



## One big 'thank you' for two small miracles

**A** generous heart like yours already knows that 'miracles' come in many shapes and sizes. Our two 'small miracles' are named Billy and Vuyo.

When Billy was brought to us at six months old, he was a pitiful sight.

His little body was covered with infected scabies, and his skin so thin. It had been rubbed away on parts of his body and Eczema had started to form. But the neglect went further than just physical, he had been severely neglected emotionally. When most other babies his age were smiling and responding happily, Billy stayed withdrawn, solemn and silent. The light in his eyes had been extinguished.

And whilst the scabies could be treated with medication, and eventually went away, there was only one 'medicine' that could cure what else was wrong with Billy... LOVE. Your help allowed us to give him all the hugs, cuddles, kisses and reassurances that he needed.

Even on this high dosage, recovery was slow. But then came that 'miracle' moment we'd all been praying for ... Billy's first smile, which signalled his real road to recovery.

On the day that Billy smiled, we all smiled, and haven't stopped since.

Vuyo's story is somewhat different. He was wrapped in a blanket and abandoned as a newborn baby in the lane behind Nazareth House.

A young couple taking a walk found

him by chance, and immediately brought him to us.

Seeing how weak and sick this tiny little mite looked, we took him straight to hospital where he was diagnosed with septicaemia, and had to be kept in an incubator for a week until he had stabilised.

We named him Vuyo - which, appropriately, means Happiness. Happiness, in that his Guardian Angel was with him as he lay in the lane, abandoned and sick ... in that he was found ... in that the support of friends like you allowed us to take him into our care ... in that he lived through his ordeal and illness ... and in that the young couple who found him, have now taken him and given him a loving home. Vuyo is loved and has a family.

There's so little that we can ever do to repay you for your generosity to children in need.

But we hope that reading about these two 'small miracles' will leave you smiling, with happiness in your heart.



*Young Billy has a healthy appetite again.*

# We are moving!

**A**t long last, the specially designed new cottages that will be 'home' for our children with special needs, and a 'safe haven' for those who come to us in an emergency situation, are a reality.

Boxes are being packed by eager little hands and the excitement



shows in their little faces when they talk about their new home. Preparation by the staff is underway and the "BIG MOVE" will take place over the next

*(Left) The vegetable garden produces a constant supply of fresh produce.*

*(Right) One of the little ones helps with the big move – by packing his toys away.*



few weeks, weather permitting.

And we have a BIG 'Thank You' to say to our Special Angels who helped us buy the essentials to equip the interiors. Curtains, floor rugs, hospital beds and cots, new bedlinen, tables and chairs and many smaller items were all needed.

We couldn't have achieved this without you. Bless all of you for your generosity and kindness.

## A message from Sister Veronica

**A**s the Sisters of Nazareth, the mission of our community is to care for those who are disadvantaged.

And our ministry is built on a foundation of core values.

In previous newsletters, I've introduced you to two of our values: Love and Hospitality. Another rock on which we stand is Respect.

Respect is what

helps us recognise that 'everyone is a somebody – unique, sacred and a mystery'. They come to Nazareth House in their hour of need to be cared for with love and dignity, together with respect, this will

make the difference in their lives. And this reassurance happens when hearts speak to hearts.

So today, from my heart, I want to thank you for partnering with us in our ministry ... for sharing our core values ... and for making the difference in disadvantaged people's lives.

And I leave these words with you: 'as often as you did it to one of these ... you did it to me.' (Matthew 25:40)

*Sister Veronica*

Sister Veronica  
Sister Superior



## News of Baby Rachel

**W**hen Sister Veronica wrote to you about baby Rachel who was found in a bundle on a station platform, she described her story as one where a 'guardian' and 'other angels' were at work.

And as always – earthly 'angels' like you, sent love and help for an innocent child in need. So we know that you'll be happy to hear that another 'angel' has come into Rachel's life.

In trying to trace Rachel's family, we were able to find her grandmother. And after a recovery period with us, Rachel has gone home with her granny who is devoted to her.

Where the station rats had gnawed



*Baby Rachel – is now safely home with granny – thanks to earthly 'angels' like you.*

Rachel's tiny fingers the wounds have now healed. She has some scarring, but no permanent serious damage has been done. And it's wonderful to know that this special little girl will now be well cared for.

Thank you, from all of us.

## Serendipity

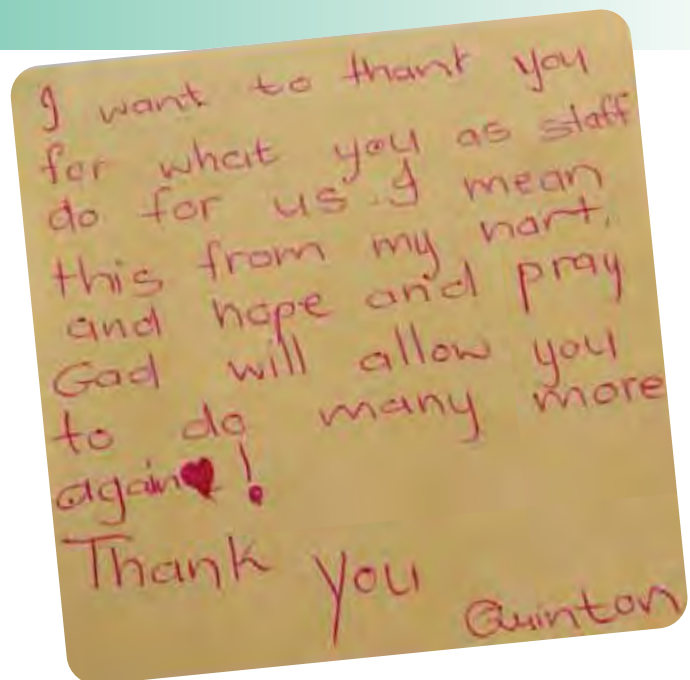
**M**any people from other countries who come to Cape Town and know of Nazareth House, or who are already one of our 'angels', will pay us a visit.

And on one particular occasion, the visitors in question arrived by taxi. Imagine our surprise when they told us that the Taxi Driver had sung the praises of Nazareth House throughout the journey.

At a time in his life when he was so ill he could barely walk, and his life seemed at risk, he was referred to us and became a patient in our St Michael's Hospice.

After a lot of loving care and nursing, this gentleman is now sufficiently well and strong enough to drive his taxi again. And he hasn't stopped thanking us since. St Michael's stop thanking you.

Hospice makes this kind of difference through your help – and we also can't stop thanking you.



*We have two books which are filled with messages from grateful hospice patients. Many have recovered and gone on with their lives; others have died peacefully and with dignity in our care. These many messages also belong to you.*

## Celebrating the birthday of our nation's 'grandfather'

**O**ur past President, Nelson Mandela, is regarded as a national and international hero.

But he's also something much more. With his wonderful approachability and sense of fun, coupled with his natural love for and response to children, Madiba (as he's affectionately known) also makes him 'Grandfather' to all South Africa's children.

His Christmas and birthday parties are always attended by children, wherever he might be. And here at Nazareth House our children were also able to celebrate Madiba's birthday – when some friends offered to sponsor a party.

We thank them for the day of fun filled excitement for our children – and we also thank Nelson Mandela, for being such a remarkable role model. May all our children live up to the example he has set.

*This is the miracle that happens every time to those who really love; the more they give, the more they possess.*

*Rainer Maria Rilke*



## We're blessed – in so many ways

**T**he blessings you shower on us come in many forms.

They come in cheques and bankdrafts. They come in parcels of clothing and toys. They come in prayers and good wishes.

And they also come in words of encouragement, and in the sharing of your lives with us in your lovely and very welcome letters.

From one of our 'Special Angels' came a cheque, with a further one to come, fulfilling a promise to God as she prayed through a time of not knowing whether her young grandchild would survive a serious illness.

Another dear friend asked for prayers for depression. Perhaps

## The caring doesn't stop

**O**nce a member of our Nazareth House Family, always a family member – no matter where or when.

Young Charlene came to live with us for a while during a difficult period between the Court placing her in one children's home and then another, where she is now doing well.

But even during her short stay, the love that you helped us give to Charlene made a difference in her life, and still continues. On her 13th birthday this year, Sister Margaret visited her with a gift. And when the July school holidays were on the horizon, Charlene phoned to arrange a day when she could come back to see all of us.

The ties of love are strong, and unending, and you are part of that.

you would be willing to pray too, for someone whose heart is as big as yours.

And for young Emily – a letter came in asking if it would be in order to send a box of 'trinkets' to her ... some inexpensive jewellery, hair grips and bows – those little things dear to a young girl's heart. What a beautiful thought.

Pets also come into our communications. The death of a beloved animal companion causes great sadness – but perhaps another dog or cat can creep into that space to also give and receive love in the future.

And sometimes the small 'angel tokens' we send inspire an act of generosity, or provide a sign of good news on the way.

We're entrusted with confidences, joys and sorrows, hardships and answers to prayers. We carry them all in our hearts ... every one of our special blessings.