

Yearly News

2012



A group photograph of our residents as well as most of the parents and care givers

Dear friends and supporters!

Unbelievable but true, the year 2012 is already at its end- did it pass by you as fast as it did by us?

You know that, besides the care-giving, our most important fields of work are the income generating workshops, such as the organic farming and gardening. As this is no news to you, I will, in this report, only tell you what's really new, and thereby keep it nice and short and interesting.

1. Visit from the MAIL AND GUARDIAN newspaper

In a surprise phone call Mia, from the Mail and Guardian, a respectable national newspaper based in Johannesburg, which is also read by policy makers and politicians, made contact with Ikhaya Loxolo.

The intention being a visit to Ikhaya Loxolo in order to be able to write about health issues in the rural areas in South Africa, this time specifically mental health issues.

Arrangements were made and two journalists, Mia from the mail and guardian and Darren, from voice of America radio broadcast, came to stay over the weekend. All parents as well as the headman of our village had been invited for a braai and interviews, photo shoots and just a general getting/chatting together. The journalists were not only interested in Ikhaya Loxolo's opinion and experiences with people with special needs, but also in the individual stories of each resident, the care-giver's, headman's and a traditional healer's point of views.

Alex, Patrick (headman) and Charity, the mother of psychotic resident at Ikhaya Loxolo Sisa, did a lot of translation work, as no other parent, care-giver, resident or the traditional healer speak any English.

So, over the weekend 14 people altogether were interviewed- which is quite exhausting for interviewers as well as translators!

But it was also a lot of fun and everyone at Ikhaya Loxolo was very excited to get this kind of attention, each individual as well as the project as a whole.

We are hoping that through the upcoming articles in the Mail and Guardian (possibly only next year), awareness towards this issue, its absence of sufficient care provisions for these people with special needs in rural areas, the lack of financial support from the government towards Ikhaya Loxolo, the abuse of the Grant money as well as maltreatment of

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people with special needs in general (abuse-sexual or other- neglect, etc) will be raised.



Residents are taking the chance to show their parent's/grand-parents what they've learnt and what they do at Ikhaya Loxolo



Zihle's mother and father are being interviewed, Sisa's mum helps with the translation

2. The hammer mill

As a request by the community and to generate own income, Ikhaya Loxolo took up the plan of purchasing a hammer mill. Please remember, the only traditionally grown staple crop is maize- people drink it, eat it, make beer from it, feed it to the animals etc- **MAIZE** is THE CROP which is locally grown and used for every- and anything. Maize growing season is once a year, in spring/summer, and

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the local people dry and store their millies thereafter. For most meals and drinks, the millies have to be ground to either flower or more coarse called 'umgubo', depending on the exact meal it's going to become. Grinding the millies is traditionally done by hand, with 2 big stones; easier and less time consuming, though, is to have it ground mechanically.

There were no such means available in Hobeni or surrounding villages, which is why Ikhaya Loxolo and its community feel so lucky to have been able to raise the necessary funds and acquire the diesel powered hammer mill.

Milling the people's millies was started in October, and ever since, this machine never stood still again!



Community members get their dried millies ground into maize meal

3. New products for sale

Besides the vegetables, Ikhaya Loxolo has cultivated so many more crops and trees. Some of these are lemon trees; others are herbs, chillies, herbal teas and lots more.

Looking at the variety and volume of these crops, we just had to come up with this: lemon, herb and/or chilli salts.



We've got a variety of 6 different ones: plain lemon (zest), lemon and herb, lemon-herb-chilli, lemon and chilli, lemon and oriental herbs and a salad enhancer. The individual mixtures are put into grinder bottles, but for Christmas we made some with re-fill packs as well.



All ingredients are organically grown by Ikhaya Loxolo, and this time even the salt is natural, sun dried and hand-harvested (KhoiSan). Alex produces these salts together with some of the residents-it is quite time and work consuming (harvesting and drying the herbs), in this picture with Lungiswa. So far it has been selling well (in East London and Bulungula Lodge) and even people from Durban enquire where in Durban they may be able to purchase these salts...nowhere of course....

4. The new free-time activity- thanks to the Kinder(t)raeume e.V. in Germany:



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The trampoline or, in local slang, 'the jumpoliiiine'



5. Volunteer's comment (unedited):

"The workers start at 8-17 o'clock, my work is feed chicken, rabbits and geese. Give water and possibly food to the pig, then check temperatures of goat and cow before let outside. Check and clean animal water buckets, fill them with fresh water and sometimes feed Susi and Rudi and piglets something green from the garden- weeds or cabbage leaves. Then again feed the geese millies and garden green and give extra care where needed.

Ikhaya Loxolo is the project that combines people who are disabled, its where they get care, love and other things. Ikhaya Loxolo is located in village of Eastern Cape in small town called Elliotdale. In the poor village of Hobeni where there are many disabled people who are unable to do work on their own. These people get care, love and their dignity is respected. There are people who are responsible to look after the disabled ones . Those who are disabled get information from care givers teach them how to do a domestic work and teach them how to write. Some of them they know now how to write because of the teaching that they get from Ikhaya Loxolo.

All of them they can do things of their own and they know how to interact with other people. They get time to play so that their minds will be broad Thank you Ikhaya Loxolo!

My name is Thembinkosi Ngundle. And me I work in holidays and weekends and Ikhaya Loxolo's job is supported me to continue my education and next year I am doing grade nine so Ikhaya Loxolo is good for me."

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(I myself was very impressed with this report: the 19-year old boy who wrote it has never shown his knowledge of the English language before. Also, I had never ever talked to him about the deeper reasons for this project or disabled people or why Ikhaya Loxolo is doing what, because Thembinkosi is 'just' employed for the odd jobs.... So his words are very pure and I love him for understanding, without being told about it- the importance of caring for people with special needs. Alex)



Mapantsula, it's what we call him at Ikhaya Loxolo, is the tallest member of the Ikhaya Loxolo family- here with the tallest maize to be found in the whole village

6. Thanks a million

A) to our supporters, well wishers and partners:

- Families Guenther and Drechsler
- Family Chandler and their guesthouse
- All parents of Ikhaya Loxolo's residents
- the rehab team in Madwaleni hospital, specifically Emily and Fiona
- Bulungula Lodge and Incubator
- Moira Short (SADDT)
- Sharron Oosthuizen
- Frans van Aardt
- Lavender Blue (buying and selling our veg and salts)
- Amalinda nursery Café (buying and selling our salts)
- And all the ones I have forgotten or was unable to mention for space reasons

B) to our 2012 donors and sponsors:

- The Rotary Club Mthatha
- Solheimar Community in Island
- DG Murray Trust
- Kinder(t)raeume e.V.
- BMR with Lars Kitzienger
- Ikhaya Loxolo Entwicklungshilfe e.V. and all involved
- Mahle-Stiftung
- AJ Corbett and TCN
- All the small donors who are impossible to list here- thank you so much, all Smalls make one Big!

C) to our French volunteers:

Antoine and Adrienne- for all you have done=hands on work, playing with the kids, cheering up everyone through your sunny nature. We all miss you terribly!

Dear readers, thank you so much for taking the time to read this and support Ikhaya Loxolo! We need you and wish you a very happy and restful festive season!

*Yours,
Alexandra Guenther with Ikhaya Loxolo*

(P.S. Please not the change of our web and e-mail addresses www.ikhaya-loxolo.org and contact@ikhaya-loxolo.org)