

CAPRICORN PRIMARY SCHOOL, VRYGROND

6 April 2008.

Two years ago a local NGO, the Vrygrond Community Development Trust, set about raising R6 million to build a Foundation Phase Primary School in Vrygrond, a very poor area near Muizenberg. In June 2007 construction started and six months later the school was finished. It **opened in January 2008 and caters for 400 children in the first four grades** (Grade R through Grade 3).

The school is a very unusual partnership between the W Cape Education Dept which runs it as a State school, and a private NGO, the Trust. The State funding will support a basic school, but in order to make the school **a model in how to give an excellent education to some of the poorest children in this country**, the Trust needs to hire considerable extra educational and social support.

After only one term the school is attracting attention, both within the Dept of Education and from outside, as an important model in providing education to a community that is not only severely deprived, but which is also linguistically mixed, being half Xhosa and half 'Coloured'. We are finding educational solutions to classic South African issues.

GRADE 3 CLASS JAN 08



PLAYTIME IN COURTYARD.



STATE FUNDING: The state will provide:

- Furniture for the classrooms, desks, chairs, cupboards etc.
- 7 teachers plus the Principal, based on their normal ratio of pupils to teachers.
- A caretaker who will be living on site for security etc.
- One Administration Assistant.
- A per capita amount per pupil which will amount to approx R290,000 (£20,700/\$41,500) per annum. This money is used to pay for maintenance, telephones, office expenses etc. Since the land is owned by the Trust, the school pays no rent.



DONOR FUNDING:

These are the **items which the Dept of Education will not pay** for but which are critical to make the school a model of educational excellence, and not just another third rate state school in a poor area.

	RANDS PER MONTH <i>(£ sterling & US\$ equiv)</i>
TEACHERS: The WCED (W. Cape Education Dept) will pay for 7 teachers. We need 12 (one for each class of 30-35 pupils). So we need 5 more teachers at salary of R7,000 (£500/\$1000) per month each.	R35,000 <i>(£2,500)</i> <i>(\$5000)</i>
TEACHING ASSISTANTS: Having a Teaching Assistant in each class dramatically improves the pupil-teacher ratio and the time available to each pupil. In addition Vrygrond has two languages, - Afrikaans and Xhosa. Although the language of instruction is English, we want to arrange the teaching assistants so that each class has available an Afrikaans and Xhosa speaker, with English as the common language. The Assistants are typically Matriculants who have a passion for teaching. In some case qualified teachers have agreed to work as assistants just to be part of the school. We need 12 Assistants at R2,000 (£150/\$290) p month each	R24,000 <i>(£1750)</i> <i>(\$3430)</i>
REMEDIAL TEACHING: Identifying pupils who are below the educational benchmarks, - probably over 50% of the pupils, - and giving them intensive remedial learning support is a cornerstone of the school. We have hired two professional remedial teams, - Wordworks and Primary Science Project , - to run the remedial side of things, both with the teachers and the children. The cost is R180,000 pa for both teams (£13,000/\$25,700 pa)	R15,000 <i>(£1,100)</i> <i>(\$2,200)</i>
SOCIAL WORKER: There are many dysfunctional families in Vrygrond, drugs and child neglect are rife. Many of the children will have serious family problems at home, and the intervention of a Social Worker is critical.	R9,000 <i>(£650)</i> <i>(\$1300)</i>
TOTAL	R 83,000 <i>(£6,000)</i> <i>(\$12,000)</i>

We have funds of R350,000 (£23,000/\$50,000) as at early April 2008, which will cover the next 4 months of these costs. We urgently need to find funding for the rest of the year and we are exploring as many funding possibilities as we can.

THE VRYGROND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TRUST HISTORY

The Trust has 9 members of whom 8 are community leaders who live in Vrygrond. It is registered with SARS as a Public Benefit Organisation and has annual financial statements audited by Mazars Moores Rowland.

In the 11 years it has been in existence, the Trust has delivered major benefits to the people of Vrygrond. These include:

- Initiating and driving a re-housing process together with the local municipality. Govt subsidies of R27 million were raised and used to build **1,600 brick houses** that replaced the tin shacks with houses which had electricity, running water and toilets. At the time this was the largest delivery of sub-economic housing in the Cape Peninsula. The last houses were handed over in July 2002. For this the Trust was shortlisted for the **Presidents Masakhane Award** for outstanding NGO's.
- Raising the funds to build a **pre-school Educare centre** (Sunrise Educare) which gives 200 children early education, care and two meals a day.

- Funding a **Community Library** which in 2006 won an award from LIASA (Library & Information Association of SA) as **the best branch library in the W. Province.**
- Raising R6 million which was used to build a Primary School for 400 children which opened in January 2008.

The Trust does not charge for any of its own running costs and no Trustee receives a salary or fee. As a result 100% of donor funds is applied to the projects in Vrygrond; there are few other NGO's which can claim this level of financial efficiency.

If anyone would like to help support the new school which is making educational history in SA, by covering the salary of a teacher or assistant teacher, they can contact the Trust Chairman

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