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'Ready Steady Read Write' helps Kranshoek kids

THE 'Ready Steady Read Write' programme has been piloted at Kranshoek Primary to selected Grade R and Grade 1 learners during this year's first two terms.

Sooneela Naina of the Bitou 10 Foundation (B10F) trained six tutors and one of these, Anthea Wiesie, was selected to attend coordinator training at Wordworks in Cape Town.

The tutors are concerned residents set on improving literacy within their community and volunteer their time to assist with reading. After receiving training from B10F coordinators Sooneela and Anthea, they are now

ready for this task. The Wordworks programme supports early language and literacy development of children from previously disadvantaged communities, providing youngsters with the tools required to read and write successfully. Volunteer tutors work with pairs of children on a weekly basis for at least six months.

There is a compelling body of evidence showing that, if we are to give our poorest children a better chance of learning to read and write successfully, the right foundations for learning must be laid in the period before formal schooling begins.

While the vast major-

ity of children in SA now receive formal schooling, children living in poverty still have much less chance of mastering reading and writing. As long as our poorest children fail to learn these skills, our education system will not succeed in improving life chances and breaking the cycle of inter-generational poverty.

Too many of our learners from deeply deprived backgrounds find it difficult to cope with the educational curriculum in the Foundation Phase (Grades 1-3). The objective of this programme is thus primarily to prepare these kids adequately for formal schooling.

Funding and additional volunteers are now required to continue the programme in Kranshoek. Without financial support, this job would be extremely tough, if not impossible.

Call 044 533 6466 or email manager@bitou10foundation.co.za if you live in the Kranshoek area and would like to volunteer your time as a tutor, or if you are in a position to support the programme through funding. Any contributions would be greatly appreciated.

B10F expresses sincere gratitude to Wordworks for making a life-changing impact on the development of learners and teachers in Bitou.

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Paving the way for walkers

Little Seals owner Rasta Mbonisi Tuli, in red, is pictured here with his wife, Nokubonga, and employees Yolanda Mbexa, Scana Gwinta, and Mziyanda Mhlana shortly after hearing that the company had been awarded a tender to create sidewalks for the whole of KwaNokuthula to the value of R200,000 per phase. He is also a housing subcontractor in KwaNokuthula and is currently involved in the construction of four sites in Sishuba Street. One of the local residents interviewed on the subject is Sibongile Henama. "I appreciate what the municipality is doing with the pavements because we struggle when it is raining - not everyone has a car. Now we will have well-designed pavements to walk on rather than risking our lives in the road, which we've been doing because we don't like walking in the mud when it rains. We are voting for project implementation. They must create more work in particular for us in the townships as our young people are unemployed. Alcohol and drugs are bad in the township. They make young people violent and increase crime our levels," she said. - Words & photo: Khaya Mbese

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