

Heroes make an impact

SHAHISTA ROHAN-TOEFY

IMPACT DIRECT MINISTRIES (IDM) received a donation of R10 000 from Nedbank as part of the bank's ongoing Local Heroes competition.

Karen Lock, the branch manager of Nedbank Claremont, says all branches have containers into which clients can drop a letter motivating why a charity, chosen by a client, should receive the donation.

Impact Direct Ministries is a non-profit faith-based organisation. Among other things, it offers counselling to pupils who are involved and affected by social and domestic crimes, it facilitates programmes to help parents of children with learning disabilities, provides practical services to orphans and vulnerable children, and offers support to parents of children with behavioural and drug problems.

Nedbank decided on the recommendation of Venise Smith, an IDM counsellor and trainer. "In my motivation letter I said what this centre stands for and they felt touched by it," says Smith.

Lock says the organisation is doing good work, and hopes the money will help it further that work.

IDM's latest project, run by Marlon Parker, a lecturer at the Cape Peninsula University of Technology and a counsellor at IDM, is an online drug advice and support service using MXit.



LOCAL HEROES: Impact Direct Ministries received a cheque for R10 000 from Nedbank on Friday. Seen holding the cheque, from left: Karen Lock from Nedbank, Venise Smith, an Impact lecturer, Jenny Petersen, Impact programme director, and Pastor Roger Petersen, director of Impact.

Photo: Shahista Rohan-Toefy

Parker says, "A third of all cellphone users use MXit, so we decided to go online, and the response has been unbelievable." The service launched three months ago and already has 3 000 subscribers. The MXit slot is on Tuesdays and Wednesdays between 15:00 and 17:00.

Parker says IDM has no more than three counsellors working at a time as it only has three computers.

"We are in desperate need of a better infrastructure and more computers, because we already have 20 counsellors on standby who could be assisting." All the counsellors are volunteers.

For more information on Impact Direct Ministries, and to offer assistance, call the centre on (021) 637-4037.

