



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
Visit our website www.breadlineafrica.org

Cedar Care Play Group, Citrusdal, Western Cape 23 September 2015

More than 30 people gathered in Citrusdal to celebrate the official opening of the Cedar Care Play Group which was funded by UK and Irish donors.

Representatives of Breadline Africa were there to share the joy and hand over of 2 classroom containers, a kitchen and toilet block. Councillors from the municipalities of Citrusdal and Wuppertal attended along with the clergy of various surrounding parishes, the ECD facilitator from West Coast College and NPO Grassroots.



The principal, Gertrude Smith started this playgroup in 2010. When Grassroots offered ECD training to unemployed mothers in the community, three prospective teaching assistants for Cedar Care attended and achieved the necessary qualifications. With a good foundation, the women are now ready to teach the children with greater confidence.

With no proper facilities, Gertrude and her three teaching assistants started teaching the children under a tree in the local play park. As more children joined the play group, they constructed a Wendy House in the park. An emotional Gertrude explained that during winter, the children were very cold and cramped, but during summer they could go outdoors and sit under the tree. She said that the new facility will make an enormous difference and the children are excited to have their very own ECD to go to every day.

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Pastor Van Zyl said that he had noticed that the various role players and parents sat in a circle and the children formed an outer circle. His vision was that the children had to be brought from the outside into the centre, where they can be the focal point and learn good values.

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The councillors congratulated Cedar Care on their progress and pledged their commitment and support in working together for the benefit of the children. They will ensure that the centre will have their water connected and will assist with the supply of electricity, for the betterment of the children.

Breadline Africa thanked everyone for their endeavours and for ensuring that the container centre will serve as a beacon of hope in the capable hands of the community. It is a safe place where children can learn and grow, a place that they can call home.



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