

COMMUNITY PROJECT INITIATIVE AT FABI – 2009 – 2011

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In 2009 the Fruit Tree Biotechnology Programme headed by Dr. Noelani van Den Berg, initiated a community project, with the help of other volunteers from TPCP/CTHB, as well as sponsors from outside. Other FABlans also joined in the community project activities in 2010 and this wonderful initiative of love for the community has become an important part of FABI activities, although primarily still driven enthusiastically by Noelani and her group.

Community Project 2009 - The Ark Nursery School:

On 1 December 2009, a Christmas party was given to less advantaged, emotionally neglected and financially poor children at the Ark nursery school. At the school, children who are really in need, are cared for, taught and have crucial needs in their lives fulfilled.



FABI community project at The Ark nursery school, 2009. (A) Children anticipating a jumping castle that is being set up. (B) A little girl receiving a present from Father Christmas. (C) Ariska van der Nest and Barry Christie during an unplanned swim with the children. (D) Group photo of everyone who participated in the event.

Blanket Drive 2010 - The Salvation Army:

In 2010 a blanket project was initiated by members of the TPCP/CTHB to donate blankets to less fortunate people. New blankets from staff and students at FABI were donated to this project. In total 130 blankets were collected, and donated to delighted members of the

Salvation Army. On our way to deliver the blankets, encountered a government strike which made us realise how we so often complain with a bread (or “blanket”) under the arm.



FABI blanket drive 2010. (A) Dr. Noëlani van den Berg (back left) with some of the students who were involved in the project (from left to right Osmond Mlonyeni, Juanita Engelbrecht, Jan Nagel and Tracy Hall). (B. The handing over of blankets to The Salvation Army.

Community Project 2010 - Mamelodi nursery school:

Things tend to get done bigger and better each year at FABI, and the community project in December 2010 was no exception.. Enthusiastic students and staff from a variety of research groups participated in giving children from a nursery school in Mamelodi a fabulous Christmas party. There were jumping castles, lots of “goodies” to eat, presents, and most importantly - lots of love.



FABIans interacting with children at a nursery school in Mamelodi, December 2010.



Blanket Drive 2011 - "Snug-as-a-bug" Blanket Drive:

This year the blanket project took on a new name and was fondly called the "Snug-as-a-bug" Blanket Drive. The goal for 2011 was to collect more blankets than in 2010. This challenge was taken by FABlans with great enthusiasm. Over 100 new and good quality second-hand blankets were collected from FABlans. The blankets were donated to the University of Pretoria's blanket initiative (for Jakaranda FM, and TuksFM blanket drive) as well as to a charity organisation, Helpende Hand.



Blanket drive, 2011. (A, B) FABlans distributing the collected blankets to the University of Pretoria Blanket drive and (C, D) the Helpende Hand charity organization.