



GIVE A CHILD A FAMILY AFRICA

NEWSLETTER

JULY 2023

CHILDREN BELONG IN SECURE FAMILIES

REBUILDING LIVES, INSPIRING HOPE DURING JULY

Devastating Fire

On Saturday, 8 July, tragedy struck the Masinenge Informal Settlement as a devastating fire ravaged the area, leaving approximately 110 shacks reduced to ashes on a bitterly cold winter night. The blaze left around 330 residents, including vulnerable children, homeless and displaced, seeking shelter wherever there was space.

In response to this heart-wrenching event, GCF sprang into action, extending much-needed assistance to the victims. Our dedicated team worked tirelessly to ensure that those affected had the necessary support to begin rebuilding their lives. A priority for GCF was to assist the school-going children by providing them with uniforms and stationery, enabling them to resume their education without disruption. GCF is providing vital psycho-social support during this difficult time, through debriefing sessions conducted by our dedicated community workers, to those affected by the fire in the community of Masinenge. We remain committed to helping them rebuild their lives and find hope once more.

Our heartfelt gratitude goes out to everyone who responded to our call for assistance. Your generous contributions are deeply appreciated. Any surplus donations will be securely reserved and thoughtfully distributed to support other vulnerable and poverty-stricken households in the community, bringing a glimmer of hope to those in need.



Making the World Safer for Children

In July, a group of future foster parents underwent essential training at GCF's training centre in Margate. Attendance of the 5-day programme is mandatory for becoming an approved foster parent through our organization. This training marks a significant step forward, equipping and preparing participants to provide stable and loving homes to children in need. Without the remarkable commitment of individuals like them, too many children would continue to spend their entire childhoods within the confines of children's homes.

One of our invaluable team members, Monica Nomlala, who led the foster care training, demonstrated her unwavering dedication by traveling six hours to the beautiful Zithulele in the Eastern Cape just a few days later. In Zithulele, she conducted a training session for teachers from various independent schools, focusing on the personal safety programme, Protective Behaviours. The impact of her efforts was evident in the teachers' comments during the end evaluation of the training. They expressed profound inspiration to create a safer and nurturing environment for every child in their schools. Here are a few heart-warming testimonials from the participants:

"To be trained to see early warning signs of abuse and neglect, makes me feel more aware and cautious of learners that might have such experiences."

"I'm going to teach my class about Protective Behaviours and also moms in the village."



Holiday Programme

We are thrilled to share the incredible success of the children's Holiday Programme, where laughter echoed through every corner and joyous memories were created. From the electrifying talent show that showcased the incredible talents of our little stars, to the exhilarating sports day that fuelled their competitive spirit, the holiday was jam-packed with excitement.

The Holiday Bible Club at both Margate Baptist and Freedom Gate church provided a nurturing space for spiritual growth and exploration, while Market Day saw the young entrepreneurs shine as they proudly displayed their creations. Even rainy days couldn't dampen their spirits, as they gathered indoors to make mouth-watering pizzas and unleashed their creativity through arts and crafts projects. And when the sun graced us with its presence, they revelled in the sheer delight of fun-filled outdoor games.

The children's winter holiday was truly one to remember.



Climbing for GCF

The fulfilment of a dream became an extraordinary journey for Tracey Dekker and her team when they recently conquered Mt Kilimanjaro. However, their incredible achievement was not just a personal triumph; it also became a fundraising opportunity for GCF. Throughout her ascent, Tracey passionately encouraged her friends, family, colleagues, and others to support GCF, resulting in an outstanding donation of R31,100! We are immensely grateful for this generous contribution.

In July, Tracey, along with Jim, visited our organization, allowing us to hear first-hand about their awe-inspiring 8-day hike. We had the privilege of expressing our heartfelt gratitude to them personally for their exceptional effort, which will significantly impact our work with vulnerable children and families.



GCF AGM reporting on 2022

GCF extends an invitation to anyone who would like to attend our Annual General Meeting, reporting on the activities of 2022, that will take place on Friday, 18 August 2023 from 11:00 at Freedom Gate Church, located at 31 Alexander Avenue, Margate (next door to GCF). Kindly RSVP before 11 August 2023 to Roelien Morrison at roelien@gcf.org.za or 039 317 2761. Alternatively, the AGM will be livestreamed on our Facebook page.

If you want to know what we get up to on a more regular basis, make sure to follow us on Facebook or Instagram @givechildfamily



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

www.gcf.org.za