



CHOC FREE STATE NEWSLETTER

June/July 2009

13th Birthday in Hospital

In March 2009 a very active sports lover Poloko Matlotlo sustained lower back trauma whilst playing soccer and the next day was unable to walk. Tests revealed a cancer lesion compressing his spinal cord. He is hospitalized since then and is presently receiving care at Ward 10B Oncology, Universitas Hospital. According to his doctor he is bored, depressed and has developed small bedsores due to his paraplegia. He had his 13th birthday in hospital on Saturday 25 July 2009 and CHOC FS baked him a special cake (with 13 candles) and he had a party with all 24 kids in ward 10B. He is very pleased with his new CD player/radio combo and listens to his two CD's with his new earphones- all compliments of CHOC Free State. He also received a bag for his clothes and enough batteries for his radio/ when he goes home one day to Phase 2 location in Mangaung, Bloemfontein. CHOC strive to help children to cope with the diagnoses and aim to alleviate as much distress possible by providing practical support such as this.

Within minutes of tuning into Radio Lesedi Poloko was singing to the songs. Poloko ENJOY and Happy Birthday.



Photo: Poloko Matlotlo 13 years old

Mandela Day at CHOC

Thank you to all the departments who have sent their patients and parents to the Movie afternoon in the hospital lecture hall on Saturday 18 July 2009 – Mr. Mandela's birthday celebration. 78 people attended, two with IVACS and 3 in wheel chairs. The movie "Bolt" was beautiful and the popcorn, chips, lollipops, coke and oranges provided by CHOC were enjoyed by all



Photo: All hooked on the big screen movie Bolt

Bafana Bafana Skop die ball

Due to the severe cold front and on request of Prof David our kids could not attend the June Confederations cup Bafana match at the Bloem ABSA stadium- so instead they had a Bafana night in the hospital. They wanted KFC and a very late night up. They asked and CHOC granted their wishes with lots of snacks and soccer on the TV till past bedtime. Only two made it to the last losing ball – the rest passed out long before. To much KFC + snacks in the stomach and their eyes automatically closes.

Thank you . . .

CHOC FS would like to acknowledge the following donators/friends of CHOC

- Electro Vroomen for the Golf day organized for CHOC and the huge 100 X 50cm cheque of R7000
- Ernst & Young from Bloemfontein for marketing and selling our Special Cookbook so diligently
- Thank you to Reach for a Dream for their support and for inviting our CHOC children and personnel to Glen for the celebration of their 21st birthday. Rita Paich and Retha van Eyssen attended the party with all of our CHOC house children and Rowan expressed his positive feeling about the party. All (except boat sick Retha) enjoyed the ride on the water



Photo: Rowan dressed warmly for the Glen outing

Photo: BAFANA Spectators eating KFC at



confederations Cup Bloem, Ward 10B VIP seats - in June 2009: 21h00

Survivor Unicka Bothma today



Unicka is a brave little girl of nearly 5, that has survived a cancer "Neuro-Blastoma" that was diagnosed in December 2005. In her case it was a tumor that grew in the nerve cells of the adrenal gland that sits on top of her kidney. After chemotherapy to shrink the tumor, the affected kidney was surgically removed in February 2006 (she then 15 months old). More chemo followed. In the Moments in Time 2007 calendar she was the February pin-up. Her story also told in our Special cookbook: Volume 1. She visited the Bloemfontein CHOC House in June 2009 to show how well she is.

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Annual World Blood Donor day

On Friday 12 June 2009 Belinda Botha, the Blood Buddy and a team from the South African National Blood Services requested to give out gift packets in Universitas Hospital and Retha van Eyssen, branch coordinator from CHOC Free State accompanied them to make sure that all areas are visited. In the past 4 years CHOC Free State has assisted the Blood bank with this yearly in hospital event and this year was no exception. Every child in hospital received a balloon, a cupcake and a gift packet with sweets.

