

Warming up winter

A GIFT OF WARM, COLOURFUL BLANKETS MADE THE CHILLY SEASON A BIT COSIER FOR THE CHILDREN AT THE UBUBELE PRE-SCHOOL IN JOHANNESBURG.

BY NETANJA TURNER

When temperatures drop, the gift of a warm blanket can mean the world to someone in need. Just ask the 65 little learners at the Ububele Pre-school near Alexandra, Johannesburg. They each received a colourful polar-fleece blanket from the Dis-Chem Foundation in May this year.

At the handover, the children excitedly wrapped themselves in their blankets, happily showing off the cheery colours while getting cosy. They also proudly helped to fold and put away their blankets for nap time a bit later.

“Winters are very cold in the pre-school, so we appreciate the blankets very much. All the children felt equally special. They are using their new cuddly, soft and cheerful blankets during sleep time,” says Martha Gordon, Ububele’s advocacy communication & research coordinator. “Every parent also received a letter informing them of the Dis-Chem Foundation’s donation. The kids are so little they wouldn’t be able to relate the message home.”

The Ububele Pre-school provides quality education and care for children, many of whom are from Alexandra. It forms part of the Ububele Educational & Psychotherapy Trust. This non-profit organisation offers training courses in mental health topics, as well as psychological support for parents, caregivers and children in need.

“The pre-school is a model for a holistic, integrated approach to early childhood development (ECD), in which psychosocial assistance for both children and



THANK YOU, DIS-CHEM FOUNDATION

10 000! That’s how many blankets the Dis-Chem Foundation donated to various beneficiaries, including Ububele, this past winter.

Diphlane Public School near Krugersdorp was one of them. In a heartfelt letter, MA Taele from the school wrote: “The donation will go a long way to help the recipients use the blankets as winter poses a physical and emotional distress to young children.”

Children at the Inkwenkwezi Primary School in Diepsloot, Johannesburg also received some cuddly blankets. M Lekgalake mentioned: “It is a great pleasure and joy to inform you that our learners are over the moon about the donation. They really appreciate it as most of these children have very little to keep them warm during winter.”



parents, is an integral element. Psychology, social work and ECD students also visit the pre-school as part of their training,” mentions Martha.

For the past three years, the Dis-Chem Foundation has supported the pre-school with monthly donations. The Dis-Chem Foundation also decided to share some winter warmth with the children and Ububele’s other beneficiaries by donating the blankets. “We passed along the Dis-Chem Foundation’s generosity to faith-based organisations, other pre-schools in need and families identified through the social workers at the Alexandra Clinic,” says Martha.

Ububele also distributed Dis-Chem blankets as part of emergency relief to families of Alexandra, who were displaced due to fires and evictions this past winter.

GET INVOLVED

Ububele depends on donations from individuals and companies to run the pre-school and provide mental health services to those in need. Email Martha at martha@ububele.org for more information or advice on how to donate.

You can also find out more about Ububele at www.ububele.org and stay up to date on their activities on Facebook (just search for Ububele). Sharing Ububele’s Facebook posts is an easy way to help this non-profit organisation raise awareness of its activities. 📢



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