



Newsletter

July 2008

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SCHOOL, HOME, PROTECTIVE WORKSHOPS & FARM FOR PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

News

...to respect the essence of the person...

The three Camp Hill Communities in South Africa once again had the privilege of a visit from Julia Wolfson (www.turnforward.org). This time she gave a workshop on her course "Transforming Ourselves, Empowering Each Other" using "Positive Approaches" for all our co-workers who hadn't had a chance to attend her courses on previous visits. Her approach is in essence a worldview, in which all individuals are treated with dignity and respect, in which all are entitled to "Everyday Lives", to live in a manner that best suits their needs. Please read what participants said:

Sylvia: I want to take the love that I found in myself during this workshop back to Cinnabar House and share it with the residents. I loved the opportunity to talk openly without any fear of causing hurt. I feel empowered to help residents themselves to



Jomo and Fuzile with Julia and co-facilitator Frank

essence of the person with whom I am interacting.

Jomo: It opened my mind and I now know what to change in myself to work with more empathy with my group of residents on the farm. I can also apply it to my private and family life.

Rumbi (class 8 teacher): I feel fully empowered and want to implement this concept immediately. I realize now, how vital it is to teach my students how to make decisions. I also realize that in future I must give them more choice within the subjects and about the subjects that I teach.



Fezeka and Nkomo

Jane: It encouraged me to care for and respect disabled people and to clarify those things that I want to do and those that I don't. It gave me more confidence in myself and I realized I must be gentle not forceful. I would have liked more explanations on overcoming barriers and how to engender feelings of comfort, safety and trust.

Deonita: I want to learn more and more and more about this concept! How to listen more attentively to what people are saying, and how to remove barriers so that our people can develop to their fullest extent.

Yusuf: A door has been opened that previously was only ajar. I have gained a voice, the right to speak up. I can apply what I learned immediately and remove prejudices, stereotypes and common barriers.

move ahead towards new solutions. Julia was sent by God and she opened my eyes.

Fuzile: I learned how to handle people with disabilities and how to care for and communicate with them. Most importantly how to respect the

Fezeka and Nkomo (class 1 teacher and assistant): It was fun! We would love this concept to be developed in future courses. We work with disabled children and we will adopt it in our caring and teaching of the children. It offers new ways of communication with disabled children with whom we previously could not connect.



Yusuf

Dear parents, friends, and families,

Everybody who visits our community in the Hemel en Aarde Valley marvels at the sheer beauty of our place and is fascinated by the 'special' atmosphere here. We ourselves enjoy it every single day. However, we also experience the downside: "Maintenance of Paradise"

We have inherited history and with it an infrastructure that does not serve our needs today. We have no choice but to maintain it, the costs of which are exorbitant.

We are constantly plagued by the maintenance of old, unnecessarily large buildings with recurring problems like leaking roofs, burst geysers and pipes and electrical overloads.

It will be our focus to address these internal weaknesses and create a solid base before we embark on our projected outreach programs.

On another note, we find ourselves unfortunately suffering from a lack of support from the families of our school-children and residents, that we enjoyed in the past. Previously parents and families were an integral part of our community. Somehow this got lost in the passage of time.

The possible causes may lie in the combination of the political shift in South Africa, a world-wide trend towards consumerism and our inability to more carefully foster relationships with parents and families.

So what do we need to do to get a greater participation from the families? We specifically require an active fundraising thrust and suggestions on a new face for our annual Country Fair, the organization of which originally was initiated by the parent body.

Interested parties please contact: siegfriedg@camphill-hermanus.org.za leli.hoch@camphill-hermanus.org.za

Anton Le Roux †

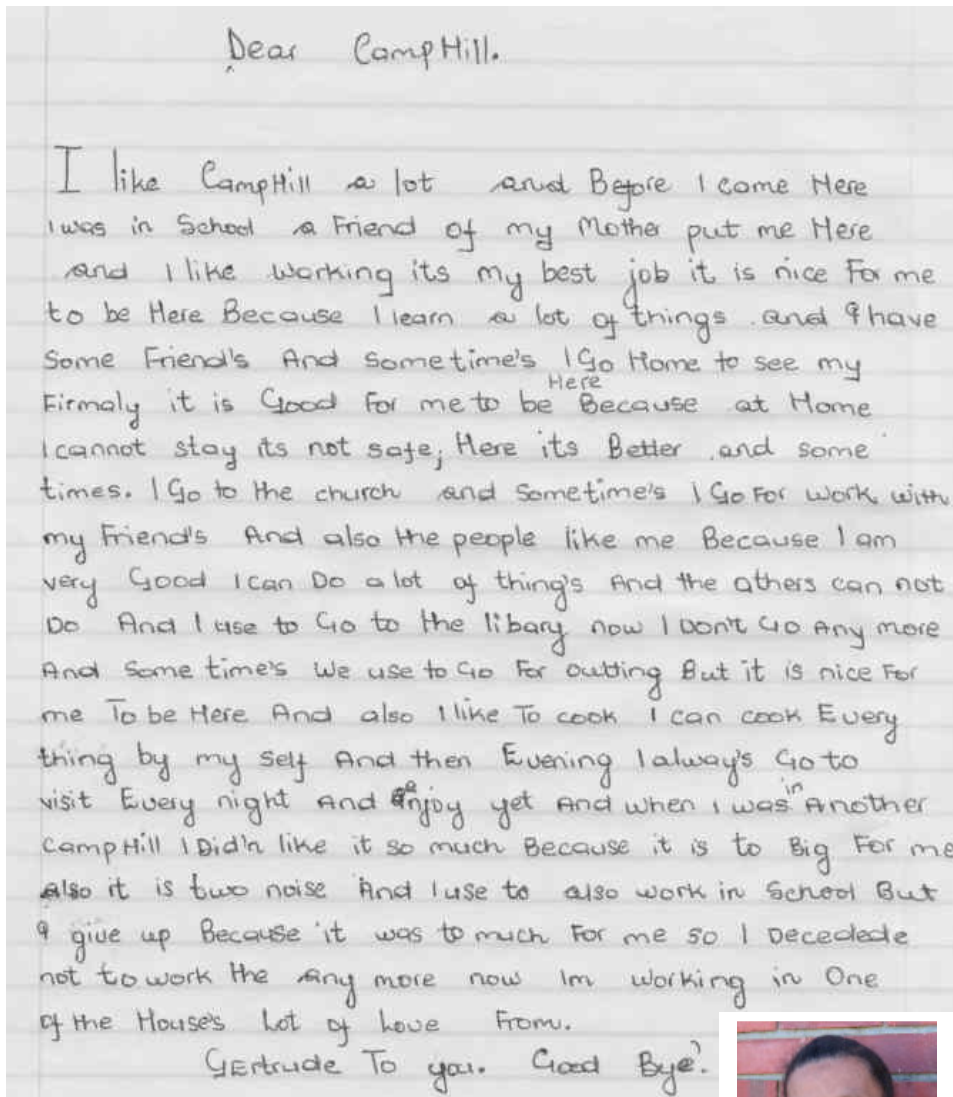


Anton came to Camphill four years ago after having had a stroke. He did his trial visit in Melissa House where I was house-leader. I remember our first meeting well, it turned out that Anton had been at the same school as my brother. We soon established that we had many things in common, having been youngsters in Cape Town all those years ago. When he could still work regularly he helped in the bakery. He moved into Labora House with us and immediately settled well. Patiently he undertook the transformation of a small piece of ground outside his room into a garden, shifting bit by bit half a ton of top-soil. He planted a lawn from little cuttings

of grass, propagated lots of plants from cuttings and erected his own bird-feeder, which gave him endless pleasure. For many of the residents Anton was almost a father figure and I was often touched at how patient and sweet he could be with our residents. Anton helped me a lot, he cooked now and then and fixed many things in the house.

Anton celebrated his 52nd birthday on May 17. We had a wonderful outing to the beach and went to have pizza afterwards. Back home everybody was tired and happy. Anton made himself a cup of tea, went to bed and died peacefully.

Amelia Stodel



Gertrud wrote this wonderful letter as a contribution to the newsletter and said she would love to write more. Well done Gertrud, we are looking forward to your next article!



Irma Roehling recently celebrated her 85th birthday with us at Camphill Farm Community. She spent much of her adult life at Camphill Communities throughout the world. Her desire to live and work in Africa was germinated in her childhood. However, the Second World War disrupted her plans. In Scotland she underwent her Curative Education Training with Dr Karl Koenig and worked at Camphills in England and Scotland before leaving for the USA in 1959 to start Camphill Beaver Run. Her wish of working in Africa never left her and she was able to join Camphill School Hermanus in 1967. She worked both as a teacher and as a house-mother until 1982, when she went to Camphill School Rankoromane in Botswana as a teacher. She joined the Camphill Farm Community in 1984, and became house-leader in the Old Farm House. Eventually it became Camphill's 'guest-house', where a steady flow of guests and friends from all over the world enjoyed Irma's and Ruth's hospitality. Irma's strength lies in her openness, her easy connection with people and her interest in them. She was a wonderful ambassador of Camphill. She and George Louw established the beautiful gardens surrounding our houses. **Thank you Irma!**

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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