



# Rural Education, Awareness & Community Health

"addressing sexual harassment"

## Follow-up celebration: International Rural Women's Day

25 October 2006

On Saturday, the 14<sup>th</sup> of October 2006, Rural Education, Awareness & Community Health, a non-profit organization, that addresses sexual harassment and sexual violence on farms, organized another special event for women farm workers. Following on from its Rural Women's Day campaign on the 12<sup>th</sup> of August, this day served to celebrate International Rural Women's Day.

The venue, Eskom's Palmiet Visitors Centre, was the perfect setting for a rare event – a full cinematic experience! Armed with packets of chips, cool-drinks and sweets the women were treated to a big screen movie in Palmiet's auditorium. The film North Country, featuring South Africa's much acclaimed superstar Charlize Theron, focuses on a true story of sexual harassment and victimization of a woman in a male dominated workplace in North America. The movie carried a relevant message to the women, who are themselves often victims of abuse and sexual harassment. At the end of the film there was an interactive discussion about dealing with abusive situations and the need to support each other in times of need.

The afternoon ended off with the greatest indulgence of all with the distribution of bundles of clothes thanks to the very kind donation by Woolworths via Greater Good South Africa!



Boxes of clothing from Woolworths



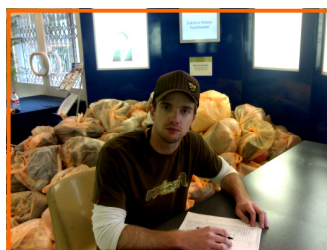
The cinematic experience!



Some of the women and children who celebrated the day with us.



Interactive discussions...



Nic ready to distribute clothes...



Happy clothing recipients!



Our great friend, Jenny (middle) from Eskom's Palmiet Visitors Centre

**From left to right:** Ian (volunteer from Ireland who joined us for the day), Joanie (Executive Director of REACH), Nic (our fabulous probono designer and all-round friend of REACH), Claudia (Training & Counseling Director of REACH), and Roxanne (REACH's volunteer from Ireland).



Some more happy recipients of clothing donated by Woolworths!



Fond farewells!

### My name is Roxanne...

I am a volunteer from Belfast in Northern Ireland. I am part of a training course set up in Belfast called Springboard who gave me this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to come to South Africa. I came on this journey to learn and experience new ways of living and to see how other people live in a different country with lots of different cultures. I am a voluntary youth and community worker back home so my personal goal on coming out here was to help others help themselves and also just help others.

I attended the event REACH had on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> October which was for rural women. I thought it was a brilliant idea for an event, screening a movie as well as donating clothes. I was surprised to see so many people turning up as I have never experienced anything like this before. It was very moving to see how grateful these people were for the whole day and how they kept a very positive attitude throughout the day. It was also touching to see them so happy and grateful for the clothes they were given compared to others who would turn their noses up to them and reject them. Overall I enjoyed the day, found it a great experience and thought it was a success in every way.

**Thank you** To Woolworths, Greater Good South Africa & Eskom Palmiet Visitors Centre...a very big thank you for making this day such a special and pleasure-filled affair!