



GIVE A CHILD A FAMILY AFRICA

NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2023

CHILDREN
BELONG IN
SECURE
FAMILIES

MARCH GREETINGS FROM GCF



On the morning of 13 March 2023, we received the sad news that one of GCF's directors, our colleague and friend, **Lydia Gordon**, had passed away peacefully in her sleep after a short bout of serious illness. Lydia was a true child protection champion who dedicated most of her life to the wellbeing of children and families. As a social worker, she was held in very high regard by colleagues all over Africa, for her dedication and commitment to the children and families she worked with.



Our memories of her will live on forever, as she made a huge impact on so many people's lives. We are extremely honoured to have had such a remarkable person as a part of our team, as she continually tried to improve the standard of social work services in our area, and further into Africa. We will remember Lydia as selfless, compassionate, understanding, giving, caring and someone who loved beyond herself.

GCF's renewed and updated **Parenting Training 'Parenting 4 Life' (P4L)** began at the end of last year and its twelve sessions with different topics have now come to an end. It aims to ensure the provision of services and effective support to families to provide nurturing care for their children so that they will not only survive but be protected and develop to their full potential.

The organisation's four community workers have run one group each in different local areas with whom they are now starting support groups. One of the parents was saying:

"This is a good course, when is it happening again? We would like to send others to it, It would be good for both parents and children."

A great response, with a question we can not yet answer since we need funding to continue. We trust that we will be able to start new groups soon and would like to thank Swedish InterAct Africa for supporting us financially with the first round of training.



The **Human Rights Day** was a day when threats of a total shutdown of the country were given. It did not affect our area so much, but planned events were postponed just in case. The Special Programmes Unit in Ray Nkonyeni Municipality invited GCF to participate in their event on 24 March instead. Our community work team had a table, among other stakeholders, where they presented GCF as an organisation and the programmes we render to families in vulnerable communities. It was a successful day, where new contacts were made and families could ask for help.

GCF hosted the first **Social Work Forum** in 2023 on 31 March. The organisation has arranged forums like this for many years intending to strengthen work relationships with local social work professionals by coming together to empower each other, learn from each other and also have some fun.

This time we honoured our dear GCF colleague, Lydia Gordon, who sadly passed away earlier in the month with shared memories and appreciation of the impact she had on so many social workers. One of the area's senior social workers held a motivational talk where she encouraged everyone to rise the social work flag high and keep to high standards in the work carried out with vulnerable people. This was mixed with games, a photo shoot and food. Just being together for a few hours empowered everyone, feeling that there is a strong base to stand on.



On 15 April, we will be hosting our **first charity walk** for 2023! If you are on the South Coast, come and join us at Beaver Creek Coffee estate in Port Edward from 08:00, as the walk will start at 08:30. To raise awareness about child protection, you can wear something green. The cost is R50 for adults and R30 for children, and we will also be selling GCF Africa t-shirts. Cash or card is welcome! Dogs are allowed to join, but must be kept on a leash. Come and have a lovely 5km with us and let's spread the word that child protection is everyone's business! The **GCF Virtual Walk/Run/Cycle** will take place from **10-14 May**, and you can get your tickets on **GivenGain**.

GCF Africa has a new website! There is much information available, and you can read about all our programmes, and why we do the work we do. Go to www.gcf.org.za and let us know what you think.



EVERYONE CAN DO SOMETHING! MAKE A DIFFERENCE TODAY AND BECOME A MONTHLY CONTRIBUTOR OF GCF'S WORK.

www.gcf.org.za