

# Donkerhoek Home for the Needy



Aiden Robertson and fellow Rotarians visited the Home For the Needy in Donkerhoek in the east of Pretoria on Saturday, 6 December. They were invited by the coordinator of the Home for the Needy, Balthys Ngobeni, to attend the Aids Awareness Campaign in recognition of the World Aids Day on 1 December.

Lethabong non-profit organisation looks after more than 40 disadvantaged children in the area. It was deemed important to give moral support to the community because there are about eight orphans as a result of HIV/AIDS as well as a high volume of teenage pregnancy in the area. Lethabong's general manager, Balthys Ngobeni, said there was a high rate of school dropouts as a result of teenage pregnancy.

Due to the high level of HIV/Aids at Plot 3 and 4 in Donkerhoek, Balthys and his helpers organized the HIV/Aids Awareness Campaign. The local clinic did HIV Testing on the day. Residents were taught, among other things, how to protect themselves from contracting the disease and were encouraged to get tested. Many young people attended the event held at an open space near Lethabong centre.



Robin, Aiden, Balthys, Anastasia and Mariana with some of the helpers and beneficiaries of Home for the Needy



Some of the beneficiaries in front of the Zozo hut and water tank that now provide storage place for food and water

Lethabong depends on sponsorships. They supply meals to disadvantaged children in the afternoons after school. Most of these children live within extended families. The organisation looks after orphans, vulnerable and neglected children.

The event also doubled up as the official hand-over by the RCPE of the two room Zozo hut and a stand for the Jojo water tank which was erected on the premises. Rotarians joined in the festivities and also used the opportunity to hand over their supply of TOMS shoes for the children that morning.



They went to a lot of trouble to make the day special for the Rotarians. The children acted out a drama, read a poem about AIDS, and sang for those in attendance.



TOMS shoes were also distributed to the children of Donkerhoek