

Dear All,

Well, what a busy last few months it has been!!!

On 2 December 2011, a team from ADP descended on the Centre in Soweto and started to transform it and the horses. Below is an extract from ADP's write-up on the day:

On December 2 2011, a bus, several cars and a motorbike or two arrived at Soweto Equestrian Centre and unloaded a hoard of strange but excited looking people, paint, poles, augurs, nails, hammers, rollers and all sorts of bits and pieces. ADP had arrived for their 1st annual charity day.

Lesley Pearson, an ADP'er and admitted horse nut nominated Enos and his human and animal family to be a charity that was desperately in need of ADP's help. ADP management agreed and Lesley promptly went into overdrive organising everything from tiny nails to wooden fencing poles. The cold drinks and food disappeared the quickest though.

Once everybody was at the centre, everybody broke into their teams and was sent off to go and start their chosen chore for the day.

The fencing team, run by Peter Swanepoel, Jason Soekoe and Colin Woollacott, started drilling holes for the fencing poles. As the plans were being thought up on the spur of the moment, some minor adjustments had to be made. Once they had started though, only broken backs, aching legs and bashed hands was likely to stop them. That was until Peter told them to get back to work after lunch. They had learnt their lesson this time and trooped off to finish the last few poles.

The painting team started changing the pretty run down stable doors into works of art. Rowena, Nicol and Paulynie took the professionalism of the job extremely seriously, while the younger guys seemed to find watching the horses getting a bath more fun. At the end of the day though, once Rowena had gone around and made sure for the 4th? Time that there were no missed spots, the doors all looked wonderful.

The washing team started on the big white horse. The fact that he had to be locked in a crush to be bathed seemed to intimidate the crew at first, but that could have been Enos' sense of humour. Somehow he didn't seem all that dangerous when you watched Enos' pre-teen grandsons washing him along with some very nervous ADP first timers. Everybody got a bath though, including most of the team. Ryan even got a thank you from one of the foals.

The planters made part of the grounds look much nicer with trees, plants and little touches that are what makes a place seem more cheerful and nice to be near. One of the foals did decide to "taste the menu" until someone moved everything into a locked paddock and the filly was led around to look at everything except the taste new stuff.

Once everybody had enjoyed a lunch of hot-dogs and cold drinks, the fencing team once again marched off to put the last touches to everything. Everybody then headed off back to work for a well earned braai.

As much fun as the day was, everybody knew at the back of their minds that they were there for a purpose. A great man who has spent all of his life learning, teaching and caring deserves to be recognised. A place like the Soweto Equestrian Centre is often the only place poor children have to go other than the streets. To give up just one day of your time to help out in places like this can, literally, change peoples' lives.

ADP decided this year that a “party hearty” wasn’t the way to go. It decided to help some people who really needed the help.

Below are some photos from the day!

On behalf of the Board of Foundation, I would like to thank ADP for all the hard work and the enthusiasm with which it was done. Well done to ADP!!

Kind regards
Marie-Aurélie

