

A Time for Giving

Hi to all, as I sit and reflect back on the past year and the major achievements of V.I.P Support Systems and its associated members who have achieved a 97% success rate in all tasks undertaken by ourselves, whether it was a matrimonial case , armed robbery investigation/murder investigation or V.I.P Protection for various dignitaries.

The arrest and conviction of a number of very serious and violent criminals as well as the recovery of a large amount of firearms and other counter band such as drugs, embossing machines, etc etc leads me to conclude that we with the assistance of the South African Police have made very large dents and in roads into major International criminal syndicates operating within South Africa.

I need not to go into too much detail about some of the dangerous circumstances many of you faced over the last year as you are well aware of the circumstances, if one takes into consideration the many fatalities within our Brave South African Police Force over the last year, one can honestly say that God was on our side and that his Angels were working overtime to keep us all safe, no injuries or fatalities recorded in any of our operations. Our condolences and prayers go out to all those brave police officers who fell in the line of duty, some were friends some mere acquaintances others totally unknown to us, the one thing we can truly say about all these brave officers is that they paid the highest price in the service of their country and its citizens, let them forever be in your prayers and thoughts (lest we forget them)

We have upheld our battle creed of ***“Do not build a reputation that you cannot live up to, or one day might have to run away from”*** in all aspects except one **CHARITY (GUILD COTTAGE)**



As you are all well aware, that for a number of years, Guild Cottage its children and staff were one of our main priorities. With us building bikes for donations, supplying support systems for Guild Cottage and being actively involved in assisting them when ever they needed help.

The first bike built and donated to Guild Cottage



Some where along the line we dropped them by the wayside, either we were too busy, too tired or maybe just too lazy, what ever the case it should never have happened. In many ways Guild Cottage its children and staff brought a lot of kindness and happiness into our harsh and sometimes hard lives. This newsletter is to remind you of who Guild Cottage is and what they stand for and the big difference they make in children's lives on a daily basis.

Short History

Guild Cottage was started in 1907 as a home for orphans and children in distress. Since that time it has a long record of looking after children in need mainly by supplying long-term residential care. Since the early 1980's Guild Cottage has developed into a treatment centre for sexually abused and traumatised children. Over the past decade Guild Cottage has also developed a Community Outreach Program with the objective of enlightening the community of the horrors and consequences of sexual abuse and thereby keep children safe and out of the welfare system.

Objectives of the Home

- To treat abused and traumatised children and their families with the view of reunification.
- To support these families through a transition period.
- To provide education to community members to help them recognise and prevent abuse.
- To teach cascade of learning principles to get maximum coverage from the teaching.

Work In The Home

Guild Cottage employs a team of highly skilled and experienced professional people to assist the



children in our care to work through their trauma and thereby grow into a happy, healthy and fulfilling adulthood by way of treatment programmes that have three main objectives:

To assist children to work through the impact of abuse, to facilitate emotional growth and to help develop appropriate coping skills to cope with the trauma.

Environmental counselling through which the child is taught independence, a sense of responsibility and appropriate behaviour and social skills.

Family counselling, which is work done with the family of the child in their homes to ensure that the child, once treated, returns to a safe family environment. Guild Cottage continues to give support and counselling to the family once the child returns home.

Should you wish to know more about the impact of abuse on a child please go to the page on the "Impact of Abuse"

Community Outreach

Child abuse in the poorer communities and the informal settlements is endemic. There are, conservatively, four million sexually abused children in South Africa. This translates to one in three girls and one in five boys abused before the age of sixteen. It was decided that with our expertise and experience we would be irresponsible if we did not attempt to tackle the problem at a grass roots level.



With this goal in mind we have developed a community awareness programme, using Cascade of Learning principles, to reach as many as possible. The programme is offered free-of-charge to participants from various organisations, such as early childhood education, foster parent groups, children's homes, schools and churches. They are taught how to identify abuse, how to prevent it, resources for victims as well as appropriate parenting skills. We have also worked with Family Violence Centres teaching trauma debriefing and counselling to the volunteer helpers. We reached about 3000 people directly last year and estimate having reached a further 15.000 people indirectly.

In response to a request to provide abuse education to children and teachers from the Adelaide Tambo School for the Disabled in Soweto, our survey found that many of the children were extremely traumatized. Guild Cottage now has a full-time social worker stationed at the school. The principal and board members have acclaimed the work we do in the extended school community. We work with children individually and in groups. We run family support and education workshops as well as intervening in parent-child conflicts. The children feel listened to and cases of sexual abuse have been disclosed for the first time.

Impact of Child Abuse

The long-term impact of untreated child sexual abuse is immense. Abuse sets in motion a pattern that most sufferers, without treatment, cannot break.

Children that are sexually abused are likely to underachieve at school, drop out early and never reach their potential. As young adults they are likely to suffer immense frustration being in jobs that are below their ability. For this reason it is likely they will change jobs frequently, thus experiencing no advancement or security of tenure. They often have multiple failed relationships, may have children when they are just teenagers and may end up in abusive marriages.



The perpetual situation takes a toll on the individual's mental health, thus depression is common and in many cases may result in suicide. Substance abuse is often a way to attempt to cope with the trauma. There may be more psychosomatic illnesses, poor self-image, poor self-esteem, low levels of trust and poorly controlled rage. Recent research indicates a strong correlation between early severe abuse and Dissociative Identity Disorder and dissociation. These outcomes, considering the very high incidence of child sexual abuse in this country, do not auger well for our future if left untreated and unaddressed.

Funding and Donations

Funding Needs

For the continuation of its work Guild Cottage is largely reliant on the generosity of the corporate sector, organisations and private individuals. The State supplies approximately 25% of our funding requirements. Having said that, we are fortunate to receive the support of the National Lottery. Notwithstanding the generosity of the mentioned organisation we generally have to raise about 50% of our funding needs from the corporate sector, organisations and private individuals.

Donations

Guild Cottage is a registered Public Benefit Organisation under section 18 A of the Income Tax Act thereby making all donations to the Home tax-deductible, and is BEE certified as over 95% of our beneficiaries come from previously disadvantaged communities.

Should you wish to make a donation our banking details are as follows:



Guild Cottage
Standard Bank of SA
Parktown Branch No. 000.355
Account No. 401938999
Swift Code. SBZAJJ.



Should you be making a donation from beyond the borders of South Africa your bank will require the SWIFT code.

When making a donation please ensure that we receive your complete postal details to enable us to acknowledge your donation appropriately.

Contact

Telephone +(27) 11 726 2102

Facsimile +(27) 11 726 1268

Physical Address:

Guild Road
Parktown West
Johannesburg

Postal Address:

P O Box 31692
Braamfontein
2017

E-mail address:

guildcot@mweb.co.za

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It took a total stranger who I have never met and never spoken to, to remind me of my social obligation and commitment that I had made to Guild Cottage so many years ago and for what ever reasons did not live up to. I am both ashamed and embarrassed for not living up to this obligation and commitment and it has definitely been my loss.

Russel Crick the owner of Bambanani Family restaurant situated at number 85 4th ave Melville, Johannesburg happen to be on our website and saw the lovely testimonial given to us by GUILD COTTAGE many years ago, Mr Crick contacted an associate of ours and has offered to throw a Christmas party for the children and staff of GUILD COTTAGE. A big THANK YOU Mr Crick for reminding me of who I really am and not what I have become, and the true happiness that comes with giving.

We all have this vast network of business associates and clients that we communicate with on a daily basis, we are quick to share jokes with them, discuss business and on a regular basis socialise and attend functions with them.

The question I asked myself many times today and that you need to ask yourself, when last did I do anything for Guild Cottage???, when last did I mention their name to a colleague, friend a business associate???, all who could and would of made a difference in these kids lives, the answer my friends is disgusting and in-excusable, I have been so busy taking I had forgotten how to give.

This I rectify today and pledge my commitment to Guild Cottage, I have one request from you all and that is to pass this letter on to everybody you know, for you never know what difference they may make in these kids lives. **"DON'T BE TOO BUSY, TOO TIRED OR TOO LAZY "** for you may experience the same empty feeling I did, when I was taking and not giving.

As this will be our last newsletter for the year I will take the opportunity of wishing you and your loved ones a safe and happy festive season.

Kind regards,

K.L.Green

Director – V.I.P Support Systems