

BabbelBekkie's Day Care Centre Prince Alfred Hamlet, Western Cape 28 September 2015

North of Ceres on the R303, below the Koue Bokkeveld mountain catchment area, lies the small rural town of Prince Alfred Hamlet. The town was named after Queen Victoria's son, Prince Alfred when he visited the Cape Colony. 28 September marked a big celebration for this tiny town as parents with their children gathered to witness the handover of the much needed ECD facility.



The rapidly growing township where the 3 containers (2 x 12 meters and 1 x 6 meters) have been placed is considered serviced land. This means that government will develop the roads, install electricity, water connections, demarcate yards and fit outside toilets for each yard. The occupants must then build their own homes, and more often than not the occupants can only afford to reconstruct their homes in shacks and Wendy houses. Employment in this community comes in the form of seasonal fruit farming. Poverty is widespread and alcoholism is common.

The morning proceeding was opened with prayer by a community member. Witzenberg Rural Development Centre and Grassroots Educare Trust were present and have committed to give their support. Basic early childhood development training for two community members started mid-year to build capacity and ensure that the centre is sufficiently managed. 25 children are already on the waiting list and the figure will definitely grow.

The centre is will open its doors on the 14th October, and children will be supervised daily from 7am until 1pm right through to December. From January 2016, the hours will be extended.

The container classrooms, kitchen, toilet block and office/sick bay were funded from the proceeds from the November 2014 Night at the Opera-Gala Performance at Cadogan Hall in

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2 Somerset Road • Green Point • Cape Town • 8005 • South Africa
PO Box 6 • Green Point • Cape Town • 8051 • South Africa
Tel +27 21 418 0322 Fax +27 21 418 6406 Email info@breadlineafrica.org.za
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London. The community is extremely grateful to the generosity of the donors and to Standard Bank and Societe Generale. The ECD centre will be a great asset and much needed to safeguard the children in a much more structured way, and to prepare them for primary school.



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