

Handover of a Prefabricated Classroom God's Ark Community Centre Eldorado Park, Gauteng Wednesday, 29 June 2016

On Wednesday 29 June, Breadline Africa launched a prefabricated after-care classroom kindly funded by Containers for Life and de Brye Charitable Trust.

Where opportunities are few in the marginalised community of Eldorado Park, crime and drugs have become the order of the day. Here, even young children attending primary school have become targets for drug peddlers.

God's Ark Community Centre is an after-care service that runs activities for 50 children from four nearby primary schools. Programmes at the centre are designed to develop and empower youth and contribute to community-building efforts as a mechanism to reduce the levels of crime and violence in the area. Activities include homework assistance, educational and cultural activities, and holiday programmes. All initiatives are geared towards offering healthy alternatives to crime, drugs, and other negative influences.



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In his speech, the local ward councillor, Mr Peter Rafferty said that adults are generally afraid of change, but children are fearless and should be given the freedom and opportunity to explore and become the best they can be. He said that he trusted that this centre would provide such an opportunity.

Mr Banks, the principal of Kliptown Primary School was also in attendance and he was resolute in his speech, asking guests what category they fell into, given that Eldorado Park is full of people selling goods that they have not earned and fathers living the high life while their families go hungry and without proper winter clothing. He went on to counsel the community to take care of the children today, as they are the ones who will take care of them tomorrow.

Go Green and Clean team is an environmental association that has been supporting children at God's Ark by teaching them about the environment – from recycling to saving energy. This enthusiastic group made it known that they chose not to be part of the problem, but rather be to develop the very community they all grew up in. This group of enthusiastic volunteers painted the classroom to make it child friendly.



The project coordinators, Ilse and Graham van Wyk, have dedicated their lives to the betterment of the children. Before the classroom was built, they had literally handed over their home for use by the community children. The classroom they received from Breadline Africa is a much improved facility that will enhance on-going efforts.



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