



Newsletter

April 2009

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SCHOOL, SUPPORTED LIVING AND WORKING FOR PEOPLE WITH COMPLEX NEEDS

News

Back to school

Ronnie Greenway, one of our residents, voiced his wish to further his education. He wanted to go back to school. So Ronnie was enrolled at the Enlighten Trust in Hermanus doing a course in English. He has attended a small English class since Sept 08. Ronnie loves it and is absolutely diligent about doing his home-work. Here is an example.



„We start to work at 8h00 every morning, from Monday to Friday and we finish work at 5pm. My job is to make sure that the herb-garden is neat and tidy and that everything is in good working order, such as our water-pipes. All the pathways between the beds must be clear of weeds. I must also make sure that the right stuff goes onto the compost heaps. Good compost makes good plants. I am also in charge of the tool shed and I look after the tools and keep them clean.

I and a few other guys work outside. The other people, who can't work there, strip herbs inside the workshop, where we also have a drying room upstairs, to dry the herbs. We mostly grow herbs and beautiful sunflowers, which we sell at the farm-stall and the farmer's market. The herb-garden is nice and we have good people working there. Our work-master, Hilda, is great to work with. I have learned such a lot about all the different herbs that we grow“.

Ronnie Greenway

Good-bye, Godfrey

Godfrey worked as assistant to the head of the vegetable garden team, Maxwell, for the last nine months and was well loved by everybody. We will all miss him and we say good-bye, thank you and hamba khale, our friend.

Dear Camphill People,

I would like to say thank you very much for everything which you did for me. I enjoyed being here, I was very happy. Now I decided to resign because of my family. I hope everybody understands this. It is not easy to stay away from your family. My child is crying for me very badly and her voice is ringing very bad to my head while I am in the taxi back to Hermanus. Also money is short to look after my family and to pay rent in Hermanus and Cape Town. My new baby was born last month and I must be with him. I will miss Camphill and I will keep visiting here because I will never forgotten in my life this place. Thank you very, very, very much by everything. I will miss a lot of things at Camphill. I am enjoying to work with residents and will miss them a lot.

Zoleni Godfrey Minenzina

Dear parents, friends, and families,

We had the pleasure of a visit from Elizabeth and Christoph Repell who, during their six months stay with us, so enriched the community with some delightful auditory and visual performances:

Puppets and Trombones

Puppet shows, staged by Elizabeth, a renowned puppeteer, provided the weekly religious lesson for Camphill School and kindergarten which covered the festivals of Christmas and Easter.

Christoph, a trained music-therapist and composer, gave the school children and some of the farm's residents individual musical therapy.

One of these, Edward Schutte, is an accomplished trombonist and jazz musician. Christoph identified the potential in Eddie and especially composed a piece of music for him and his „third leg“, his trombone. Eddie was a member of the Johannesburg Jazz Youth Orchestra and the Pretoria Boys High School Orchestra and performed as both a soloist and as a part of the ensemble.



It was Eddie's very special pleasure and privilege to be able to work once again with a professional musician.

Our Outreach programme is finally able to say we are reaching out to, and reaching, people in the Greater Hermanus area who suffer from some sort of disability but who don't have

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Ruth Borchardt †

Ruth Borchardt, was born on 14 March 1920 into a Jewish family in Germany. Her deafness was only discovered when she was eight years old, since she had taught herself to lip read perfectly. In passing by she would watch the young boys pulling the string of the church-bells and could still hear some of the tones. However one day, as she was passing the bell-ringers she said to her mother: "The church bells are not ringing anymore even though the boys are pulling".

At school her performance was not very good as she could only write down what she was able to see the teacher saying. Naturally her book were full of gaps. As a result she was punished and refused to go to school. Secretly Ruth went to the park and spent her school time chatting to the old men who sat there. On discovering her strange behaviour her father had her examined and her deafness was diagnosed. She was then home-schooled by a Eurythmist from a newly founded Waldorf School. He took Ruth to the Waldorf School and she loved it from the start. And it was she who decided that this would be her school. Her parents were obliged to follow her strong will and enrolled her officially at the school.



Dr Karl Koenig was the school's official medical doctor who examined all pupils yearly. He never forgot this stubborn and forceful young deaf girl, who had given him such a hard time when he first met her.

Under the Nazi regime the Waldorf School had to close down and Ruth's family fled to England. There, years later, she met Dr Karl Koenig again. He recognized in this temperamental, deaf young lady the same stubborn pupil, Ruth, whom he had tried to examine at the Waldorf School. She subsequently became a personal assistant to his wife, Tilla Koenig and always travelled with her. When Tilla joined Camphill West Coast in South Africa, Ruth accompanied her. However, their relationship became increasingly tense and Irma invited Ruth to come to Hermanus for a break. Ruth agreed to go for just seven weeks, and ended up by staying for more than 25 years.

She went with Irma to Camphill Rankomorane in Botswana and started a leather workshop there, returning to Hermanus in 1984. Ruth, a very artistic person, built the small cottage behind Old Farm House and once more established a leather workshop for the residents.

It was Ruth's determination to fundraise for the bells when the hall was built in 2001. Thanks to her we now have two bells. Ruth loved to watch the school-children pull the bell-strings on Sundays before the service, and surely remembered her pain as a child when she realized she could no longer hear.

Ruth died peacefully on 18 February 2009 at Camphill in the Old Farm House, where she had lived for more than 25 years.

the gift of a loving community around them. It has been a real challenge getting hold of people - and we certainly have not got hold of everyone we wish to contact. But it is a journey, and clearly a journey that will continue for many years to come.

There are different levels of operation of the Outreach programme - we are making contact with officials at Govt. level in different service departments, with NGOs who work in or touch on the disability sector, with carers of people with disabilities and with those people themselves. Julia Wolfson will be back here in mid May and as part of her wonderful work with Camphill she will be running a Transform and Empower workshop to which NGOs, officials and carers have been invited - people who deeply affect the lives of those with disabilities, and who often are the ones writing programmes for people with disability.

Then, very excitingly, a group of 13 brave people at Camphill have stepped forward and applied to join a Leadership Training which will also be run by Julia in the next few weeks. So, stirring times and much to be done.

Amati Conradie

Bank Details:

First National Bank Hermanus Branch
Branch/Sort Code 200412

Account Name: **Camphill Farm**
Community Hermanus

Account No.: 52470701065

Account name: **Camphill School**

Account No. 62113713467

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