

Campaign for Peace: REACH celebrates its 3rd S.A. Rural Women's Day



August 2008

“Congratulations on a well and professionally organized event on Saturday, it was a pleasure to be able to attend and to be of assistance, keep up the wonderful work you are making the huge difference in the lives of those in most need. Well Done.”

Greg Damster
Manager: Special Events & Competitions
Community Chest

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On Saturday the 16th of August 2008 REACH held its 3rd annual S.A. Rural Women's Day campaign in Swellendam which was attended by an overwhelming number of farm workers and their children from across the Overberg and Boland (i.e. Paarl, Grabouw, Villiersdorp, Worcester/Ceres, Swellendam, Suurbraak, Barrydale, Gansbaai, Buffelsbaai, Stanford and Kleinmond), as well as a variety of other guests.

The event this year was done in partnership with local Swellendam organizations A.C.V.V, Badisa, Help and Care for our Community, Community Development Workers, Hesequa Skakelmaatskappy, Lovelife, Swellendam SAPS, Swellendam's youth and sports forum and Grabouw's Eye on the Child.

The theme was community violence and was chosen for two primary reasons: out of a request by farm workers from Swellendam at one of REACH's awareness-raising workshops while also honouring REACH's

commitment made to this community at little Mikayla Rossouw's funeral last year (turn to page 3 to read more). The campaign was aptly called "Passport to Peace... stamp out community violence! The Journey begins with you." The campaign focused on a 10 step plan to address community violence and commenced with a march through the town centre (turn to page 2 to read more) proceeding to a local community hall where guests were empowered through various moving and motivating speeches (turn to page 2 to read more) and entertained by various local drama, singing and dance groups (turn to page 4 to read more).

As tradition the campaign also featured the introduction of the yearly "Face of REACH" – a woman elected from REACH's beneficiary farming community who exemplifies empowerment and triumph in the face of adversity. This was then followed by an awards ceremony where individuals were recognized for

their efforts in empowering local communities and for their role in assisting victims of abuse and violence (turn to page 3 to read more).

Another special initiative—organized due to the overwhelming number of children attending the event with their parents—was the children's event complete with their own programme of educational talks, sports and various other fun activities. The children's event was run by Swellendam's Badisa, Lovelife, A.C.V.V; Grabouw's Eye on the Child and the Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport.

The campaign was incredibly successful: it was well attended, received much media attention—from newspaper (turn to page 6 for more info) and radio (Bush Radio, Cape Talk, KFM, SABC Radio) alike—and was described as "professionally organized" and empowering!"



Farm worker guests



Marianne Steward's "Bontebok Drummiess" from Bontebok Primary School leading the march

The March for Peace

Spirits were running high and excitement prevailed as our "march to peace" commenced the campaign.

A group of young majorettes proudly and very elegantly led the hundreds of walkers who took to the streets following the march route from Swellendam's main road up the long and steep hill toward Railton, a suburb of Swellendam where the main event was to be

held. As the walkers braved the steep hill someone was overheard making a witty, but quite appropriate comment, that the route was reflective of South Africa's uphill battle to fight crime.

As guests marched on, Ema Buffel, a journalist from Die Burger perched herself on the fire engine that was leading the march

and took photo's while curious onlookers enchanted with the crowd and its atmosphere joined in. It was hard not to notice the passion, commitment and effort that this massive group demonstrated as they petitioned in solidarity to eradicate crime and violence in their communities.

A big thank you to all, especially those ladies

in high-heel shoes, who braved this "long march to freedom" and a big thank you to: Farouk Meyer for the water sachets that quenched everyone's thirsts; the majorettes; the fire, traffic, and police departments; and the municipality for allowing us this privilege to march for peace.

Speeches & Guest Speakers

The main event commenced with a warm welcome from MC Joanie Fredericks, Executive Director of REACH who thanked everyone for attending the event and introduced guests to the theme & objectives of the event. Several guest speakers followed who shared their views on violence in our country and what needed to be done to put an end to it.

The Opening Speaker **Deputy Minister Nomatyala Hangana** from the Department of Provincial & Local Government challenged women & children not to keep quiet about violence being perpetrated against them and warned men not to look away if they saw these crimes being committed. She congratulated REACH on its good work with rural communities and pledged her and her departments commitment to rural communities by announcing on stage that the DPLG would be sponsoring the full sum of over R160 000.00 for the transport of all of REACH's farm worker guests to the event. Words are insufficient to express our gratitude to Deputy Minister Hangana, her staff and the Department for their

overwhelming support! **Elsabe Rossouw**, mother of little Mikayla Rossouw who was tragically raped and murdered by her neighbour in Swellendam last year delivered the community keynote address. Elsabe shared how painful and difficult it had been to accept having lost Mikayla to this tragedy—made even harder by the increase in violent crimes in Swellendam following Mikayla's death (another 9 deaths occurred in Swellendam shortly after Mikayla's murder). Elsabe implored mothers not to neglect and disown their children but rather cherish the gift that God had given them. Sharing that her greatest wish was to spend one more day with her daughter it was clear that her sad and humble but brave and powerful message was acknowledged as many shared tears during her compassionate address.

Amelia Jones, CEO of Community Chest used the opportunity to introduce guests to their organization and the crucial role that it plays in communities. To everyone's surprise and awe Amelia ended her speech by handing over a cheque of

R10 000.00 to REACH for the benefit of its farm worker beneficiaries. Humbled tears flowed as Joanie thanked Amelia and Community Chest for all the support that this organization had given, and continued to give, REACH and its farm workers beneficiaries. **Pastor Freek Witbooi** from the church New Awakenings spoke on the importance of family unity and communication and how it played a role in breaking the cycle of violence and abuse. Swellendam's **Supt. Lee** delivered the police keynote address commencing with an account of how his relationship with REACH had began; the important and positive work that REACH had been doing in Swellendam with farm workers and the crucial role that he and other police representatives had played at REACH's workshops. He spoke about how painful Mikayla's death had been for everyone in the community but remarked on how despite communities declaring that it would never happen again, 9 murders followed shortly. He further added that since April 2008 four murders in Swellendam had al-

ready taken place (three of which were on farms). He implored communities to adopt the 10 step plan and to get involved—to be good neighbours; to keep an eye on the children; to join neighbourhood watches; and to get involved in Sector policing where the community and the police join forces to identify and find solutions to crimes being perpetrated. Although he acknowledged the work being done by government to deal with crime, he urged them to play a greater role and to take on more responsibilities in tackling this debilitating force in our country.

Louwna Witbooi from Help & Care for your Community, a Swellendam organization, spoke on the importance of supporting and empowering victims—not judging, criticizing or blaming victims as often happens in incidences of rape and other forms of violence. **Philasande Macwili**, Assistant Director of Sports Transformation from the Department of Cultural Affairs & Sport spoke on how sport can play a role in ending crime.

The 10 Step Plan to Stamp out Community Violence

1. Don't judge victims
2. The family can break the cycle
3. Keep an eye on the child
4. Respect your community – report crime!
5. REACH Out!
6. Play sport, prevent crime!
7. Don't abuse the system
8. Staan saam
9. Raak wys – stop die dop
10. The journey begins with you – what can you do?



Deputy Minister Hangana



Elsabe Rossouw



Pastor Witbooi & Joanie



Amelia Jones & Joanie



Louwna Witbooi & Joanie



Superintendent Lee



Philasande Macwili

In memory of Mikayla

As little Mikayla's tragic demise was one of the greatest reasons for this year's campaign we felt it only just that she be honoured and remembered. At the event, Mikayla's mother was given a candle which was used to light a further two

hundred candles—distributed amongst the guests in the hall. Following a moment of silence Joanie acknowledged the importance of remembering those lives lost to senseless violence and crime regardless of how painful it remains.

This is the only way that we will not give in and accept the status quo—as communities we need to stand together and to talk with one voice that enough is enough in order to affect positive change.



A candle in memory of Mikayla is held by her mother and used to light 200 other candles



Bernie from A.C.V.V. (middle) and other guests hold candles in memory of lives lost to senseless violence and crime

The journey begins with you—what can you do?

The last step of the 10 Step Plan reads: “the journey begins with you—what can you do?” Guests at the event were challenged to have their say and make their pledge/commitment—what would they, as individuals and community members, do to contribute towards the eradication of community violence.

Guests took turns to have their say and either made commitments or suggestions which could be implemented. Some of these were: taking ownership of problems by beginning to make a change within themselves and their family; urging community members to report crimes that they were aware of to the police

and the formulation of farm committees focusing on safety and security. We were very pleased with the audience's participation and enthusiasm—it was clear that the event and its objectives were being taken seriously and we hope that others were inspired to take on recommendations

and implement in their own lives and community. The campaigns theme and its objectives did not however end at the event! We use this opportunity to extend the challenge to you reader...what can you do? Please visit our website or email us with your pledges!



Faces of REACH & Community Awards

Every year at REACH's S.A. Rural

Women's Day campaign REACH

nominates a “Face of REACH” – a woman from its beneficiary farming community who exemplifies empowerment and triumph in the face of adversity. The “Face of REACH” then serves as its community ambassador and is tasked to represent REACH and our message within her community. For a full year she is also portrayed on all of REACH's docu-

ments and materials until the title is handed over to the next deserving woman. The “Face of REACH” has progressively gained more recognition and responsibilities over the years and it was with great delight and honour that we introduce Paulina Maritz as the 2008 “Face of REACH”.

The campaign also served as a means for REACH to ac-

knowledge its many community leaders and members it works with. Claudine Dyck from Gansbaai was nominated for an award and gift for the role she played (and continues to play) in assisting two victims of abuse. Unfortunately due to a family illness Claudine was not able to attend the event but she has since received the gift and was delighted and deeply honoured.

Community leaders who helped ensure that their communities were represented at the event, and who we have always been able to count on, were also given gifts as rewards for their dedication and efforts to empowering their communities. We have the greatest appreciation, admiration and respect for all these individuals!



Honouring powerful women: “Faces of REACH” from 2006 to 2008



Claudia Lopes, Projects Director of REACH, hands out gifts & awards



Farm community leaders acknowledged



Paarl community leader takes the stage

Entertainment

An excellent entertainment line-up ensured that there was amusement amidst the speeches.

Tribal Echo, a band from Kleinmond who sing about problems facing communities, such as domestic violence, child abuse and drug and alcohol abuse, took to the platform and rapped their way into everyone's hearts. This group is amazing: their songs, their sound, and their voices all contribute to a powerful message which engages and inspires anyone listening to them. The cherry on the cake was their CD prize giveaways which added to the audience's excitement.

Healing Hands are a group of mostly school-going young girls who choreograph dances inspired by religious

music. Their dance acts are truly magical and one is left with a sense of peace and hope following their performance.

Buffeljags Survivors are a group of women and youth who attended REACH's awareness raising workshops on domestic violence, sexual harassment, rape, drug and alcohol abuse and HIV/AIDS, and who then used what they learnt from the workshops and what they were seeing in their community—the violence being perpetrated against women and children, the spread of HIV/AIDS, and the severe alcohol abuse—to write and enact a play. The play is entertaining but also very heartfelt and ends with a message of hope and empowerment. We are currently assisting the drama group in seeking funds to officially formalize their

group.

Youth on the Move are an eager and very involved-in-the-community drama and Hip Hop youth group (aged between 16 and 25) who fall under the auspices of A.C.V.V. in Swellendam and that develop, either on their own or with the assistance of drama teachers and other individuals, plays, drama and dance acts on issues affecting their communities such as drug and alcohol use and abuse. They work primarily with schools and the youth. A.C.V.V. is currently trying to assist them in seeking funds for travel and to purchase costumes, cordless mikes and other equipment to strengthen their acts.



Tribal Echo



Healing Hands



Youth on the Move



Youth on the Move



Buffeljags Survivors



Youth on the Move

The Children's Event report by Stallone Govender, Badisa Swellendam

More than 300 children and youth from different towns in the Western Cape were involved with [this campaigns] program. The children as well as the youth [joined in] with the march from Swellengrebel Hotel to the Thusong Service Centre. The Children and the youth thereafter walked over to the Senior Secondary School's sports grounds. A tent was erected on the school's sports grounds in case of rain. The program began at 12.45 with an opening and welcoming. Thereafter the program that had been scheduled for their event was explained to all the children and youth. The Fire Department arrived shortly thereafter to demonstrate how to put a fire out. The children enjoyed seeing it. The Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport also presented various sports

activities (two of which were soccer and netball). Love Life held various awareness raising talks with the children and youth. Badisa used plays to deliver messages on domestic violence, teenage pregnancies, drug and alcohol abuse, poverty and teen pressure. Dance competitions were also held and several children participated. A youth group also put on a singing show. During lunch every child and youth had something to eat. Juice and various other cold drinks were also provided for, [as well as] sweets and goodies which the children enjoyed a lot.

The day was very successful—the children were kept busy in a constructive and stimulating manner. Many of the children helped to clean up following the event.



The following organizations were involved in the children's event: Badisa Swellendam, Love Life, Department of Cultural Affairs and Sports and Eye on the Child.



Sponsors, Funders & Service Providers—Thank You!

A VERY big thank you to the following sponsors who without their assistance, commitment and kindness, this event would not have been possible nor as memorable (in alphabetical order):

Appletiser for the donation of Appletiser;
Associated Fruit Processors for the donation of juice;
Clicks for their donation of gifts (kettles and black out lanterns);
Community Chest for their

donation of clothing, shoes & children's toys (which were donated to Swellendam organizations to distribute to their most needy clients), bowls, cups, spoons and for the wonderful financial donation at the event that is to be used to purchase food for some of our most neediest of farm workers;
Department of Social Development for their financial contribution towards the event;
Department of Social

Development Worcester District Office for funding the transport of farm workers from Worcester;
Department of Provincial and Local Government for funding the transport for farm workers from all the other regions;
Department of Public Enterprises for their financial contribution towards the event;
Enous Packaging for their donation of cups;
Eskom for their sponsorship

"I [want] to applaud you guys for the wonderful work you do in the rural communities and the empowering day you held on Saturday 16 August. Thank you for inviting [me], I was really impressed. Please do not hesitate to let me know how I can assist in my personal capacity or as Eskom wherever I can. Thanks again."

**Ursula Kibido
Eskom**



Speakers, sponsors & guests: (back row from left) Supt. Van Renen, Supt. Nillson, Amelia Jones from Community Chest, Ursula Kibido from Eskom (middle row from left) Supt. Lee, Deputy Minister Nomatyala Hangana, Angeliqe Geldenhuis from Old Mutual (front row) Joanie Fredericks, Executive Director of REACH

of our beautiful campaign t-shirts;
Eveready for their apt gifts of panic alarm key rings;
Farouk Meyer for the water sachets and marshal bibs for the march;
Hesekwa Skakelmaatskappy for sponsoring the event venue;
L'Oreal for their gifts of beauty products;
Old Mutual for their financial contribution towards the event;
Peninsula Beverages for their donation of cool drinks and the printing of two banners for the march;
Revlon for their gifts of beauty products and accessories;
Rhodes Food Group & Magpie for the donation of pies, and
Ugrow Creative Solutions for the design of the campaigns logo, t-shirts and posters.

Service Providers

Another thank you to the service providers for their great service and discounted rates: Aqua H2O, Boland Toilet Services, Cape Sound, Praxos, Freightway Couriers, Benjamin's Transport, Top Copy, Tyron Petersen and Carl Pike.

Partners & Volunteers

Our event would not have been successful were it not for the for the many, many partners and volunteers who helped us from beginning to end:



Thanking our partners



Pouring juice



Photo break from "kitchen duty"



Heating up the pies



Eager to help



Happy Volunteers



Thanking our volunteers

A.C.V.V: Bernadette Scholtz and her volunteers

Badisa: Stallone Govender, Claudius Kayster and their volunteers and actors

Community Development Workers: Edwina Samuels, Margret Neethling and Philip Everston

Eye on the Child: Cynthia Domingo, Myrtle Richter, Desire Scott, Joan Lewis, Regina Sias, Caroline

Andries, Agnes Van Wyk, Jane Adonis, Maria Jafta, Joan Afrika

Help and Care for Our Community: Louwna Witbooi
Hesekwa Skakelmaatskappy:

Valerie Witbooi

Lovelif: Samantha, Monica & all their actresses and other volunteers

New Awakenings: Freek Witbooi

REACH: Staff Joanie, Claudia & Nafeesa, and volunteers Abdullah & his family, Bruno, Dalila, Herman, Kim, Denielle, Frazier and the rest of the Tribal Echo crew.

Swellendam SAPS: Supt. Lee & Insp. Groenewald

Swellendam Sports/Youth Forum: Lanville Cupido

Thusong Service Centre: Francis & all her volunteers

Community Leaders

Another thank you to the many farm community leaders/ owners/managers who helped us co-ordinate the guest list:

Buffeljagsrivier: Valerie Witbooi, Florina Samson (Klipbuldt Boerdery)

Swellendam: Cate Van der Merwe (Leeurivier); Jacob Bokwana (Alterheim)

Heidelberg: Lena Michaels (Swartheuwel); Gaynee Fredericks & Carlo Kleynhans (Monteith/Hoekraal); Felicia Jammer (Suurbraak)

Villiersdorp: Paulina Maritz (Jacaranda); Peet Sampson (High Noon); Edleen (Avontuur); Timo & Dianne (Bo-Radyn); Susan Maans (South Field); Harriot (Waterval)

Grabouw: Claudine, Jolene & Maria (Molteno); Pieter Arnolds (Krabbefontein)

Kleinmond: Nandi

Stanford: Jolene Damon (Nuwepos/Nuwedam)

Gansbaai: Claudine, Jolene & Vianca (Blompark); Rosie Williams (Avoka)

Buffeljagsbaai: Keshia Paarl: Sydney & Jeanette (Ronwe)

Stellenbosch: Dienie (Simonsig)

Worcester: Sutter Family (Debreede)

"I started at REACH as a volunteer in July 2008 to help them with their S.A. Rural Women's Day. When I began volunteering I didn't realize that there was such a great need for an organization like REACH. The work that REACH does is making a difference in farming communities. Volunteering at REACH has helped me gain experience and much knowledge—it has also taught me a lot about what the reality of life is within farming communities. Because of the great teamwork at REACH I have come to appreciate and cherish my time here."

Kim Lockman
REACH Volunteer

"I [admire] the work of the organization plus the management and your partners [the campaign] was really amazing...I [like] your efforts and willingness to organize more campaigns as it is necessary for sensitization and mobilization to change the status of farms and the country at large. "

Herman Ssebullba
REACH Volunteer



Partner Valerie Witbooi hard at work



REACH staff & volunteers and Eye on the Child representatives

Media Coverage—Newspaper

DIE BURGER

“Vroue trek op Swellendam saam teen geweld” / “Women travel to Swellendam stand together against violence”

by **Emma Buffel**

“’n Mens is deesdae te bang om ’n kind by ’n man te los om op te pas, want jy weet nie wat hy met daai kind gaan doen nie. Mans verkrag deesdae kinders.”
Só het me. Nomatyala Hanganana, adjunk-minister van provinsiale en plaaslike regering, Saterdagmiddag gesê. Sy was een van vele sprekers by die derde landelike vrouedag van Reach (Rural Education, Awareness & Community Health), wat hom vir die bemagtiging van vroue op die platteland beywer.
Sy het vroue in die gemeenskap uitgedaag om nie stil te bly teen geweld teen vroue en kinders nie en het mans gemaak om nie weg te kyk as hulle dié misdrywe sien nie.
Die feesviering is Saterdag in Swellendam in die Thusong-dienssentrum gehou. ’n Program van toesprake, inligtingsessies, dansers, sang en ’n prysuitdeling is hier met ’n optog van honderde mense begin.
Gemeenskapslede van verskeie dorpe (sien foto) het in busse opgedaag om die program te ondersteun.
Dié vrouedag se tema was: “Paspoort tot vrede...roei gemeenskapsgeweld uit. Die reis

begin met jou.”
Dit is gereël in samewerking met plaaslike Swellendamse organisasies, die Swellendam-polisie, die sportforum, jeugforum en die Grabouwse organisasie Oog op die Kind.
Me. Elsabe Rossouw, wie se dogtertjie Micéala (6) verlede Junie grusaam deur ’n buurman, Ulrich du Toit, gesodomiseer, verkrag en vermoor is, het ook die gemeenskap toegesprek.
Sy het gesê sy het gekom om te praat oor hoe sy voel.
“Dae soos dié roep alles in herinnering, maar ons neem dit dag vir dag.”

Article originally published on page 5 of Die Burger 18 August 2008. Article available online <http://152.111.1.251/argief/berigte/dieburger/2008/08/18/SK/5/BOLeebswellendam.html>

English Translation:

“A person is now-a-days too scared to leave a child in the care of a man because you don't know what he is going to do with that child. Men rape children these days.”
So said Ms. Nomatyala Hanganana, Deputy Minister of Provincial and Local Government, Saturday afternoon. She was one of many

speakers at the 3rd S.A. Rural Women's Day of REACH (Rural Education, Awareness & Community Health), that strive to empower rural women. She challenged women in the community to not keep quiet about violence against women and children and warned men not to look away if they saw these crimes being committed.
The celebration was held in Swellendam on Saturday at the Thusong Service Centre. A program of speeches, information sessions, dancers, singers and a prize give-away was begun with a march.
Community members from various towns (see photo) arrived in busses to support the program. The women's day theme was: “Passport to Peace...stamp out community violence. The journey begins with you”.
It was organized in partnership with Swellendam organizations, the Swellendam police, the sportsforum, youth forum and the Grabouw organization Eye on the Child.
Ms. Elsabe Rossouw, who's daughter Miceala (6) was horribly sodomized, raped and murdered by a neighbour, Ulrich



Gemeenskapslede van onder meer Ceres, die Paarl, Grabouw, Villiersdorp, Worcester, Swellendam, Barrydale, Suurbraak, Buffelsbaai en Kleinmond het Saterdag aan 'n optog in Swellendam deelgeneem. Foto: Emma Buffel
English Translation:
Community leaders from Ceres, Paarl, Grabouw, Villiersdorp, Suurbraak, Buffelsbaai and Kleinmond participated in a march on Saturday in Swellendam. Photo: Emma Buffel

du Toit, last year June, also addressed the community. She said that she had come to talk about how she felt. “Days like these bring back all the memories but we take it day by day”.

Article originally published on page 5 of Die Burger 18 August 2008. Article available online <http://152.111.1.251/argief/berigte/dieburger/2008/08/18/SK/5/BOLeebswellendam.html>



“Geen vrede vir dié dapper ma” / “No peace for the brave mom”

SWELLENDAM.
– Die ma van Mikayla Rossouw, wat verlede jaar wreed vermoor is, het gesê die hoë misdadafsyfer maak dit vir haar - onmoontlik om haar kind se dood te verwerk.
Elsabé Rossouw het dié onthulling hierdie naweek gemaak nadat die polisie aangekondig het die misdadafsyfer het toegeneem ná Mikayla se dood. Kort ná die moord het nóg nege moorde in Swellendam gevolg. Rossouw was die hoofspreekster by die organisasie Reach (Rural Education, Awareness & Community Health) se jaarlikse Vrouedagviering in Swellendam.
’n Bewoë Rossouw het gesê: “Hierdie misdadafstadistiek bring geen vrede in my hart nie.
“Ek vra vandag met my hele hart en siel dat mummies nie hul kinders moet verwaarloos nie. Want daar is ma's wat hul kinders verwaarloos en verstoot. Weggeneem “Asseblief, mummies, die kindertjies het nie gevra om hier te wees nie en dit is ons verantwoordelikheid om

na hulle om te sien.
“My hart raak nog baie seer as ek dink oor hoe tragies Mikayla van my af weggeneem is.
“Laat ons saamstaan teen geweld teen vroue en kinders.”
Joanie Fredericks, direkteur van Reach, sê Rossouw is ’n baie dapper vrou.
Fredericks het gesê: “Ons het onderneem om die gemeenskap verder by te staan om misdaad en die mishandeling van vroue en kinders hok te slaan.”
Die adjunkminister vir provinsiale en plaaslike regering, Nomatyala Hanganana, het ma's opnuut gewaarsku teen mans wat kinders verkrag.
Sy het gemaak: “Julle moenie sommer julle kinders by enige man vertrou nie, want as julle nie op jul hoede gaan wees nie, sal jy dit later bitter berou.”

Article originally published in the “Kaapse Son” on the 18th of August 2008. Article available online: <http://152.111.1.251/argief/berigte/dieburger/2008/08/18/KS/8/SSRossouw.html>

English Translation:

SWELLENDAM.—The mother of Mikayla Rossouw, who was brutally murdered last year, said that the high statistics make it impossible for her to accept her child's death. Elsabe Rossouw divulged this information after hearing from the police that the crime rate had increased after Mikayla's death. Shortly after her murder another nine murders followed in Swellendam. Rossouw was the key note speaker at the organization Reach's (Rural Education, Awareness & Community Health) yearly Women's Day celebration in Swellendam. An emotional Rossouw said: “These crime statistics bring no peace in my heart”. “I ask today with my whole heart and soul that mummies musn't disown their children. Because there are a lot of mom's that disown and ostracize their children.
“Please, mummies, the little children did not ask to be here and it is our responsibility to look after them.
“My heart still gets very sore when

I think about how tragically Mikayla was taken away from me. “Let us stand together against violence against women and children.”

Joanie Fredericks, director of Reach, says that Rossouw is a very brave woman. Fredericks said: “we have undertaken to stand by the community and to eradicate abuse against women and children.”
The Deputy Minister from Provincial and Local Government, Nomatyala Hanganana, warned women once again against men that rape children.
She urged: “You must not trust your children with just any man, because if you are not going to be on your guard then you will regret it later.”

Article originally published in the “Kaapse Son” on the 18th of August 2008. Article available online: <http://152.111.1.251/argief/berigte/dieburger/2008/08/18/KS/8/SSRossouw.html>

"The journey of a thousand miles begins with one tiny step"



About Rural Education, Awareness & Community Health (REACH)

REACH is a non-profit organization borne in 2005 to address sexual harassment and sexual violence on farms and in farming communities of the Western Cape. REACH adopts a holistic approach that incorporates awareness raising, counselling and legal skills training, campaigning, research and policy advocacy with the vision of an empowered community that is socially aware, independent, responsible, self-caring and free of sexual harassment and sexual violence. For any further info or for the contact details of our partner organizations (listed in this newsletter) please contact us.



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