

Nyhetsbrev 2012-06-29

Kära Ameliavänner!

Här kommer en hälsning från Amelia och barnen som trots vinterkylan de nu känner av sänder varma hälsningar till oss.

Den nya skolan har öppnat men invigningen jag skrev om har fått anstå då Amelia pga sin sons död inte orkar med så mycket ståhej just nu. Begravningen, som skedde redan veckan efter, och allt arbete kring skolan har tagirt på krafterna. Dessutom är ju vädret vid den här årstiden inte det bästa för utomhusaktiviteter som ju är det enda möjliga med så många deltagare.

Arbetet på skolan är dock i full gång och utbildning av lärarna likaså. Det visar sig vara något de verkligen behöver så våra pengar gör god nytta.

SASDI bad oss för ett tag sedan om lite information om Amelias Vänner för de ville skriva om oss på sin hemsida. För er som kan rekommenderar jag att ni går in och läser här:

<http://sasdifoundation.com/2012/06/28/amazing-swedes-make-a-difference/>

För er som inte kan gå in på nätet har jag kopierat in texten här nedan.

Amazing Swedes make a difference...

Posted on June 28, 2012 by [sasdi101](#)

Our little shack to chic school, the dream of Mama Amelia, is now running successfully – the team are being trained and the children are blossoming. But How you may ask? How are the teachers being trained, where is the money coming from? South Africa is so fortunate to have incredible friends around the world with open hearts who love to give. I have had the joy of building an email relationship with Simon and Barbro Phipps of Sweden who were touched by Amelia when they visted South Africa in 2004 and they decided to be proactive and make a difference – which they have indeed done and continue to do. Simon graciously agreed to tell me a little about their journey:

How did you meet Amelia and when?

In 2004 I was asked by SIDA, the Swedish government aid organisation, to travel to Cape Town, and work with choirs and young singers in the townships. This was part of an ongoing cultural exchange programme. I am a conductor by profession and I was eager to meet a new culture. My father was born in Rhodesia and went to school in Johannesburg so there was also a family connection that I was keen to renew. It seemed a good opportunity to combine work with a holiday and so my wife Barbro came along too. Once in Cape Town and after a few visits to townships Barbro, who is an intensive care nurse, decided that she too wanted to make a contribution to the new South Africa. Some friends suggested that we visit Amelia, and took us to meet her. We spent only 2 hours at Sakhumzi, but it was a life-changing experience for both of us. We were expecting chaos, misery and resentment, and we encountered a good organisation. lov and love.

Our visits to the townships had show us how the odds are stacked against young people there. Amelia had built an oasis of love and joy in the middle of it all. And we were both captivated by Amelia as a person and felt that we wanted her in our lives.

In what ways have you supported her in the past and are you supporting her currently?

When we returned to Sweden we had modest plans to gather a few friends together who would contribute a small amount every month, which we would send on to Amelia. In the first year we sent about R2000 a month, but the group quickly snowballed and for the past few years we have been able to send at least R10 000d a month. It has been reassuring for Amelia to know that she can count on this regular support, since otherwise she is beholden to one-off contributions which are made very irregularly. For instance a concert was given which raised R100 000 for a minibus, and we have also established a separate fund, earmarked specifically for educational needs.

How many people are involved in Amelia's friends and are they all from Sweden?

At present there are about 180 Amelia's friends in Sweden, most of whom contribute monthly. Barbro writes a monthly newsletter which does a lot to keep interest alive and compassion fatigue at bay. These letters are based on the weekly phone conversations that Barbro has with Amelia, and are filled with the latest developments at Sakhumzi and Ekukanyeni.

My brother and family in England have a smaller, looser-nit support group, with a few people giving larger amounts at longer intervals.

What have been some of the highlights of your relationship with her?

One highlight was revisiting Amelia in 2010 for the first time after six years, and seeing the amazing progress that had been made in the meantime. But actually the greatest highlight is just knowing that we're involved in a small way in something so totally worthwhile

Anything else you want to mention

We're hoping to keep Amelia's friends going in Sweden as long as our support is needed. Cape Town is long way away though and it would help our fundraising significantly if we could find Swedish people in South Africa to act as a go-between. So if you have any Swedish or Scandinavian friends, we want to know about them!

So to our amazing Swedish friends – we thank you and celebrate your generosity. Rest in the knowledge that you have indeed made an enormous difference to Amelia and her extended family.



A place of light for the children of Mfuleni

Vi kan med rätta känna oss glada och stolta över vad vi gör.

Glöm inte Sakhumzi i sommar för som vanligt är det just nu som de behöver oss som mest.

Amelia berättar att de måste använda paraffinkaminer för att värma husen och priset på paraffin har gått upp. Kostnaden per månad nu när kylan trätt in är ca 2500R.

Som alltid påminns man om skillnaden mellan våra världar trots att vi är så lika varandra och har samma behov.

Önskar er alla en skön sommar Barbro/styrelsen