

“CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF MAKING A DIFFERENCE!”

GRCF Celebrates our 10th Year Making Rustenburg the Place we all Love to Call Home!



Above: COO and Founder Christine Delpert, CEO George Mathuse and Corne Theunissen at the gala celebration. Below: A painting donated to GRCF for the gala auction.



On Friday October 29th the GRCF celebrated our 10th year anniversary at the Estara Lodge just outside of Rustenburg. It was a beautiful evening featuring live music, a DVD of GRCF's biggest achievements, an art auction and several moving speeches.

The evening was a chance for GRCF to celebrate all that we have achieved in the past 10 years as well as to thank all those who have supported us over the years. From humble beginnings as one of the first community foundations on the African continent, we have now grown to serve hundreds of NPOs and thousands of beneficiaries through our programs and grant making in the Bojanala region. "We know that we owe this success not only to the dedication of our founding team but to our friends, donors and supporters. We are immensely grateful to be surrounded by such giving and dedicated individuals", says Christine.

During the course of the evening, the GRCF's COO Christine Delpert and CEO George Mathuse both gave inspiring speeches about the journey of the foundation. We were also lucky to have with us Beata Hirt, of the Healthy City Community Foundation in Slovakia, who gave her view on why community foundations are such a powerful paradigm. The Head of the Department of Geography at UNISA, Melanie Nicolau also added to the dialogue by talking about the importance of effective development in light of the Millennium Development Goals – on which Africa is currently behind. The day ended with musical performances and the auction of a painting that had been donated by a local artist, Molefe Jacob Monaisa

All in all, fun was had by everyone and the elegant dinner and settings were just one way for us to express our sincere gratitude to our supporters.

To the staff, board and all of the friends of the foundation: from the very bottom of our hearts a warm and sincere thank you. Thank you. Thank you. It is only through collective effort that success can be reached. Here is to another 10 successful years, and beyond!

ABCD: Bafokeng & Mabeskraal

In October we once again stretched ourselves and did two more ABCD workshops in one month – with child workers in Bafokeng and with the community of Mabeskraal in Madikwe.

Bafokeng: This ABCD workshop focused on early childhood educators and caretakers, and vulnerable and orphaned child workers in the Bafokeng towns of Mafenya, Chaneng, Robega and Rasimone. The group was already committed to social development and many had their own child-related projects. However, a lot of the participants wanted to strengthen their economic skills and many found the economic and business parts of the ABCD workshop the most fascinating and helpful. As a result, we saw many project ideas that focused on business and economic sustainability, which could then be used to support social projects. We feel this is an excellent outcome for the group. The GRCF tries to promote self-sustaining projects as much as possible since this reduces the risks associated with the sudden loss of outside funding and also leads to increased empowerment of communities.

Mabeskraal: In Mabeskraal we had a rather large turnout of community members from all ages and a variety of backgrounds. The elderly in this workshop had a vast sea of knowledge to share and it turned out that the community is quite rich in natural resources as well as the skills of its population. The group had many socio-economic projects on the go but came up with several more during the ABCD training. The ABCD seminar helped them gain direction for projects and start a more sophisticated planning process.

We wish both of these groups the greatest of success and look forward to working with them further!



ABCD Participants in Bafokeng

ABCD in Mabeskraal



2010 Is Soon at an End

With 2010 soon coming to a close, this will be our final regular newsletter for the year. However, keep an eye out for a special edition in December. What a year it has been!

With the successful hosting of the FIFA World Cup, South Africa was really showcased on a world stage. The GRCF did our best to make sure this success extended to rural communities as well, through the Ke Rona project, where local artists performed for international audiences and alongside world-class performers – leading to invaluable experience and exposure, and lasting benefits.

We also completed a total of 8 ABCD workshops in a wide range of communities over the year, and continue to be the leader in pioneering the use of this paradigm in the South African context. We have learned a lot, but there is still a lot more to learn and we know that 2011 will take these programs to the next level: as our first year communities mature and expand their ABCD generated projects, and as we add more advanced services to help them scale up.

In addition, the inmate-run LACAP project has now really taken off, with the official securing of land and funds for a halfway house training facility for reformed inmates.

These are just some of the successes of 2010, but there are many more. In 2011 we plan to keep on learning and growing so that we can help as many beneficiaries as possible! Look for our special edition in December for a more detailed overview of the past year and what is coming up in 2011.