talk on 26 July 2015. We joined forces with the National Freedom Network and also joined their cause against human trafficking. We had 35 people on the Epic Team walking on the day!



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## **FASHION SHOW WITH OUR FAIRY GODMOTHER OUTFITS**

We would like to thank Karen Landi from Community Hours SA for including the Epic Foundation and our Fairy Godmother project in the Fashion Show arranged for 3 December to help raise funds for the Johannesburg Mini Counsel. It was amazing to see our outfits which we supply to children being modelled and appreciate the opportunity to promote our project.



## **SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING:**

- Danica Whelan, was a finalist in the Ms SA Schools 2015/16 competition. As part of the competition they needed to be involved with a charity project which they needed to report on at the finals on 31 October. Danica selected the Epic Foundation for this purpose and collected a substantial number of content items for our Comfort Pack Project. She did this by raising awareness at her school,



Eldoraighne High School where she had bins put out for donations to be collected. She is a true example to other children out there. **We are proud to announce that Danica won the competition and is now Miss South Africa Schools 2015!! Well done Danica**

- **X-tra Space in Alrode** – for sponsoring a storage unit for the Epic Foundation’s use. Thank you so much – it is great to see local business supporting their communities and NPO’s.
- **O’Hagan’s Rock Cottage** – for running a very successful golf fund raiser for us collecting an amount of R55 000!!. Thank you so much Theresa Fouche – you and your ladies club are doing amazing work in the community.
- **UCS Solutions** for supporting us again during woman’s month, this time with our Fairy Godmother Project and the donation of R10 000 toward our projects. Thank you to Amanda Gibbs.
- Also a huge shout out to **ABSA/Barclays** – through 4 different divisions they have provided amazing support to Epic in the form of donations towards our comfort pack project as well as large groups of staff volunteering at our offices. Thank you Patricia Mondlana, Tracy Devine, Florence Masetla, for collecting donations and Rachel Barber for arranging the volunteers!
- **Stuttaford Van Lines** - for sponsoring transportation of large donations to the Epic Foundation office as well as assisting us with furniture to a school where they had a desperate need. Thank you Penny for all your support!



## **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:**

We are always in need of volunteers to assist with our projects. If anyone is interested, please complete the volunteer application form on our website and send it back to me. We can then discuss further how you can get involved with us.

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

We are happy to announce that Molobeng Serame has joined our Board of Directors.

Molobeng is a qualified Chartered Accountant currently working as a Senior Manager at Standard Bank. She has served various organisations both in the public and private sector. She is passionate about the development of the African continent and the empowerment of women. She also mentors young women in the workplace. She also enjoys reading, gym, wining and dining.

We are still looking for someone with a legal background to join our Board. If anyone is interested in joining our Board of Directors, please email your CV to me [info@epicfoundation.org.za](mailto:info@epicfoundation.org.za)

Our requirement is:

- That you attend all our Board meetings and if you are not able to that you send someone in your place (8 a year)
- Be available for any urgent meetings, or urgent discussions requiring Board member input.
- A commitment and passion for the projects and initiatives of the Epic Foundation and promoting these.
- Promotion of the organisation should in no way be linked to any personal or private objectives.



## **NEEDS OF THE EPIC FOUNDATION**

- **COMFORT PACK PROJECT:** We are looking for sponsors for bags we use as our current stock of brand new beach bags are running out. We are also asking for donations of fabric as we have an old age home and other individuals assisting with draw string bags for the kiddie packs. **We do of course always have a need for the content items - full list are available on our website.**
- **FAIRY GODMOTHER PROJECT:** If you do know of any children in need of matric farewell outfits please do refer them to us. **It is important for us to have people out there helping us get word out.** We always accept all evening dresses, suits, etc. We are in need of the following:
  - evening jewellery and bags
  - larger size dresses
  - cufflinks and shoes for the boys
  - Cupboards – ideally the large two door steel ones – to pack our outfits for the boys into
  - Clothing rails for both the suits and evening dresses
  - Hangers
- **STEP –UP PROJECT:** We are asking for any donations of laptop computers for our training centre which will also allow us to take training to the shelters.
- **TRANSPORT:** We have not been successful on various proposals to obtain a **sponsored car** for the Epic Foundation. Transport is a problem as we are unable to get to all the places where we need to – some centres we support also struggle with transport and cannot always get to us. We are asking for volunteers who could possibly assist with transport. In the event that anyone has a contact at a dealerships we can approach for assistance, please do let us know.
- **PREMISES:** Our premises where we are running our projects from are vital. As we do have a lease and we do pay a monthly rental we do require **funding to assist us with these payments.** We often get funding from corporates but are requested that we may not use this for transport, salaries, or rental, etc., but only for our projects. It makes it very difficult for us to run projects without funding for transport and premises. We therefore do request funding specifically for these purposes.
- **FOR OUR OFFICE:**
  - Small **bar fridge**
  - Fans for summer time and gas heaters for winter. As we are in an industrial area the office gets very hot during summer and very cold during winter. We do have two front offices to the premises where we could fit an aircon as well.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ON EPIC PLEASE VISIT: [www.epicfoundation.org.za](http://www.epicfoundation.org.za)**