

# stAnne's@home

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## Overview from the Director

**"Be the change you want to see in the world".**

This quote by Mahatma Gandhi is what motivated me to leave the comfort zone of the corporate world, and to be the change that I want to see -- through being of service to others at St. Anne's Homes.



**2011 is the International Year of Volunteers +10**, marking the 10th anniversary of the International Year of Volunteers 2001. The UN General Assembly has invited governments, civil

society, the private sector and media to carry out activities that highlight the **potential of volunteerism as a powerful component towards achieving development and peace**, among other goals.

In this spirit, we've made the heart of this newsletter about ordinary people who are giving of themselves in service to St. Anne's Homes: **Reverend Margaret Heyns** who has been a board member since 2000; **Sweetness Gxoko** who has taken care of our infants and toddlers for 14 years, and international volunteer **Raissa Bagutti** who will soon come to the end of her 9-month stint at St Anne's.

I believe that we can only truly serve if we stand up for decency, compassion, respect and dignity, for ourselves and others. All aspects of the word **"LOVE"**.

Love conquers all and this was evident through an article I submitted for the **Oprah Magazine/Innox** **"Circle of Women"** series, not knowing the gift we would receive as a result – a complete and much-needed kitchen renovation!

Our **"Celebration of Love"** fundraising breakfast held on 26 February was a huge success and we are very grateful to Tina Schouw and Ernestine Deane, awesome singers and entertainers, who donated their talent to this event, which was organised by volunteers.

Again, to quote Mahatma Gandhi: "The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others". The UN has challenged every individual to become a volunteer. What about you?

I trust that you will enjoy stAnnes@Home and I look forward to engaging with you.

**In gratitude,**

**Joy Lange, Director**



## Our play park gets a facelift!

St. Anne's Homes playground wasn't the most attractive place, but thanks to Ince (Pty) Ltd and their kind donation, the children are now enjoying a new play area and sandpit.



**Before...**



**...and after**



**Enjoying the new sand pit!**

# Love is in the Air



Shadé Klein, a resident at St Anne's Homes married Christopher Smith in a wedding made possible thanks to the effort of many people.



## Raissa Bagutti

### LONGEST-SERVING VOLUNTEER

My name is **Raissa Bagutti** and I'm Swiss-Italian. I came to South Africa in July 2010 and then studied English for about three months. On completion of my course, **I started volunteer work at St. Anne's Home**; I have now been volunteering here for **9 months**. My duties at the crèche include cleaning, feeding and playing with the babies and the toddlers. Basically just loving them.

**Every day brings its own highlights.** This can come in the form of a smile, a hug, when they first say your name, a first tooth or - my favourite - a first step!

What started as a prerequisite for my university in Switzerland -- experience working with children -- has become **not only an act of love but also a learning experience** that will see me through life.

On top of my wonderful experience with the children, the staff at St. Anne's are amazing. I was

really lucky because the people I worked with were always friendly and available to help me and answer my questions. I have learned so much from them, not only about working with children but also about South African culture.

**This was truly an enriching experience.** One that I wouldn't exchange for all the money in the world.



Baby Francesca Norman with volunteer, Raissa

# Reverend Margaret Heyns

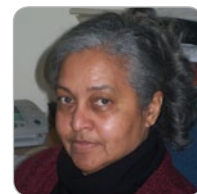
## LONGEST-SERVING BOARD MEMBER

My first encounter with St Anne's Homes was when I was tasked as a Deacon to deliver a donation from the Church of the Resurrection, Bonteheuwel, in 2000. Soon afterwards I was invited by the Chairperson to become a Board Member.

**My involvement with St Anne's has been a fulfilling part of my ministry as a Priest.** I feel comfortable and at home with the women, children and staff, because we share in the struggles of poverty and violence within our societies. Their struggle is my struggle and we are real people with real issues of life.

I am amazed at the **many lives that are changed as they pass through the St Anne's programme.** But this institution has gone through many changes. I often meet women who had been a part of St Anne's for almost 100 years and they have their stories of pain, struggle and success to tell.

In my time I have served with three Directors through difficult and challenging times. **I see St Anne's as a progressive and empowering organization** that serves women and children 'as an expression of God's love, ...for the unique value of every human being' according to our mission statement.



Reverend Margaret Heyns

# Sweetness Gxoko

## LONGEST-SERVING MEMBER OF STAFF

I'm working for 14 years at St Anne's. I got the job from the paper and when I found out what it was about, **I thought this is the right place for me.** It was familiar work because I had worked in an old age home for 6 years before. Saint Anne's sent me to do ECD courses so I could work with babies from 0-1 year old, changing them and giving them the right nutrition. Then I became qualified to work with the whole group from babies to pre-schoolers.

**I can't count the children I've looked after.** I got a shock one day: I was walking down the street and a woman came up to me. She said, "do you remember me? My daughter is going to graduate at university – you looked after her when she was a toddler at Saint Anne's".

When they first come to Saint Anne's, the women trust no-one. It takes time for them to know that you will look after their child OK. **But as I work with the child, I give the mother feedback every day and I ask questions:** "how did your child sleep last night?, when will your child get immunization?", and they slowly start to trust me.

A big challenge is that sometimes you work with



Sweetness Gxoko

a child for a few months, and then the child leaves. The mother may decide to go back to the family. Then you must welcome the next new child. But I've learned you mustn't take your work on your shoulders. When you leave the gate at Saint Anne's, you leave your work – or you can go mad because it's emotional to work here. **This work needs your heart, your compassion, your faith.** But it's also interesting because you learn something different every day.

# Sanna's Story

**"I've been at St Anne's almost 2 years.** I came here when my daughter, Nicky was 14 days old. I lived on the street for 9 years. It was a nightmare but my partner, Johan, was always with me. He looked after me.

Then I fell pregnant. I only stopped drinking when I was 5 ½ months. It was winter and I didn't care – you drink to forget your problems. When I gave birth, they wouldn't let me go because Nicky was underweight. After two weeks, her father came to fetch me on the Friday and we were back sleeping outside with my newborn, covered with plastic. On the Monday we went to the MES Church in Bellville and they phoned St Anne's. Since that day, I've been living here.

**When I came here, I was scared.** I told myself it was not for me – it was too far from Nicky's father. But **coming here saved my life;** it saved my baby's

life. When I was pregnant, the law enforcement people told me "when you give birth we will take your child away" and that made me scared. Then her father found a small room for himself. I thank God because He helped us both.

**The staff helped me through everything.** I didn't know how to change or wash a baby. Sometimes I feel guilty when I see how small Nicky is, because I was using alcohol. But people here say I must stop blaming myself. I must start a new life.

I got a full-time job as a domestic worker when Nicky was 4 months old. She goes to the crèche at St Anne's and she is happy.

But now my time is up at St Anne's; and they are trying to help me find a place to stay.

**Sanna Hartnick and her daughter, Nicky**



## Visit to the crocodile farm

A special treat for Moms and their little one's was a visit to the Le Bonheur Croc Farm in Simondium. American Social Work interns, Brittany McHale and Megan Tanner donated the money for the outing, and Ikhozi Shuttle Tours provided transport there at a discounted rate.



**The children, thrilled by a baby croc**



**Moms also got to play!**

# A Celebration of Love



Volunteers Penny Gaines and Silvana Dantu organised a **Valentine's breakfast fund-raising event** for St Anne's Homes, which they called "**A Celebration of Love**". The name was perfect for the event which sparkled with inspiration, fun - and love - from start to finish!

Penny roped her son, Jonathan in to design a beautiful invitation. Ruth Kamau, owner of **iKhaya Lodge** gave us the venue at no cost. And after the breakfast she announced that she would also donate the cost of the food, so we were able to keep the total amount that was collected at the door! Silvana's company, **African Equations**, donated Zari Sparkling Grape Juice - their best-selling product - for all the tables. Singers, **Ernestine Deane** and **Tina Schouw** gave beautiful performances that had the full house cheering and clapping with delight throughout; and **Robin Santon** provided the sound system and technical support for the entire event.

Residents from St Anne's Homes did a fine job waiting on the tables, and resident, Leigh-Anne Philander gave a sobering account of the abuse in her home that had led to her living at St Anne's with her little son, Daniyal. Father John Oliver was the perfect MC, hosting the event with charm and grace.

US Consul General, **Dr Alberta Mayberry** was **there to show her support** and ended the morning with a moving speech about the value of the work done by institutions such as St Anne's Homes to our society.

**We are grateful to everyone for making this event such a success!**

PS: "A Celebration of Love" will become our annual fund-raising event each February. Contact us if you would like to get involved.

*Joy*



**Accessories made by our residents, for sale at St Anne's Homes.**

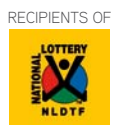


**Tina Schouw, Joy, Dr Alberta Mayberry and Ernestine Deane**

## Our thanks

**For your kind support, our thanks go to:**

- Ince (Pty) Ltd (play park and sand-pit)
- Jonathan van der Westhuizen (jewellery training and photography)
- Penny Gaines (media, marketing & newsletter)
- African Equations
- National Lottery Distribution Trust Fund
- Department of Social Development
- Community Chest Western Cape
- St. Anna Clinic, Switzerland
- Low & Company
- Cape Thyme Caterers
- BOE Bank
- Vodacom
- St. Peter's Church, Camps Bay
- Lewis Stores
- Graaff's Trust
- Jet Lee Trust
- Ikhaya Lodge
- Jamaica Me Crazy
- Clicks Group
- Woolworths
- Pick 'n Pay
- Food Bank, Western Cape
- Robin Good, Western Cape
- Hill Songs Church, Cape Town
- Buttons 4 Hope



# Oprah magazine / kitchen renovation

Joy entered the Innoxia Circle of Women/Oprah Magazine competition by submitting an article about the love she and her sisters were given by their parents; and how that love inspires them in their support of her work at St Anne's Homes. Her winning article won St Annes's first-stage home a complete and much-needed kitchen renovation!



## Contact

t. +27 21 448 6792/8513 • f. +27 21 448 8518 • info@stanneshomes.org.za • [www.stanneshomes.org.za](http://www.stanneshomes.org.za)  
48 Balfour Street Woodstock 7925 Cape Town • PO Box 43363 Woodstock 7915 South Africa



**The Community Chest celebrated Freedom Day, April 27, with a special community engagement event at the Baxter Theatre. Residents and staff were invited to see the production, "Silence of the Music".**

*L-R: Phillip Balie; Sharon Follentine, Director for Children and Families, Department of Social Development; Amelia Jones, CEO of Community Chest Western Cape; Joy Lange, Director of St. Anne's Homes.*



**The Western Cape Women's Shelter Movement Open Day on 16 March at Sisters Incorporated.**

*Women's shelters that were not members yet, and those aspiring to open women's shelters were given information about the benefits of belonging to the WSM.*



**Engaging with communities**

*St. Anne's Homes was invited to showcase our work at the launch of the Cape Town Diocese, Social Development Forum. Visiting our table was Anglican Archbishop of Cape Town, Thabo Makgoba.*