

Thanks YOU

Once upon a long long loooooong time ago ...

... on the 5th May 2011, in fact! I sent out an appeal asking for any old kids' clothes, blankets and toys to send to the crèche in the village neighbouring where my sister and her family live in Kwazulu-Natal.

A lot of time has passed since then and although I've been meaning to send you an update, I wanted to wait until we had gone full circle.

We're finally there, so here we go ...

And so much to sort out

Once I'd amassed all the 'gear' I realized that we could use a lot of it to encourage the community to also contribute, at the same time giving to them as well. A lot of the items (especially the books and developmental toys) would be ideal for the classroom, but blankets, clothes and smaller toys could be sold to the locals for nominal amounts. The proceeds of the sales could then be channeled back into the school.

It took some time to sort which items to allocate where, but a few months later the task was complete and we had six moving crates ready to ship!



An amazing response

I'm not sure if it was the promise of coffee and cake at mine or your wonderfully charitable souls, but so many of you donated so much – blankets, clothing, toys, books, books and more books!

And it wasn't only those of you who came over on the day, but also those couldn't make it *and* friends' of friends too.

Even a month later there were still people asking if I was needing more stuff. So, thank you thank you thank you.



The ladies of the local village perusing the wares



Finally, a shipping date

A number of shipping companies were approached and the quotes we were getting were over £700 to ship. I posted on local notice boards to see if anyone was moving back to South Africa and just when we were about to despair ... a bitter-sweet opportunity came up.

... and off to Durban we go

The Isle of Man was very sad to say goodbye to *Thilo* and *Nischen* Govender, but their return to Durban enabled me to get these boxes close to their final destination. Thank you so much to you two for firstly letting the boxes piggy-back on your move and secondly, for allowing them to gather dust until my sister could arrange for them to be collected.



A great turnout from the local ladies (and 1 man!)

One more stop off

Well, finally, after almost a year the boxes were collected and brought to Three Tree Hill. At the same time, my sister was moving her family into a new house so she added to the items and was ready to roll.

Thank you – Ngiyabonga

Final Destination

The boxes that had been allocated for the crèche were taken down there, much to the absolute delight of the teacher. All these items are now being utilized daily, providing much needed stimulation and education to the little ones.



'Locals' sniffing for a bargain at the community sale



A very happy teacher

A few weeks later, a community sale was held and the response was fantastic. All items were sold out in an hour and apparently mothers and children alike were mesmerized by some of the items – particularly those toys that were battery operated (our kids are so fortunate).



Blah blah blah ... what does it all mean?

So, at the end of the day we:

- Most importantly, put some serious smiles on some serious faces
- Have given the teacher materials which she can use to help develop and grow little minds
- Managed to raise R795, which will go toward a new coat of paint for the school



When visiting the school in April, the children had just finished their special, nutrient rich porridge and were washing up their dishes



The buildings and facilities in quite a state of disrepair, but at least they have somewhere to go

Further projects planned for 2012 include:

- Repair of swings for jungle gym
- Repair the jungle gym slide
- Repair Rope climbing area
- Replace school gate
- Have gutters fitted to flow into water tanks, so that rain water can be available
- Paint the bottoms of the buildings
- Repair all leaks into the classrooms



The crèche' classroom – how lucky are our kids ...?

