



# DAY OF CARING

## Volunteers work together to transform Lamontville preschool into a brighter, happier place

CARING companies came together in a united show of strength to once again successfully stage the Community Chest Day of Caring. Now in its 15th year, this year's caring event was held on Wednesday, March 6 and focused on one specific project – Mbalencane Ziphahleni Preschool in Lamontville.

According to Gordon McDonald, director of Community Chest, the decision to focus all the attention on this preschool was driven largely by the school's desperate need for renovation. "Although our Day of Caring teams are made up of volunteers and not skilled artisans, the work they will be doing here goes beyond improving the basic aesthetics. Their hard preparation and painting work will create lighter, brighter spaces for the children to learn and play in," explained McDonald.

"This preschool provides a place of learning and care to about 120 children and is particularly popular because of the staff's active engagement with the community."

"Having all the teams working in one place also enables us to bring everyone together and create a more social event for the volunteers."

Six teams of volunteers gathered together in the preschool's courtyard, where they were each handed a Sharpsie Chesters bag filled with essential goodies for the day including



Day of Caring volunteers celebrate job well done!

drinks, snacks and clobber as well as their Dulux /Community Chest T-shirts in which to work and paint.

They then shrugged off the sweltering heat and began work by sanding and preparing the various surfaces before transforming some of the school's

classrooms, creche rooms, bathrooms and outside play equipment with a fresh coat of bright paint.

The Community Chest team members remained at the ready throughout the day to ensure volunteers had what they needed to complete their tasks and to stay energised

throughout the busy day. At the end of the day, the exhausted but satisfied teams gathered again in the courtyard to reflect on their shared experiences during the day and enjoy a delicious, celebratory meal. Each team was also awarded a special frame in

honour of their dedication to the Day of Caring initiative. [www.giving.org.za](http://www.giving.org.za)

To be part of the Day of Caring, contact Fideleek Deesdt at the Community Chest on 031 303 3380.

### Academy Brushware

THE Day of Caring would not be possible without the main tool of choice for the day – the paintbrush. Academy Brushware sponsored brushes for every need, making sure every job on every project could be perfectly completed. Their

contribution is crucial in ensuring that the Community Chest has the necessary tools for the Day of Caring and in helping to keep expenses to a minimum. Academy Brushware may be contacted on 031 700 3080.

### Dulux Specialist Paint Centre

DULUX Specialist Paint Centre in Stambrook Hill Road and ICI Dulux Pty Ltd have been part of the Day of Caring since its inception. Without their vital sponsorship, this event would not be possible. Each year, Ken Naidoo and the team at Dulux Specialist Paint Centre sponsor all the paint required to complete

the projects. In addition, they also sponsor the masking tape, turpentine and other tools, then deliver all the paint to the door of the Community Chest. They also sponsored the T-shirts that were given to each volunteer. Ken Naidoo and his team may be contacted at Stambrook Hill Road or on 031 309 4533.



Fideleek Deesdt from Community Chest with Ken Naidoo and Tisha Naidoo of Dulux Specialist Paint Centre.

### VOLUNTEERS

- Varsity College
- Game Mass discounters
- South African Sugar Association
- Pick n Pay Bluff
- SPARKZN
- SAMZAY

### DONATIONS IN KIND – MAKING SENSE AND SAVING RANOS

- Academy Brushware
- Aquelle Water
- Avonmore Spar
- Baked, Windermere Road
- Caminitos Pizza
- Chedra's Headoffice
- Continental Butcher, Baker, Deli
- Deesdt's Meats
- Ekhazani Springs (Pty) Ltd
- Food Lovers Market
- Harim's Pies
- ICI Dulux
- Kensington Spar
- Love-me Candy
- Mandi's Munchies
- Morningside Motors
- Muffins America
- Shoprite Headoffice
- Simla
- Spar KZN
- Star Meats
- Steer's, Windermere Road
- United Bag Sales
- Windermere Garage



The hot-working Community Chest team.



The Game Mass discounters volunteer show used to make a little better in the kitchen section of the preschool.



Not even a shy away from a big task, the SPAR team not only helped out inside, they also gave the outside play equipment a fresh splash of colour.



A field in contact with South African Sugar Association team in front of just one of the walls left high and ready to be painted after their hard work.



Super organised and efficient, the SPAR team made easy work of their presage painting project.



The Varsity College volunteers took on their task of painting three smaller rooms with the enthusiasm and energy you'd expect from three young, dynamic students.

## A day of fun, food and laughter in the park

WHILE the volunteer teams were hard at work painting their classrooms, many of the Mbalencane Ziphahleni Preschool learners were treated to a special outing to Mitchell Park. Accompanied by their educators and the volunteer team from Pick n Pay Bluff, the children got to run and play within the beautiful – and handily shady – surrounds of one of Durban's most beautiful

and spacious parks. Not even the scorching heat could evaporate the children's obvious enjoyment and excitement as they took in the thrills of the swings, roundabouts, slides and jungle gyms. An abundant supply of thirst-quenching cold drinks and juices as well as mouth-watering treats and fabulous food was on hand, thanks to various kind sponsors

who had donated the necessary drinks, eats and meals to make the day perfect. "Thank you so much Community Chest for this wonderful day out for all the hard work being done at our school – the staff and children are going to be so happy when they see the end result," said Mbalencane Ziphahleni Preschool principal, Pretty Khumalo.



Members of the Pick n Pay Bluff volunteer team played host to the children and staff of Mbalencane Ziphahleni Preschool during their day out at Mitchell Park.

