



Orphan Care Foundation  
P.O.Box 837  
Constantia  
7848

Email: [martin@orphancarefoundation.com](mailto:martin@orphancarefoundation.com)  
[www.OrphanCareFoundation.com](http://www.OrphanCareFoundation.com)  
Twitter: [www.twitter.com/OrphanCare](http://www.twitter.com/OrphanCare)

## ORPHAN CARE FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER – AUGUST 2009

Dear Sponsors, supporters and friends

We are so blessed with God's provision in our child-focused ministry. Every month I receive confirmation that Our Father has compassion for orphaned and vulnerable children.

### ***James 1:19-27 (New Living Translation)***

*Pure and genuine religion in the sight of God the Father means caring for orphans and widows in their distress and refusing to let the world corrupt you.*

A long journey begins with one small step. We give praise for the small contribution we could make, with your help, in a tough world. Each month there is a bit of progress towards making a difference in the future of unfortunate children. We continue to work towards a sustainable solution for the children in Westlake.



Highlights of August 2009:

- Our child support group/kids club on Fridays has grown to 69 attendees in the past four weeks. These are children between the ages of 5 – 12 years; including

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orphaned and vulnerable children as well as HIV infected and affected children. All received a sandwich and cool drink at the end of each session.

- 60 Children made a commitment to Christ - a truly awesome and humbling experience.
- Hillsong Church Cape Town is now sponsoring a bus to transport the Westlake children to attend a weekly youth church service. One 60 seater bus is already filled to capacity each Sunday morning.
- One of our supporters provided tickets for some boys to a rugby game at Newlands Rugby Stadium. This was super fun for us all and the boys enjoyed seeing their heroes up close in one of the best possible seating areas you can wish for. At times I was not sure which they enjoyed most, the ice-cream and treats or the rugby.
- The Cape Argus did a news article about the Orphan Care Foundation – see attached.

I want to share in brief a bit more about the process we are putting into place to make contact with and minister to the 60-odd children identified as orphaned, vulnerable, HIV infected or affected. We have learnt in the past few months that the practical situation sometimes differs from expectations or theory. In order to positively impact the identified children through a sustainable program without stigmatizing them we have decided to offer a community program to all children between 5 and 12. This approach will build relationships, and allow us to follow up with more focused attention and care where necessary. The program will not be labeled a “*support group*”, but rather “*kids club*”. This will avoid any stigma or tension in the community by opening attendance to all kids.

We also learnt that to do this work as volunteers for God we must be educated about the certain sensitivities. HIV-affected and orphaned children are a very sensitive subject, which needs to be handled with respect and responsibility in the community and when we communicate with outsiders about the children. All volunteers need to be aware of this sensitivity, and act accordingly when joining us in the community.



Giving the group sizes and growth rate we realized that it will require more resources in future. We need volunteers to help prepare hot-dogs as well as helping out with fun activities on a Friday afternoon.

I want to call upon all those who have indicated that they want to be involved. Please send a reply email to this newsletter with the following information:

- Your first and last name.
- Will you be able to assist with the Kids club on a Friday afternoon between 14:00 and 16:00?
- How many Fridays in a month will you be able to assist?
- Do you have any specific skills or area of support you want us to take note of?
- We also need a group of volunteers to cover our work in prayer - to form a group of prayer warriors. This will be another way to support us - a powerful shield of protection and ongoing blessing upon our work. We will also inform you from time to time of specific areas of prayer we need for this ministry.

For those who were added to our mailing list during the past month, our history can be followed in newsletter archives at – [www.OrphanCareFoundation.com](http://www.OrphanCareFoundation.com)

*"We make a living by what we get; we make a life by what we give."*

*- Winston Churchill -*

