

SOUNS, May a rewarding Month

In May, the SOUNS team was active, reviving the project from a period in the doldrums by

Re-kindling an old alliance with the Viva Foundation,

joining up again with PEN on 6th May to review new ideas and their progress and

establishing a new partner in the Rotary Club of Pretoria West on 7th May.

Viva Village is a creche deep into Mamelodi where we started with SOUNS in 2011. The last visit there was probably in 2015. In the ensuing six years they have quietly and effectively used SOUNS to equip their pupils in the basics of reading as well as expanding to a second campus. This recent session served as a renewal of skills for 4 of their established teachers and an introduction for another 4. Four new sets were handed out and the existing sets which had only lost the dots were to be replenished. It was particularly gratifying how the project has maintained its momentum in the absence of inputs from Pretoria East.

PEN has been our most loyal partner also starting in 2011. The project introduced SOUNS to about 30 creches per annum in the central areas of Pretoria. On average those creches had about 20 to 100 pupils, so by working on 50 pupils per creche, PEN has introduced SOUNS from 2011 to 2021 to over 15000 pupils. In 2022, PEN has expanded to 108 creches and the SOUNS project is only introduced to those creches who meet defined standards, but assuming 100 creches are using SOUNS, and 50 pupils are in each creche, PEN now introduces SOUNS to 5000 pupils per annum.

This session with PEN was attended by 13 of their trainers and their 2 managers, so we were able to review with these trainers the skills we have all learnt to effectively use SOUNS. Each of those trainers serves many creches so a real cascade of skills has been created another really rewarding success story.

The last meeting reflects our aim to spread SOUNS into other Rotary Clubs. The RC of Centurion was the first club to adopt SOUNS in a school and associated creches in Diepsloot. but now in early May, the Rotary Club of Pretoria West came on board by setting up a meeting where over 50 people, teachers and pupils, attended. This incorporated the Shalom Christian School in Silverton, and 3 adjacent creches. A follow up is scheduled for July.

At all these meetings, the need to read stories to the pupils has been promoted. To meet this need, we sell to the staff books from Books in Homes. The books are sold for only R5-00 each, they cost R7 to R10, the difference made up by funds donated from our Swedish club partners. At our last meeting we sold 152 books, so on average each person attending bought 3 books.

Edie, Marba and myself are the active souls in the project, with assistance given on occasions by Nosisi, Omphile and Moira. The club owes all these souls a hearty vote of thanks. At the meeting last week, we would have loved to have more members of the club come along, it involves your time from 08:00 to 11:30 usually on a Saturday. Your involvement would make a major impact on the lives of many children.

PP Robin Jones



Visit from the Rotary Club of Pretoria West to Pretoria East's Souns presentation