

## DAILY REPORT: XENPHOBIA 2008 CHRYSTALIS ACADEMY

**26/05** : Great response from parents at Wise Owl with clothing donations

Took tins of food, long life milk and toilet paper to Chrystalis Academy where there were 250 people seeking shelter.(worth R650) Things were still very hectic and unorganised. A lot of donations have been dropped off but more things for babies are needed - bottles, formula, nappies, wipes... Made good contacts with people running the camp. Soetwater camp is full. Hout Bay International Church have enough supplies but offer to give some to us if we are needing.

**27/05** : More donations from Wise Owl came in. Today I took all the clothing and blankets to Chrystalis.

Had a meeting with Pick'n'Pay Steenberg Village to get goods at cost. Got a phone call from Nicola (Volunteer @ Chrystalis) that they desperately need cleaning supplies, disinfectors and Baby food and nappies. Got all the supplies from Pick'n'Pay at cost. (worth R7000). Dropped it off at Chrystalis in the evening - was received very gratefully.

We got asked to take left over sandwiches to

refugees living in the streets in the City. - by Home Affairs. We fed about 200 homeless foreigners.

**Update from Chrystalis:** Different people have different facts, one is that they will have to take in another 1000 refugees. Others say they can't cater for more than 250... Today there were already 350 refugees. They are in need for adult mens clothing.

**Out of people's lives:** One man had a nervous breakdown at Chrystalis, he was separated from his wife and child in Philippi and doesn't know if they are still alive. It is almost impossible to track down anyone out of 60 000 people.

A woman chooses to rather sleep on the streets of Cape Town, because she doesn't want to lose her job in town which pays her R40 a day!

**28/05** : Handed out further donations from the Wise Owl parents (food, clothing and baby things)

Also handed out sports-drinking-bottles sponsored by Stevens Bikes. Chrystalis is still taking on more refugees but it's very tense because they don't know how many more they still need to take on. They still need more men's clothing and long life milk as well as polysty-

rene cups and still more nappies, baby food, bottles.

**29/05** : Dropped an other HUGE load of clothing, blankets, bedding, food and baby things donated by Wise Owl families and friends. And also donations which I got from my neighbours.

The numbers have gone down since yesterday at Chrystalis Academy. They are fighting to keep the camp open, since now the City of Cape Town wants to open their own places. - Places where girls are getting raped and the refugees are sleeping on wet ground.

There are still other camps being opened by churches and other volunteers out of the community. Chrystalis is helping them out however they can, extra food and clothing.

**30/05** : Cathy took a big load of men's clothing up to Chrystalis.

**02/06** : Dropped some more baby bottles & clothing at Chrystalis.

Things are much more organised now. One can't just drive in any longer, there is a registration tent at the boom. And things can be handed in there. They have a proper database of the people that are staying there. (with

photo) At the moment there are 310 refugees (unofficial) - 230 official. There is a big need for water and paper plates. They are running out of water and want to save some more by not having to wash dishes.

**04/06** : Dropped of more clothing. Hope-4-Kids has received various cash donations from Switzerland.

**05/06** : Dropped clothing and food collected from Wise Owl parents.

Got told that they are needing water desperately in big quantities. Their tanks are almost empty especially if it's not raining.

**06/06** : Went to the fire department in Westlake to ask for help with big amounts of water.

After a few calls it was organised and they were very generous - but back at Chrystalis things seem to get confusing, specially around the water problem..which an other person says is non existing. So we hang ten but the fire fighters are prepared to help at any stage.

Cash donations have been coming in from Switzerland, since the article has been published.

**GOOD NEWS:** The earlier mentioned man has been reunited not just with his wife and child, but also with his brother!!

**12/06** : Went past the academy tonight and dropped some clothing.

Food is critical at the moment, they go through 40 loafs of bread a day. They are also in need of milk, oil and breakfast things. For the time being they won't need more clothing, since they are not allowed to distribute it as they wanted to. This week on Monday night 22 refugees were brought to Chrystalis from Soetwater, the academy was told to take them in. On Tuesday 4 Zimbabwean also from Soetwater arrived at the academy, they were starved because they were not allowed to eat at their camp. Chrystalis Academy were not allowed to take them in, but fed and dressed them, then they took them to Kirstenhof Police station, where they stayed for the night and were taken to an other camp. Last night a man from Natal arrived soaking wet and his eyes blood shot - due to no sleep for days and walking all this way. He's been working in Natal for the past ten years, the same job, living in the same home. As the Xenophobia broke out he got attacked and all his belongings were destroyed, with it all his diplomas

and identity documents. He got to the academy with just the clothes on his back. They were not allowed to take him in, but again they dressed, fed and gave him the essentials and took him to the police station, where he stayed for the night.

The provincial government is giving the orders whether they are allowed to take people in or not, principally they are not allowed to take any more people in because they want to get as many people out of the camp (back to their homes) as possible. They are making it about politics...but how can you say something is politically incorrect when it's about human beings???

There has still been no help from the government and they were told that the volunteers have to leave the camp by Sunday so that the government is forced to step in... we will see what's going to happen and where that is going to lead to.

hope 4 kids  
www.hope-4-kids.com