

Greetings from South Africa

Lisa Poll Newsletter #2

June 1, 2010

Two Months Already?

Say it isn't so! In just a few days I will have been here for two months. I feel like I just arrived. I have so much to learn still and so much that I want to do for the orphan programs, and now only ten months left...

I have posted lots of awesome photos of the orphans in our orphan centers on Facebook in my photos in the album titled "My Day Today".

My newsletter this month focuses on the feeding program that AFnetAid runs in Shoshanguve. In our orphan day care centers, orphans get a meal before and after school. But when school is not in session, the children typically don't show up. When AfnetAid discovered there were a great number of orphans who would not get food on weekends and holidays, they started a feeding program. Once a month, orphan families get a package of food to tide them over during those times. For US\$7, this is what goes home with each child:



Each month AFnetAid delivers 38 food packages to Tsakelani Orphan Day Care Center to provide extra food to orphan families.



Additionally, AFnetAid partners with local schools in areas of Shoshanguve that do not yet have an orphan center. Until the orphan centers that we have are fully supported by monthly sponsors, we cannot build more desperately needed centers. AFnetAid delivers food packages to two schools who distribute them to orphans in their community they have identified as most in need of extra help.

Above, students from Nchuncheko Primary School help us unload 78 packages for orphans at their school. Below, eager helpers unload at Kondelelani Junior Secondary School.





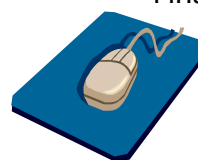
The Principal at Kondelelani explains that his school receives 110 packages but there are many more orphans than that. Because AFnetAid cannot afford to buy food packages for them all, he has targeted these 110 food packages to go to orphan families that are living in child headed households. A child headed household means these orphans have lost both parents to AIDS and there are no extended family members who have stepped up to care for them. A boy or girl as young as 12 may now be left with the responsibility to raise his or her little brothers and sisters.



When I did my first care package delivery to the schools, I was extremely sad to learn that AFnetAid had to cut the feeding program to one whole school. Last year, we were feeding orphans at three schools: Kondelelani, Nchuncheko, and St. Francis. With the hard economic times around the world, many of AFnetAid's sponsors were dropping out. With a large decrease in monthly financial support, difficult decisions had to be made. AFnetAid chose to honor the commitments made to the orphans that were taken into the orphan day care centers - how do you put a child back on the street after you have taken them in?! The heartbreaking decision was made to stop bringing care packages to St. Francis School. 115 child-headed orphan families are no longer getting a package of food each month.



Painted on the wall at Nchuncheko Primary. Finally, it is talked about!



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I have posted 8 blogs at www.MakuwaLisa.blogspot.com

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