Village garden receives donation

The coffers of the Somerset West Village Garden (SWVG) were given a much-needed cash injection, thanks to a R1 000 donation that came through local tour operator Jambo Safari.

The latter had been asked to nominate sustainable, self-sufficient and reliable businesses that have enabling effects on local people for assistance from the British-based Explore Start Up Fund.

The fund requested its agents across the globe to nominate new business ideas or tell them about small, grassroots start-ups in need of funding. Much to the delight of Jambo Safari, SWVG was chosen as one of the recipients.

SWVG is a non-profit company and community vegetable garden, established at a derelict municipal park four years ago. It aims to give people living on the street a chance to change their circumstances by taking responsibility for a given project that sustains them, instead of giving hand-outs.

The homeless people working in the garden earn a token for every hour they work, which they can exchange at Thomas House of Hope for a shower, a plate of food, clothing and groceries. If they save 20 tokens, the homeless facility will assist them in acquiring new IDs.

Jenny Findlay of SWVG says the organisation is extremely grateful to receive the funding, which will go towards a water-wise watering system for the garden.

The garden is now a verdant urban farm and the vegetables produced are sold every Tuesday from 09:00 to 11:00. It also supplies Thomas House of Hope with vegetables for its feeding scheme.

At the handover (from left) are Stephen Lay, Penny Osborns, Jen Douglas, Brian Botta, Vicky Hendricks, Chris Grobbelaar and Jenny Findlay.

The Golden Sunbeams Trophy for most promising newcomer was awarded to Dorothy Masunda of Little Stars Pre-School in Zola. Receiving the trophy from Masikhule’s Sandy Immelman (right) are Frederick Chikudza, Dorothy Masunda and Prisca Chemisa of Little Stars Pre-School. Photo: Elie de Jong

Attendants protected

Bosomed Preamble Private Hospital showed its support for Sun Safe, a global skin cancer prevention campaign, by donating sun hats to all parking attendants at Somerset Mall, providing them with protection from the harsh summer sun.

The CheAfrica Trophy for best ECD management went to Prisca Chamisa of Little Stars Pre-School in Zola. Receiving the trophy from Masikhule’s Sandy Immelman (right) are Frederick Chikudza, Dorothy Masunda and Prisca Chemisa of Little Stars Pre-School. Photo: Elie de Jong

Local NPO Masikhule recognised excellence in the challenging early childhood development (ECD) sphere when it hosted its annual Top 5 Awards Ceremony at Sage & Thyme in Somerset West last Wednesday (27 November).

The organisation, along with principals and teachers receiving awards, and some of the Masikhule partners and donors celebrated the work of the ECDs by rewarding those who have gone above and beyond their duties this year.

Masikhule was founded in the Holdenberg in 2005 with the aim to train women from marginalised communities to be ECD teachers.

They mentor the trainees and provide resources to assist with implementation of the training material.

This year’s winners are all pre-schools that Masikhule worked with through the year, in terms of training, mentoring, early intervention and assisting with resources and nutrition.

Masikhule thanked the donors and sponsors that make their work possible and appealed to businesses and organisations who also believe ECD is essential in breaking the cycle of poverty, to support them as funding is essential for them to continue the work that uplifts and upskills hundreds of women every year.

For more information on the organisation’s work or to get involved, visit www.masikhule.org or send an email to info@masikhule.org.

The Jordaan Family Trophy for best implementation of teacher enrichment workshops was awarded to Maryka Plaatjes (second from right) of Maryka’s Educare in Eerste River. With the proud teacher are colleagues Louise Bosjes, Jacqueline Lewis, Adwina Sampliez and Anjo du Preez (Masikhule).

The CheAfrica Trophy for best ECD management went to Naomie Malebe of Great Beginning Pre-school in Asanda Village. Karen Buti (right) of Masikhule was on hand to hand over the prize to Tshedeloe Mmemba, Naomie Malebe, Portia Massa and Zingiswa Matembe of Great Beginning.

Two young teachers were also acknowledged and presented with certificates for outstanding work throughout the year. ECD Educators of Excellence certificates were awarded to Melissa and Allison Boys of Nuwe Begin Educare in Goudtrow. From left are Melissa, Louisy Arnold and Allison of Nuwe Begin with Masikhule’s Coreen Vlok.

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