

MTN transforms lives of Shiselweni pre-schoolers

Stories By Thabile Mdluli

Guest writer

Fresh from winning two prestigious awards following a successful 'Investing in Education for all' campaign in June, Swazi MTN has once again come to the rescue of early childhood care and education, through the donation of E350 000 to Hand-in-Hand Pre-School in the Shiselweni region.

The money was used to refurbish the pre-school building as well as sponsoring a teachers training programme. On Thursday, a team of senior managers from Swazi MTN visited the pre-school to hand-over the refurbished building to the Shiselweni Reformed Church in Dwaleni, outside Nhlanguano.

Shiselweni Reformed Church Home-Based Care Centre, which not only provides basic education for free to local children but also distributes food to other vulnerable groups within the community, accepted the donation on behalf of the pre-school.

Swazi MTN Chief Executive Officer Ambrose Dlamini, speaking during the hand-ing-over, said his organisation felt privileged to have the opportunity to touch people's lives

...company hands over refurbished building and teaching aid worth E350 000 to Hand-in-Hand Pre-School



DONATION: Swazi MTN senior management posing with Shiselweni Reformed Church CEO Dr Aurno van Wyngaard and Hand-in-Hand pre-schoolers after the handing over of a refurbished building to the school.

in so many positive ways.

He said they were confident that what they had donated to Hand-in-Hand would go a long way in ensuring that the children, who benefit from it would have a bright future due

to a strong educational foundation.

"At MTN, we are proud of the role we play in shaping the social and economic future of our people. We understand that as we pursue our business objectives, we also need to play

a leading role in shaping the social standing of the people," Dlamini said.

He added that this was not the first time Swazi MTN had addressed early childhood care and education this year, following this year's 21 Days of Y'ello Care Campaign, which saw the mobile telecommunications network winning two awards. During this campaign, MTN partnered with the Ministry of Education and Training, Macmillan Education Swaziland and UNESCO in providing books and health services to children in less privileged schools around the country.

"We are passionate about assisting government in ensuring that it meets some of the MDG goals around education for all before 2015. Over the years, MTN has visibly extended its support and resources to a wide menu of social causes and activities. We hope that this partnership will be visible even when as a company we need our partners to say something good about us in the midst of negativity around our brand," said the CEO.

Also present during the handing over were MTN Head of Corporate Affairs Pholile Dlamini, Corporate Affairs Manager Mpumelelo Makhubu, Head of Network Wandile Mtshali and Head of Information Systems Ceeno Dlamini.