

CSI Year in Review



Children from Dorah's Ark spent a blissful day with the Mail & Guardian team. Photographs: Lisa Skinner

A day in the life ...

Haydée Bangerezako spent time with the 'family' from Dorah's Ark

Gleefully the children ran around, swiftly moving from jumping castle to jungle gym and trampoline. These children look like any other kids except that for them outings like this are few and far between.

The *Mail & Guardian* invited 63 children from Dorah's Ark to the Spur in Randpark Ridge where the kids ate, played and had their faces painted.

Started by Dorah Mazibuko, Dorah's Ark supports communities from informal settlements in Roodoepoort.

"The moment we met Dorah, we fell in love with her, and when we heard

and saw how she helps her community, we decided this was an initiative in which we needed to get involved," said a spokesperson from the *M&G*.

The children and adults who attend her soup kitchen struggle to put food on their table. Dorah's Ark, with assistance from sponsors, feeds nearly 100 people a day.

On this sunny Friday in December, the kids, dressed in their *M&G* t-shirts, had a chance to forget the hardships back home.

"The whole year is frustrating for them, maybe at school they get shouted at for [not paying] school fees, for them to go out once in a while it says there are other people who care for us," says Mbali Mazibuko, Dorah's granddaughter.

"We were very happy," says Dorah who plays the role of grandmother, mother and counsellor. Many of the children are orphans, from single-parent homes or child-headed homes. A number of the



Dorah's Ark, with assistance from sponsors, feeds nearly 100 people a day



children who come to her are also HIV-positive Mazibuko says.

When asked what motivates Mazibuko, she responds: "When they come back and say thank you, and to know that I can help".

Earlier in the year, the *M&G* organised a Colgate dental hygienist to visit the children and teach them about oral hygiene with posters, banners and colouring books. The children also got toothbrushes and toothpaste.

The *M&G* will continue to host special educational days for the kids on various topics in 2007.

Plans for next year include growing Dorah's Ark into a self-sustainable organisation. To achieve this, the *M&G* will provide training in knitting, woodwork and growing vegetables, and in developing business skills.

The *M&G* team felt blessed by the time spent playing with the kids and were delighted at their enjoyment.

The *M&G* and Dorah's Ark would like to thank all readers and sponsora such us Syntell, Glasfit, PG Bison, Pick 'n Pay and Colgate for their assistance and donations.



The children, dressed in their M&G t-shirts, had a chance to forget the hardships back home