



AMPNEWS



ADONIS MUSATI PROJECT

Providing humanitarian assistance to refugees
068633-NPO

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SEPTEMBER /OCTOBER NEWS

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UNDER 20'S BRIDGE PROGRAMME:

AMP volunteers visit the Culemborg Bridge area every Thursday, taking sandwiches, sleeping bags and fruit. The numbers continue to grow and especially the age group of under 20's. We are often coming across teenage boys there who have made the journey alone from Zimbabwe, Tanzania or DRC.

We currently have 15 young boys between the ages of 18 and 20 that we have put on our programme. As space and funds become available we collect these young men, put them into shelter, provide them with clothes, blankets, weekly food packs, counselling and training if necessary. We assist them in finding jobs and try to address issues of low self esteem and low self confidence. This is not an easy job as they are not only far, far away from their homeland but they

struggle with their identity and place in the world. As difficult a job as this is at AMP we feel these young men are at the threshold of their futures and we want to help them as much as we can to make wise choices and rebuild their lives.

As for the rest, now that the weather is getting warmer and drier, their lives under the bridge are a little easier, but it is very difficult for them to look for a job when they do not have access to basic things like running water to wash themselves. There was a leaking pipe from a nearby railways amenity block that they used to use, but this has been fixed by the council and we believe the closest water for them is at Cape Town railway station.

One of the most important jobs AMP has under the

bridge is getting information to newcomers. The Haven night shelters allow the homeless access to showers at their shelters before 11am. They also supply soup and bread outside their premises each evening between 5-6pm. We supply new refugees with as much helpful information as possible especially with regards to other NGOs and churches that offer help. We are also working closer with Social Services to find solutions.

Many of these men will spend from 6am to 6pm everyday standing "on the side of the road" in Strand street and other hotspots hoping to be picked up for labour and construction work. We appeal to all our supporters to assist us to find small jobs for these men so desperate to work and be able to send a little money back to their starving families.

"The first question which the priest and the Levite asked was: "If I stop to help this man, what will happen to me?" But... the good Samaritan reversed the question: "If I do not stop to help this man, what will happen to him?""



An individual has not started living until he can rise above the narrow confines of his individualistic concerns to the broader concerns of all humanity." Martin Luther King, Jr.

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MUSATI HOUSE:

On September 7th AMP opened our first safe house for vulnerable refugees. The home is in Sunnydale and currently accommodates 11 young Zimbabwean teenagers along with Anna & Nhamo, the houseparents and their little girl More Blessing. The boys have been involved in a number of programmes at the house including workshops on Mosaics, wire & bead craft, growing organic vegetables (which they have already begun doing) as well as English classes once a week. In addition some of the boys have joined a soccer team for teenage refugees and have just won their last match!

Many wonderful volunteers have shared their time and love with these young boys and it is wonderful to see the impact on both the boys' and the volunteers'

lives. We hope to enroll most of the boys in some kind of training as soon as their documentation is in order. The younger boys age 14 and 15 will hopefully begin school in January.

Thank you to all the amazing people who donated goods and time to the home, Jo Maxwell for the wonderful duvets and covers, Investec for the brand new bunk beds, Fiona Couchman for all the furniture (and hours of ongoing counseling and therapy for the boys) and Paula Wilson for the stove. To all the other kindhearted donors too numerous to mention –thank you from the bottom of our hearts. Through the generous sponsorship of one of our donors we will now be able to employ a social worker by November. This will assist us greatly in getting our home registered and running smoothly.

Therefore my challenge to each of you ... is that you ask yourself what you can do to make a difference. And then take that action, no matter how large or how small. For our children have a right to peace.
-- Graca Machel-Mandela



NPO LAUNCH:

AMP launched as an official NPO on 9 September with the premier screening of the outstanding film "A Better Life" produced for us by ex BBC producer, Anna Telford and sponsored by Richard Astor. The event was held at the Michaelis School of Art campus and made possible by many generous contributors. "Hearts and Tarts" and Solms- Delta provided excellent catering and we had a

fantastic turn out. Many stalwart supporters cheered us on from the background, and so we had a brilliant opportunity to meet and influence a good number of new friends!! The acapella group "D7" delighted the guests with a stunning performance, and our own refugee "heroes" were the celebrities of the evening. Paula Wilson of PW Media Consultants handled all the media coverage

with great gusto! Thank you to all who gave of their time and services at no cost, making for a successful evening raising awareness of the plight of refugees in Cape Town. "A Better Life" is now available on DVD as well as YouTube (see our website).

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INTERN INVITATION!

We bade a sad farewell to Emily in August as she carried our flag back to the USA, and we welcomed Tamalin – a South African student studying in the UK. Tamalin was with us for 2 months and was indispensable to AMP!! She worked hard and way beyond the call of duty, assisting in our

Salt River office and being a much-loved big sister to a number of young refugee boys that AMP has taken under our wing recently. We look forward to working with Matthew, Elizabeth and Lauren for a couple of weeks each in October and November. If there are any willing tertiary stu-

dents out there that would like to intern for us part-time during their Nov/Dec/January vac – we offer you an unparalleled experience. AMP will gain, the refugees will benefit and you will come away a different person!

THE LEAST OF THESE:

Sometimes you look at someone and their pain sears through your heart. You can feel the ache inside them for all they have lost, their home, their family, their identity. They long for the days when there was hope and freedom. Now they are captive in themselves in another man's land. Catherine, a young, terminally ill widow, arrived at our office hungry, 9 months pregnant, with her 2 year old daughter. She arrived in Cape Town some months

back with promises of work on the farms so she could send back money to her 4 young children in Zimbabwe. Her 14 year old is taking care of them while Catherine is here. Unable to work and pay rent as her illness takes its toll, her landlady kicked her out on the street and confiscated her belongings and documents.

She found her way to our office. She begged us to help her get to Messina where she is registered to give birth and where she

has some friends who can help her. In Cape Town she is alone and scared. We have given her clothes, food and empathy and put her and her little toddler on a train to Messina with a little money to keep her going for awhile. The gratitude and relief in her eyes said it all...

No-one should suffer alone and in silence and at times like this I remember why we started The Adonis Musati Project and why we must keep going.....

While every refugee's story is different and their anguish personal, they all share a common thread of uncommon courage – the courage not only to survive, but to persevere and rebuild their shattered lives.
~ Antonio Guterres, U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, 2005



We need help with the following in order to assist those refugees that are homeless to live with more dignity:

Men's shoes, Disposable razors, Soap

& toothpaste, Notebooks & pens,



Old cell phones

Training and /or jobs in construction or hospitality industry



If we don't stand up for children, then we don't stand for much.

-- Marian Wright Edelman

Salt River Office needs:

1. Men's shoes & clothes
2. Baby (especially newborn) and children's clothing /school uniforms
4. Soap & washing powder
5. Large strong carrier bags
6. Old sewing machines, knitting needles, fabric and wool
7. Old Cell phones (a little airtime added would be great)
8. Old 2 plate stoves or any small stoves (paraffin or gas)
9. Pots, crockery, cutlery, towels, buckets etc
10. Non-perishable foods
11. Nappies (toweling or huggies)
12. Old or new bibles (always requested by refugees)
13. Food packs & starter packs
14. Volunteers



Contact Barbara 8.30am –2.00pm at
021 448 3348

or adonismusatiproject@gmail.com

PROJECT BACKGROUND:

The Adonis Musati Project, named after a young Zimbabwean who died of starvation on the streets of Cape Town while waiting to get his asylum papers, was formed at the end of 2007 to ensure that no refugee died of starvation again in Cape Town.

Since its inception the Project has assisted thousands of refugees with food aid, shelter, training and counselling. All this has been made possible due to the fact that AMP is a community based project working closely with volunteers from all walks of life including scholars, students, teachers, business people and ordinary everyday people who have big hearts. AMP is run entirely by volunteers and all donations go to assisting refugees. Please see our list of "needs" if you would like to assist.

CONTACT US:

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WEBSITE: www.adonismusatiproject.org

www.adonismusatiproject.org is looking good!!

Many thanks to Andrew Flett who, with the help of expert young Mikhail, has thrown himself wholeheartedly into putting our website on the map! If you haven't been there recently, please take a look – you will find all our latest news and needs, as well as photographs, our film and a new 'info for refugees' tab that we'll be developing more soon.



Fundraising:

**If you have an idea or initiative for fundraising,
and are prepared to get involved**

Please contact Gayle at:

gayle@adonismusatiproject.org

BANK DETAILS

The Adonis Musati Project
Standard Bank, South Africa

Acc: 072548398

Branch: 02510901 (Claremont)

SWIFT CODE: SBZAJJ



Adonis Musati Project
"A BETTER LIFE FOR ALL"

