

COOKING FOR CHARITY – REAL PEOPLE MAKING A REAL DIFFERENCE



Thys Hattingh needs no introduction to most of us, being one of the Top 8 finalists of this year's Masterchef SA. How proud we are of this home-grown Rustenburger, not only because of his achievement, but also because he's proving himself to be a citizen with his heart in the right place. Four years ago, Thys and his wife Andrea were blessed with a beautiful baby girl, Lexus Milla. Their joy was soon turned into fear though, when they learned that their darling baby suffered from Cerebral Palsy. Not knowing what to expect, or how to approach this, they struggled through this feeling lost, alone and unsure. Through research, adaption and patience, they soon came to terms with Lexus' illness, and are proud parents today of a well-adjusted and cared for toddler.



Top: Thys Hattingh, MasterChef SA Finalist and founder of the Lexus Milla fund for Children with Cerebral Palsy.

Bottom: Lexus Milla, with big brother Rugo.

A couple of weeks ago, Thys approached the GRCF. He realised that with his new-found celebrity status, he can raise awareness for other parents in their situation, and facilitate opportunities for children with similar disabilities. The Hattingh family will be setting up a fund with the GRCF, in Lexus Milla's name, that will benefit children with Cerebral Palsy, and create opportunities for parents of such children to get together, support each other and learn from each other. A Fundraiser is in the making, and will take place at the Waterfall Mall on 8 September 2012. Thys will be cooking up a storm together with this year's Masterchef winner, Deena Naidoo, and proceeds will go to the newly established Lexus Milla Fund for Children with Cerebral Palsy. Keep an eye on the Rustenburg Herald for more details, and how you can get a chance to cook with your favourite MasterChef. Members of the public are also welcome to contact Christine at our office to pledge donations to this fund. We are humbled and grateful to be part of such a heartwarming initiative.

GROWING CROPS IN URBAN INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS



We've recently had the wonderful opportunity, kindly sponsored by the Capital Heart Foundation in the Western Cape, to visit projects where small-scale farmers are assisted in growing, harvesting and selling their small-scale crop to their informal urban communities. A fantastic initiative that ensures that revenue is retained within communities, and also to ensure that rural communities have access to fresh organic produce, at affordable prices. On the picture left, is Mama Rosie, a small-scale farmer from Phillipi, standing proud amongst her crops, an oasis in this urban informal settlement. For more information on this initiative, please visit www.heartcapital.co.za Thank you to Jonathan Henning and your organisation for this great learning opportunity.



A huge thank you to all the schools in the Bojanala district who've shown their interest in the 2012/2013 Barbara Petchenik Children's Map literacy competition. All together 12 schools from our area, as well as 4 schools in the Skuinsdrift/Koffiekraal area has entered this competition, and we have just received our consignment stationary and paint that will be going to the schools, a generous donation from UNISA's Department of Geography. On the photo is Alma and Bonolo from our office, putting together packages that will be going to the schools.

NEW UPDATES FROM THE BATSA PROJECT IN SKUINSDRIFT

A group of boys between 12 and 16 years attended a 'Dream Camp' at Mukhajadi Leadership Institute from 15 to 17 June. The aim of these workshops is to help the boys form a vision for life and to see each step of their life journey as vital for reaching their dream. They dig into topics like planning and working towards their dream and to make the best choices in any challenge of life. There was also time for lots of fun learning experiences, and the boys participated with enthusiasm. This workshop forms part of the holistic community upliftment project that BATSA has partnered with the GRCF on earlier this year.



Another further development with the emerging farmers from the Skuinsdrift and Groot Marico area, is that the leaders of the emerging farmer project attended an advanced Leadership Workshop, also with Mukhajadi Leadership Institute. Leadership training is only additional to all the experience the upcoming farmers have of tobacco and vegetable farming. It will sharpen their skills for taking the lead in their communities so that they can take complete ownership of their destiny and contribute to the wellbeing of their people. They experienced the training as very practical and have learnt much about problem solving, perseverance, making the best choice and the art of leadership through service. Once again a big thank you to BATSA, for their continued support of this community.



All training done by the Mukhajadi Leadership Institute is done in partnership with certified facilitators from the Southern-Cross Missions.

REMINDER: UNISA SHORT LEARNING PROGRAMMES INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE

We proudly announced at the beginning of June, the launch of three new short learning programmes that will be open for registrations from December 2012. We have received an overwhelming response to this, and would like to remind all interested parties that the official press release is available on our website, and a full information document is available for download from UNISA's website (<http://www.unisa.ac.za/Default.asp?Cmd=ViewContent&ContentID=22450>). These short learning programmes will be available as online tutorials and are accredited by the University of South-Africa on the South African National Qualification Framework level 5. UNISA's programmes are also internationally recognised. These programmes were formulated after extensive research and involvement over the past five years, especially into South-African initiated and lead methodologies. As an internationally accredited University, Unisa is pioneering new avenues of learning, being true to their vision "Towards the African University, in service of humanity". We will be sure to keep sending updates on the registration process, and we cannot wait to welcome our first students.

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