

Association for Persons with Disabilities **Free State**

Issue 3

Newsletter



An Interview with
Zandile Nhlapo

Emelia Day Care Centre

One of the projects of the Association for Persons with Disabilities is the Emelia Day Care Center for children with disabilities.

There are approximately 18 children in the Emelia Day Care center with multiple disabilities ranging from Autism to Cerebral Palsy. These children are from disadvantaged communities.

The association provides care, meals, transport and educational activities to these children during week days. Here they learn how to eat independently, how to crawl etc.

At the center every little step is wonderful progress for the children and are celebrated.

Take care,Take care,

Jackie Malan

Zandile Nhlapo

“When you first find out that you have a disabled child, it feels like everything has come to an end.



Being the mother of a multi-disabled child can be an incredibly lonely and overwhelming experience. We spoke to Zandile Nhlapo about the sorrows, the joys and the challenges a parent faces when caring for a special-needs child.

Tell us more about your late son, Thamsanqa

My son was born with a condition called encelphalosis—a skull defect that affects the brain. He underwent several painful operations and stayed in hospital for a year. He was later diagnosed with cerebral palsy. He eventually became blind, he couldn't walk or talk and was left only with his sense of hearing. The doctors initially predicted that he would only live for a few hours after birth. Three months after this, we called him Thamsanqa, a Xhosa name meaning "Lucky". He sadly passed away when he was an amazing 24 years old!

What were some of the challenges you faced caring for a multi-disabled child?

When you first find out that you have a disabled child, it feels like everything has come to an end. It produces overwhelming emotions of shock, anger, sadness, resentment, disbelief, anxiety, fear and despair.

Zandile Nhlapo

When one has a child with a disability, you automatically become disabled too. Transport was for instance a big challenge.

Having a multi-disabled child was also very expensive in terms of nappies, food and assistive devices.

How did the Association for Persons with Disabilities—Free State (APD) help you to overcome some of these challenges?

Before I knew about APD, I had no idea where to turn to or which grant to apply for. APD has not only empowered me with the skills to cope but also to give my son the best care he deserved!

You are involved with the Emelia Active Learning Centre. Please tell us more about this.

Emelia is a Day Care Centre for children with multiple disabilities located in Batho, Bloemfontein.

We are a non-governmental organization and rely on donations to keep the centre running. There are 20 children in this centre at present and 25 are on the waiting list. 16 are children with cerebral palsy, 1 child with fetal alcohol syndrome (FAS), 1 child with Spina Bifida and 2 with Autism. The centre has 4 care givers, a house keeper and a gardener.

How can the public offer their help?

We have a constant need of volunteers and relief workers to help us at the centre. We also have an urgent need for nappies! We always appreciate any help we can get to look after those who are precious to us!

Conference Facilities



Conference Facilities

We offer air-conditioned and well equipped conference facilities for business functions, special events, team building and meetings.

- Seats ± 65 delegates
- Bathroom Facilities
- Available Parking
- Projector with Projector Screen
- Tables and Chairs
- Tea & Coffee Facilities, ect.

Goodwill Coffee Shop



Goodwill Coffee Shop

One of the exciting new ways to generate an income is the opening of our Goodwill Store where the public can donate items and everybody can buy a bargain.

We firmly believe that the best way to survive is to invest in sustainable projects like this.

Please come and visit us and enjoy a good cup of coffee!

Our Sponsors

A big thank you!

We want to thank the following sponsors for their generosity and support this month. You surely make a difference in the lives of those with disabilities!



Please **support** us

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Branch Code: 63-2005
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