



NUUS

New classrooms for Bonnie People

Deur **Hilderine Schroder** | Maandag 27 April 2015 23:57



Bonnie People outside Bonnievale recently celebrated the official opening of its new classrooms. The ribbon was cut by Aly Zeiman, the creator of Bonnie People. With him is Niki Louw, the project manager. photos: hilderine schröder

A curious little face peeking around the door frame, waving excitedly with a wide grin, is the first hint that something big is up at Bonnie People on the edge of Bonnievale.

A red ribbon surrounding a brand-new building next to the centre's existing classrooms gently flutters in the breeze. It's a day everybody at Bonnie People has long waited on.

As guests arrive, all eyes turn to the beautifully crafted addition to Bonnie People's premises. The purpose-built building houses four brand new classrooms.

Bonnie People is a community development project which assists the inhabitants of nearby informal settlements.

The project invests especially in the needs of the children by running a feeding scheme as well as a day care facility and a nursery school as well as facilitating youth activities.

Bonnie People was founded by Luxembourg resident Aly Zeiman after a visit to South Africa, during which he also visited the settlement outside Bonnievale. The plight of especially children in the settlement touched his heart and he went home with the firm intention to help.

Many fundraising activities later, the centre went from strength to strength. "The explanation that the money goes to kids made it easier to raise funds," Zeiman said during the opening of the new classrooms. "We wanted to give these children dignity."

Although he has officially handed over the reins of the project, the project will continue to have a positive impact on the many young children passing through its doors, Zeiman vowed.

The new classrooms were furnished with the help of a number of volunteers, Bonnie People's project manager, Niki Louw, said at the opening. "The furniture were sourced locally."

Guests at the opening, which included representatives from the local police as well as the Langeberg Municipality, were also treated to a few songs by the little ones at Bonnie People.

The children at the school will be divided among the four new classrooms according to their age. Bonnie People is a safe haven for 78 children from the Bonnievale area.

The centre also provides the transport to bring them to and from the centre