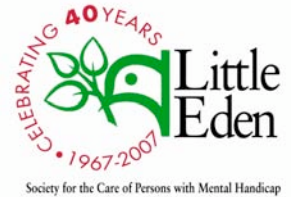


# Harvesters of Jesus



(Newsletter 107 – 04/04/2008)

The Association of the Harvesters of Jesus was established in order to provide the regular daily spiritual needs of the Little Eden Society. It is firmly believed that without such support, Little Eden would wither.

When initiated, the purpose of the Harvesters letter was to communicate occasions of the life at, and purpose of, Little Eden, and those working here were asked to contribute their 'stories'. What follows relates one such instance in the life of Little Eden – where resident and carers were affected. Karen, our music therapist was asked to record her experience after she had related it to other members of staff.



Photos are not of Wanda.

## "Wanda's Story" March 2008

*I have taken Wanda for individual music therapy as well as group music therapy for at least 12 months. My decision to take her as an individual from January 2008 developed because her condition had deteriorated since October 2007 and I wanted to provide some sort of release for her growing irritation and discomfort which she seemed to take out on herself by scratching, bumping and hitting herself.*

*I felt quite helpless at times during our individual sessions as she seemed far removed from the moment and what was offered to her. She ended up crying and wanting to hurt herself at the end of a session.*

*Our last session (Wed 27/02) was however, quite different. When the care worker, Pumzile, wheeled her in, I was shocked at her physical state. She was bandaged up from toe to head with blood coming through and her eyes were swollen where she had bumped herself. I was not sure what I could offer her if anything at all!!*

*I softly started to strum on the guitar, singing softly while Pumzile played a soft beat on the Bongo drums to my singing. Wanda started crying uncontrollably and with deep-rooted sobs. We just carried on singing and playing, trying to offer our music as support and contentment. As the crying continued I found myself close to tears and when I looked at Pumzile, her eyes were swimming. We carried on in our soft fashion until Wanda suddenly stopped crying and became very still. Pumzile said "She looks so beautiful!" to which I also noticed that her eyes had become very blue and there was a softness to her face and an expression of a gentle smile. I was taken aback by this sudden change but also by the care worker's poignant observation. We stopped our music after awhile and just stayed still, embracing the calmness.*

*After this session when I reflected on what happened, I felt an inner knowing that she would leave us soon. I was therefore not surprised when I learnt that Wanda had passed on, on the 04 March 2008. Thank you Wanda for the privilege of working with you, God bless your soul!"*

Wanda was born May 1976 and was being cared for at Cotlands awaiting adoption when she contracted measles and became mentally handicapped. Thereafter her behavior became very difficult and she was admitted to Little Eden on 31 Jan 1979.

Other than her short time with Cotlands, her home has been Little Eden; and her family has been our residents and staff. My first thoughts on this experience of Karen and Phumzile, was that 'this is what Little Eden is about'. We are not always able to quantify what we give to our residents or each other. We are asked to care for each other. We should not 'laugh off' anyone who does not acknowledge, or respond to us, or fit in with our views.

### **Daily prayer for the needs of LITTLE EDEN**



Jesus Great Harvester who desires the salvation of all mankind, accept the offering of my life and work in assisting You to help garner the fields for the harvest. Teach me compassion, understanding and love for those most in need. Bless our Association; strengthen the bonds of love and charity amongst us, so that with hearts united we may say "Thy kingdom come". Mary, comfort of the afflicted, pray for us.