

THE PROJECT:

On 22 May 2009, OMAC Actuaries and Consultants employees decided to down their tools of trade and did a bit of community work in the Mfuleni area.

With the help of a non-profit organization called NewKidz on the Block, a project was identified. A group of 28 OMACians took part in the painting and cleaning of the Noncedo Educare Centre in Mfuleni. It was great to work with NewKidz on the Block. They took responsibility for liaising with the school, planning the day, buying materials and equipment that we required to complete the project. Once we decided on the project, OMAC's Community Service committee's planning was limited to getting the team there and providing refreshments for the day. Everything ran smoothly from the initial planning stages to the end result, the weather even played along. NewKidz also acted as team leaders and created a great opportunity for team building for the OMACians. The NewKidz team leaders ensured that we stayed on track while still maintaining a fun environment. Many of the staff commented that this was one of the better team building days.

NewKidz on the Block (the project owners) were looking for 40 volunteers, but with only 28 OMAC volunteers, we rose to the challenge. There was so much team spirit with the different groups assisting one another to get the job done. All the planning and running around was definitely worth it when the day arrived. The project involved painting the exterior walls and window frames of four classrooms. The group also painted the interior and exterior vibrecrete walls and 3 outside toilets. The playgrounds were cleaned up and grass cut.

The financial cost for the day for the materials was R 3457.25, but the return for OMAC was tremendous.

Here are some of the comments from the volunteers:

Estelle

The experience was very fulfilling for me. Not only did I have fun, but I also had an opportunity to make a difference.

Ebrahim

It was a very enlightening experience. Just like we enlightened the classrooms, our lives were also enlightened. Wish there were more projects of this nature.

Tsire

I woke up not really looking forward to the day. Once I got there my attitude changed. Looking at the work done and interaction with the children, I felt like I'd given a little to the community. I would totally do it again.

Old Mutual Life Assurance Company (South Africa) Limited
Reg no: 1999/004643/06

PB Hanratty (Chairman) (Irish), KD Dlamini (Chief Executive Officer), AS Birrell, T Dloti, Prof GJ Gerwel, Dr IA Goldin, Dr D Konar, Ms AA Maule, J Naidoo, Ms DC Radley, JVF Roberts (British), Mrs GT Serobe, IB Skosana, PGM Truyens (Dutch), GS van Niekerk and Prof AH van Wyk.
Company Secretary: RF Foster

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Bertus

Nice to work for a department that cares

Rene

It was rewarding in every aspect. There is no gift greater than investing in our society through time, money and passion.

Val

It was incredibly enlightening. Was very inspired by how a few people working together can get so much done in so little time.

Khanya

Listening to the children sing and play and dance took me back to my own childhood. I was reminded of where I come from and how much God has blessed me over the years. Those children have so little, yet they continue to be happy. I wish we could do more for them.

Tougieda

It is humbling to see how the management of the Noncedo Creche created a functional system with very little resources. The day was a great success - the team spirit was good and I am grateful that I could participate in a community project of this nature.

Overall it was a rewarding experience for me!!!

Camilla

I thoroughly enjoyed the day. There was so much team spirit with the different groups assisting one another to get the job done. All the planning and running around was definitely worth it when the day arrived. To see the look on the little kids faces were priceless. It made me realise that if we all stand together the little changes we make can have a huge influence on the less fortunate communities. Let's continue paying it forward.

Shawn

Very physically challenging.

Heidi

It was very tiring and yet very fulfilling. It was great fun. We need more planning next time.

Shadley

It was very uplifting.

THANKS NEWKIDZ

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