

MEDIA RELEASE

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Women chartered accountants demonstrate compassion outside the boardroom

Johannesburg, Wednesday, 04 November 2009 – Ernest & Young and Hester Hickey (chair of weCare) hosted a Birthday Buddies event for orphaned and vulnerable children at the Noah's Ark Home in Yeoville.-

The *weCAre* project is a community upliftment initiative started by women chartered accountants [CAs(SA)] who are members of SAICA. The objective of this project is to help the staggering number of orphaned and vulnerable children at Noah's Ark (Nurturing Orphans of AIDS for Humanity), a registered not-for-profit organisation in Yeoville, Johannesburg, with the sole focus of building the capacity of communities to care for orphaned and vulnerable children.

The *weCAre* project, consists of women CAs(SA) with a mission of putting smiles on the faces of these orphaned and / or vulnerable children impacted by HIV/AIDS.

"The *weCAre* project was initiated by and for women CAs, however, we encourage all women to join hands and support Yeoville Noah's Ark. We provide financial support; donate food, toiletries, clothes and stationery; spend time with the children; sponsor birthday gifts; and support the feeding scheme project," says Hester Hickey, Chairperson of *weCAre*.

She says *weCAre* also aims to help these children mature into emotionally and psychologically stable adults capable of forming lasting and loving relationships, and become participative citizens in South Africa's progress.

The *Birthday Buddies* event sees women CAs(SA) partnering with children celebrating their birthdays and buying them gifts as an opportunity to put a smile on these children's faces.

For some children across the world a birthday is simply another day, because their experience on this day has always been ordinary; however. not in the case of the children at Noah's Ark Yeoville. The *weCAre* Birthday Buddies project aims to change this by celebrating each child's special day.

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