

ABI & Noah: Do you have the bottle to step up?

ABI internal Magazine Article

ABI and Noah have shared amazing triumphs over the course of a partnership that spans 4 years and which is still going strong. It started almost like a romance – the Phoenix Plant Marketing Manager, Sue Mola, met with an old friend Cutter Nkosi who was working on an exciting project in Umlazi. Reminiscing about school days and soccer tournaments soon turned to serious discussions about how ABI could work with Noah to improve the quality of life for children made vulnerable by the HIV pandemic. So started an amazing intervention.

At the time Noah was a much smaller operation. Together we have grown providing support to over 30,000 children in 107 communities in South Africa. Noah empowers communities to care for their own orphaned and vulnerable children through training and strengthening networks of care.

The relationship with ABI has resulted in the construction of 2 resource centres in KwaZulu Natal and ongoing support for the nutrition programmes at both these centres. Children are stronger, healthier and better able to cope with what life throws at them thanks to the strength of ABI. Expanded support has seen ABI get involved at 2 Community Based Projects associated with Noah in Gauteng, again contributing towards operational expenses at the Arks. In addition this year ABI donated a

wonderful classroom container to Sithokozise in Umlazi creating a dedicated space for Early Childhood Development.

The result of the continued support from ABI has helped Noah create centres in impoverished communities where children can seek nutrition, educational assistance, emotional support and a place of sanctuary amidst the chaos of a life punctuated by loss and bereavement.

At Noah Arks children find a place where the currency is hugs and the product is a group of children who are emotionally more stable, physiologically healthier and most importantly, dreamers. Giving children the chance to dream about a better future and giving them the opportunity to achieve those dreams, that is what ABI and Noah are working towards.

The hands-on involvement of ABI staff is what has taken the relationship with Noah to a completely new level. Staff from ABI operations across the country have volunteered time and resources: scrubbing, painting, drilling, building, cleaning, planting, dispensing hugs and laughter. Teaching children that community does not mean just your neighbours. It is about bringing people together, working towards a common goal. It is about having the bottle to step up and make a difference.