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SICELOKUHLE CRECHE

Spreading some winter warmth just in time, Breadline Africa, a non-profit organisation that provides infrastructure solutions using repurposed shipping containers, a container kitchen facility will be opened at the Sicelokuhle Crèche in rural KwaZulu Natal on 21 May 2015.

Ladysmith lies in the heart of the commercial Uthukela farming District of KwaZulu-Natal. It serves as a major shopping hub for the smaller feeder towns, like Peace Town, which is situated 17km out of Ladysmith, on the banks of the Klip River. It is also the home of Sicelokuhle Crèche, the beneficiary of a new, hygienic kitchen facility to feed the 30 children in the care of founder, Nelisiwe Ngwenya.

In February 2007, Nelisiwe Ngwenya made the decision to gather all the toddlers who were left at home while their mothers sought work in Ladysmith and neighbouring towns. This is how Sicelokuhle (“we ask for good things” in Zulu) Crèche came into being. The aim of this early childhood development centre is to keep children safe and healthy; and to provide an enabling environment for the children in their care to achieve the educational outcomes required for successful early childhood development.

Nelisiwe’s initiative gained the support of the men of the community, who helped Nelisiwe build a classroom where the children could be taught and looked after. A local councilor also took up the challenge and raised funds to put up a fence to be erected around the classroom, thus ensuring that the little ones were kept safe and secure. This accelerated growth of the crèche created several challenges, including the provision of basic cooking facilities. Meals were prepared and cooked at a home in the community, in a kitchen that was really only designed for a small household.

Nelisiwe wanted a better solution, as she had to walk a distance in scorching heat and in the cold of the harsh winter months to collect the prepared food each day. She appealed to Breadline Africa for assistance, and today marks the culmination of her hard work, as she received a container soup kitchen where she can prepare hearty meals on the premises of the crèche for the hungry little tummies. The excitement of the opening is shared by parents, teachers, local citizens and government officials.

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