

AGM 2013 CHILD CARE MANAGER'S REPORT

St Theresa's home is a unique residential care facility which is committed to ensuring that each child is developed to his full potential. The centre caters for boys between the ages of three to eighteen years old. The child care team undergoes continuous and consistent supervision which develops them with the necessary skills, knowledge and self awareness.

We have a staff member who is a trainer and assessor for NACCW and studying towards her B.Tech. She is a vice chairperson for the NACCW KZN region. Another member of staff studying towards her third year social work and other staff are attending modules of the FETC training. Two staff members are on the NACCW executive committee who co ordinate the youth and practitioners forum in the KZN region. The exciting news is that child and youth care workers have their own professional board and this will be inaugurated at the NACCW Biennial conference which will be taking place in July at the University of Johannesburg.

Childcare workers demonstrate care through their actions by working with a diverse group of children providing a structured routine, life space counseling, recognizing and strengthening the potential of the children. Networking professionals work closely as a team to provide a standardized and effective service to our boys. The programmes offered expose them to new and great opportunities. Developmental, educational, life skills, therapeutic and spiritual programme are undertaken by childcare workers and community facilitators that have been encouraging and beneficial to the children.

Our boys are actively involved in recreational activities. They participate in soccer tournaments, athletics, boy's brigades, drama, choir group and dance. The children have been taking a keen interest in their vegetable gardens which have been therapeutic and developing for them. The Peace club empowers their leadership skills, planning, organizing and commemorating significant public holiday programme with the guidance of the team. Four members are involved in the NACCW youth programme for which they have been empowered to mentor the younger children. The boys are given the opportunity for participation and decision making through cottage representatives. They meet regularly to discuss common concerns to work together as a team and to ensure that their concerns are heard.