

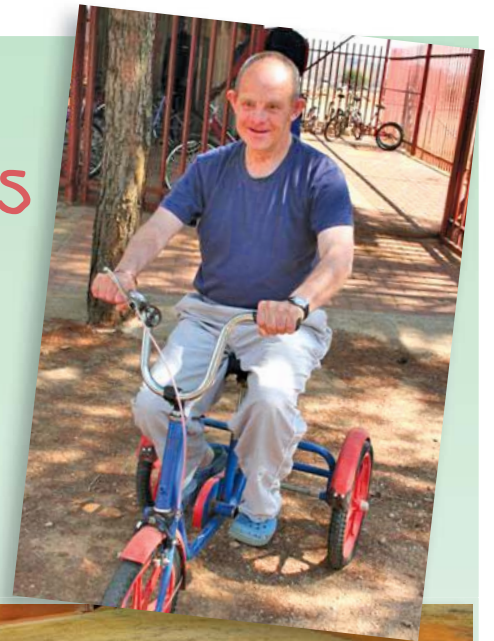
A tale of fountains, lambs and gardens ...

With so much going on at Elvira Rota Village, we hardly know where to start!

From the new 'values' gardens – replications of the three symbols that guide us in our work: Respect, Sanctity of Life and Love & Care – to the sparkling fountain outside Pino's Place, Peter Rohrbeck our Manager: Facilities,



has been busy! We have two new lambs in our farmyard, spring has come to our orchard, and it's pecan nut season – which means the children have been kept busy sorting and packing nuts. Of course, there's still time for the important activities that make life on the farm such fun ... riding bikes, horse riding, and walks to the wetlands!



It's only just been planted, but you can see the two symbolic 'hands' in this rock garden depicting our Respect value (above). One of the residents, Bobby, was so intrigued when we built the garden that he copied it with his Lego blocks!



The new fountain outside Pino's Place (above) has a calming effect on the residents, many of whom are affected by psychiatric illness.



(Left) Spring has come to the orchard at the Village and the peach trees are covered in pink blossoms.



Almost there!

We can virtually see the new chapel (left) taking shape in front of our eyes! Pictured at Week 27, with most of the brickwork complete and the parking area laid out and paved, the architect's impression (below left) is finally coming to life.

At this rate, we're right on target to complete the building this December ... possibly even in time to hold our Christmas service there ... with the official opening scheduled for January 2010.

A huge thank you to everyone who has contributed to the realisation of this dream of our founder, Mrs Domitilla Rota Hyams, and her husband Danny.

The chapel will be a lasting memorial to your vision – and a reminder of your generosity to everyone at LITTLE EDEN for years to come. Remember, you will always be welcome to join us in worship here.





Isn't she precious?

Meet Keketso, the latest addition to the LITTLE EDEN family and – at just 14 months – the youngest.

We are not usually allowed to admit children under the age of three, but the Department of Health gave special permission because the orphanage in which she was originally placed was not able to provide the special care she needs.

Keketso has microcephaly and spastic cerebral palsy and is very small for her age. As it is a while since we had such a young child here, the first thing we had to do was rush out and buy baby clothes.

Needless to say, there was no shortage of willing volunteers among

the staff for that task! Just as there are always willing arms to cuddle and comfort her when she cries or needs to be fed.

While most babies of her age have already taken their first wobbly steps, it will be a long time – if ever – before little Keketso learns to walk.

But, as with all our children, we will do everything we can to help this little one achieve her full potential, whatever that may be. Above all, we will strive to fill her life with love and joy.

As one of our generous supporters, you too will be part of this journey. Thank you for everything you do to make our work possible.



Spring is in the air

... and what better way to celebrate Spring Day than with a picnic in the park – complete with flowers, balloons and games for the more mobile children.

In lovely sunny weather, willing helpers were there to push wheel-chairs, catch balls and ensure the children thoroughly enjoyed the day.





From the youngest to the oldest ...
We care for life

When we welcomed Baby Keketso into our home last month, we made a commitment to care for her *for the rest of her life*.

That could be ten, twenty, thirty years or more; our oldest resident is 59 years old and has been with us for nearly 25 years. LITTLE EDEN is the only home he knows and it would be unthinkable to ever have to tell him that we were closing down or that he must find somewhere else to live.

Ensuring that we will be here for our children for as long as they need us is the reason why we have to plan for the future and not only for today.

It would be impossible for us to do this if we ran LITTLE EDEN on a wing and a prayer - never knowing if there is enough money in the bank

to cover unforeseen emergencies, like the recent delay in receiving subsidies from the Department of Health.

All of which leads some people to think that LITTLE EDEN does not really need financial support. Nothing could be further from the truth! We have to raise about R8 million a year to provide the level of care these very special children need. Every donation received – large or small – is vital. Our Board of Governors makes sure that it is put to the very best possible use to ensure the future sustainability of the organisation – and to keep our buildings and equipment in a good state of repair.

When you contribute to our organisation, you join us in making that commitment to care - for life.

‘Begin doing what you want to do now. We are not living in eternity. We have only this moment, sparkling like a star in our hand – and melting like a snowflake. Let us use it before it is too late.’

Marie Beyon Ray



Nicole Locher (above) is a young lady on a mission to bring joy into the lives of others. Not only has she ‘adopted’ one of our children, Godfrey – she recently took the time and trouble to arrange a special celebration in honour of his birthday.

Godfrey might not understand exactly what the balloons, sweets and presents were all about. But he did know it was a special day ... and he enjoyed all the attention!

To Nicole and other caring supporters like her, we say a big thank you. How lovely to use your time to make others happy!

If spring is here, Christmas can't be far off!



... and what better way to spread the joy of the season than with these unique Christmas cards featuring the children of LITTLE EDEN?

Altogether, there are five different and colourful designs, each beautifully capturing the spirit of Christmas in the happy and excited faces of our children. You can buy them now in packs of 10 for just R20!

It may only be the end of September, but already the Post Office is reminding us to post early for Christmas. So why not pop into the Edenvale Home and get your cards now. Or buy online at www.littleeden.org.za.

DIARY DATES

Fri 20 & Sat 21 November: Christmas concert at the Edenvale Home
Fri 27 & Sat 28 November: Christmas concert at Elvira Rota Village

*Please visit our website for more information on upcoming events:
www.littleeden.org.za*



One more angel in heaven

Everyone at LITTLE EDEN was shocked and saddened by the death of Malik on Saturday 9 August. Although she hadn't been with us for very long ... less than a year ... her sunny disposition and beautiful big smile made her a firm favourite among staff and visitors alike. Many friends and supporters will also recognise her from our letters and newsletters.

Malik became ill over the long weekend and passed away.

Sadly, death is no stranger to us. Many of our children have severe physical conditions that considerably reduce their life expectancy and Malik is one of five children we've lost recently. Often their passing is a blessed end to suffering – and we are certain that a better life awaits them in the next world. A life where they are not confined by imperfect minds and bodies, but where their spirits soar, free from pain and earthly limitations.

Please join us in saying a prayer for little Malik – and for the family and carers she left behind. House mother, Dalene, in particular, was devastated by her death, but has to be strong for the sake of the other children in her care.

'The best thing is the friendship between the children. They are always happy to see you and they smile to us.' - Elena

'I was impressed by hearing, "I won't forget you" or "I will miss you": in few days you can get a little part of their hearts and give your love.' - Alberto



Silvie (left) and Maddy (centre) help the residents at Elvira Rota Village prepare and pack nuts.

Above: volunteers from Italy, Alberto (19) and Elena (17) felt they'd 'grown up' after spending four weeks with us.

Young volunteers bring, receive joy

'We hope we will come back to South Africa soon and have the privilege to help you again. We don't know if we have helped LITTLE EDEN's children, but we know they have helped us.'

So wrote Silvia (24) and Maddalena (20) – two students from Italy who chose to spend their summer holiday helping out at LITTLE EDEN. Whether they sat shelling pecan nuts with the residents, or helped them paint pictures, these two young women brought friendship and fun to our children.

Last month we also welcomed Elena and Alberto, who spent time with the children at the Edenvale Home and Elvira Rota Village. Isn't it amazing to find young foreigners voluntarily giving up their time to come to our country – not to enjoy the sites, but to help others!