



November 2010



Senecio is making a difference

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Personnel:

Occupational therapists:

Marie Vorster,
Tilanie Engelbrecht

Physiotherapist:
Sue Fry

Web master
Jaco van Niekerk

Board Members:

Chairperson:
Annatjie van Niekerk

Vice Chair Person:
Francois Marais

Secretary:
Louise van Zyl

Treasurer:
Ernie Hodgson

Additional members:
Liz Ward
Willem Vorster
Sue Fry

For more information:

Annatjie van Niekerk
E: info@senecio.org.za
W: www.senecio.org.za
T: 021 852 0845
C: 073 1916277

Looking back over the last two years fills us with a deep sense of gratitude. What started as a vague dream, has developed into a reality. Senecio is really making a difference in the lives of many children with disabilities. Not a week goes by without a positive story of improvement. The care givers are positive — they feel empowered and are realising more and more the importance of correct ongoing treatment. They are taking ownership and not just waiting for the therapists' interventions.

Senecio offers services at the following Care Centers

- Gabriella Centre in Somerset West
- Little Angels in Somerset West
- Bizweni Centre in Somerset West.
- Agape in Grabouw
- Bathandwa Care Centre in Khayelitsha
- Unakho in Khyamandi, Stellenbosch
- Cenida in Macassar
- Sive Nathi in Blackheath



Signboard donated by Sign Generation

Thanks to the generosity of Denis de Fabbro from *Sign Generation*, it is now easy to locate our office at :
Et Al Therapy Centre
7 Stellendal Road
Somerset West



Statistics

During the past year, 172 children with severe disabilities benefited from Senecio therapeutic services.

43 Care givers received training through the Hambisela Course as well as through hands on training at the Care Centres.

A total of 73 splints were made.

Exemption from Taxes and Duties

After two years Senecio is proud to announce that we have been approved by SARS as a public benefit organisation in terms of section 30 of the Income Tax Act. We have been approved for the purposes of Section 18A and all donations will be tax deductible . Senecio's PBO number is 930034732.

Some of the highlights



Agape: Ernie moves around by rolling independently. Where he previously had to take in nutrition through a tube into his stomach, he is now able to eat normally.



Sive Nathi: Until recently Sikho spent his days lying in his cot staring at the teddies that hang from the ceiling. He now communicates with his eyes, and it is evident that this bright boy has a lot of potential despite the fact that he is non verbal. He can identify all the colours and numbers and enthusiastically take part in any stimulating activity presented to him.



Bathandwa: Lukhanyo walks independently with his walking frame. Mobility at last!



Sive Nathi: Luvo a child with hydrocephaly was unable to sit up straight without supporting his head against the wall.



Sive Nathi: Lizalise can now sit and play independently, securely kept up straight by the H strap designed by Marie and Tilanie.



A Ramp for Baphi
The ramp built by Japie Weber made it possible for Baphi to move independently in and out of their house when she is at home during weekends and school holidays. The cost of the building materials was sponsored by Somerset West Round Table.



Outpatient Clinic:
Shimmy is a 3 year old boy with diplegia, which causes spasticity in his legs. After Botox injections which were made possible by donations from Senecio supporters, Shimmy's legs are now straight. With regular therapy reinforced with exercises done at home, it is possible that he will walk normally.



Gabriella Centre:
During the previous block in the third term, Leah was able stand by holding onto the handrails. Now she walks the length of the passage. This wonderful highlight would not have been achieved if the caregivers did not follow the programmes regularly reinforcing what had been started during the block.



Senecio Support Staff visit Agape

In September the Senecio Support Staff visited Agape Centre in Grabouw. From left to right: Annatjie van Niekerk, Louise van Zyl, Ernie Hodgson, Jaco van Niekerk and Lanois Coetzee.

Waterstone Fun Day, Creating awareness

On Saturday, 2 October, shoppers at the Waterstone Village shopping Mall were challenged to take part in an obstacle course which was laid out in the centre of the mall. Participants had to negotiate their way up a steep ramp, over wooden beams while taking short turns to avoid obstacles, picking up shopping bags, putting them in a shopping trolley, pushing said shopping trolley, making a wheelie, all before speeding to the end – in a wheelchair! Ernie Hodgson, who is a wheelchair user, was on hand to show the non-disabled participants the basic techniques of handling a wheelchair.



Fundraising: Car Competition

Senecio was awarded the Branch Fundraising award for showing the best improvement in the number of raffle tickets sold for the APD car competition. Annatjie receives the trophy from Judge Tibbett, president of Western Cape APD.



Centres that have been adopted:

- Sive Nathi by *an anonymous Trust*
- Little Angels by *Somerset West Round Table*

For more information on the Adopt a Centre Campaign please visit the website: <http://www.senecio.org.za>

Become a Senecio Supporter Online

Current paid up members: 55 (R50 membership fee per year)

Facebook Supporters: 111. — Join our group Senecio Supporters on Facebook

We need your support. Become a member now! Simply visit the website and complete the form. Without your support, financial and otherwise we will not be able to supply this vital service.

Website Statistics

The website has been growing steadily and receives over 3500 hits per month. This translates to nearly 400 visits per month. In October we had over 400 visits and it looks like November will also be over 400. The website is updated regularly, so check it often!



The face behind the website:
Jaco van Niekerk
<http://www.senecio.org.za>

The Next Senecio Fun Run will take place on Saturday 5 March at Lourensford Wine Estate!

The annual Senecio Fun run/walk/wheel has become one of the most eagerly anticipated events on our calendar. Last year we had over 200 participants and we want to double that number next year.

Walkers and runners can choose to complete either a 5 or 8 km course through the vineyards of Lourensford Wine Estate. There is also a wheelchair circuit and we encourage as many wheelchair users as possible to participate.

The whole event is ended off with a wheelchair relay race for non wheelchair users.

For more information on the event, please visit our website.

Banking Details

Senecio Support
First National Bank
Cheque Account
62206385503
Branch No: 200512