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# ***Half Year News 2009***

## ***Ikhaya Loxolo***



032-852-NPO

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**Things are happening at Ikhaya Loxolo ALL THE TIME.**

But in this report, you won't only read my own thoughts, ideas and points of view. This time several volunteers at Ikhaya Loxolo get their say. Although language wise it was difficult to some, others don't speak or write English at all, I have left their 'articles' much the way they wrote it. I only corrected spelling mistakes, but didn't e.g. change words they have used which I myself wouldn't have used etc. Some of these volunteers have written their part in a very simple manner, where you, as the reader, might wonder why I haven't edited the texts further. I do think, though, that it is more respectful from my side to write it down the way they said (wrote) it. I didn't want to ask the local volunteers to play a part in writing this report, whereas at the end, I change their wording into my wording.

Besides being informative, I think reading this 'news letter' should be quite enjoyable, amusing and funny. Anyway, it's definitely different to my previous reports.

Don't get shocked about the size, the pages are aplenty because some articles are written in two languages and also because this report is full of photographs.

***I asked Zou to introduce himself and say whatever he feels important to mention about Ikhaya Loxolo:***

"Firstly I want to declare this project. Ikhaya Loxolo (home of peace), which is a non-profitable organisation and working for the disabled people.

This project is situated in a very rural, disadvantaged area called Ngxabane in the district of Elliotdale under the Eastern Cape Province.

Ikhaya Loxolo is managed by Michael and Alexandra Guenther who are very kind people. These two people are very brilliant, because they are able to administer the very uneducated people and disabled children at Ikhaya Loxolo.

Mike and Alex were creating the opportunities of job since it was built this project in 2005. The surrounding people are very happy, because they earn some money as they are uneducated. I think the main purpose of this project is to educate disabled children/youth and adults and train permanent and casual workers the best route of working.

This project needs to be supported, so that it can develop further.

I started to work recently at Ikhaya Loxolo, but I learnt and got more experience of working. I did not have work experience before I came to Ikhaya Loxolo. Everyone in this home has got a peace, because everybody wants to follow the name of this project. I recognize that nobody is unkind or cruel at Ikhaya Loxolo that makes me happier, because I am similar with others.

We are very proud about Mike and Alex for helping us. If this project could not be there, I don't know where we could be, so I wish a long life and God

be with you. To you reader: I hope you will enjoy it and it will receive your favourable consideration.

My name is Mzoxolo Magxatyana, I am 22 years old. I come from Hobeni village, Ngxabane location and one of the poorest families. I started work at Ikhaya Loxolo on the 14<sup>th</sup> of April and am mostly involved in farming and building.

From Mzoxolo, who called by Zou”



### ***Another introduction:***

„Hello,

My name is Jason Lange. I am from the United States retain a residence in Brooklyn, New York. I have just become part of The Place of Peace, Ikhaya Loxolo in the Eastern Cape, South Africa. I found Ikhaya Loxolo on a resource website, The Help Exchange ([helpx.net](http://helpx.net)), while looking for a place to volunteer my time and experience. This seemed perfect as I have a rather extensive background working with the developmentally challenged. Not only my background seemed appropriate, but the opportunity to learn about sustainable farming, health and nutrition. It has always been a dream to take my passion for service into a foreign country with the most limited of resources for this population. After several emails, Alex and I made a plan, and now I'm here to work along side the other dedicated volunteers doing this much needed work in the Transkei.

While in College and since attending, I have worked in supportive living homes, taught in classrooms and volunteered at summer camps for the developmentally challenged. Even in high school I was a teacher's aide in classrooms, and in the same adolescent period I began volunteering at summer camps and weekend excursions through the Easter Seals Society. This work has always been the most rewarding part of my personal history. At 31 years of age, I finally made it to a place outside of my own country to offer myself into an amazing project. I am so blessed to play a part here; it is truly a peaceful place. I hope to make this vocation a continued part of my future. There is so much more I wish I could do.

Jason Lange“

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***Our female co-workers got together and wrote up what they wanted you to know about their work and life with the residents with special needs. Mind, all articles that you find in this report which are written by the local volunteers, were a 'first' to them. They never before were asked to think of or write up their own report:***

“Le project idilishana nabantu abakhubazekileyo ilawulwa ngabantu balandelayo – Alexandra and Michael batshatile.

**The project is for mentally disabled people. It is run by the couple Michael and Alex-they are married.**

Sisebenza apha kule project singabantu bangabafazi balandelayo:

**We work here at the project, the women, as follows:**

- Mamlungu
- Nowelikham
- Songelwa
- Pothelwa

Abantwana esisebenzangabo balithobo kodwa ngoku basibhozo kuba omnye ugodukile.

**We work with 9 disabled 'children', but one (Wele) has left us to stay at home, so now they are eight.**

### *Iminqweno yethu*

#### **Our aims for these residents**

Kukuba bakwazi ukuzenzela izinto ngoku nokwabo umzekelo=ukuzihlamba, ukupheka, ukutheza, ukucoca, kunye nokusebenza egadini.

**To enable them to do things on their own, for example, to wash themselves, to cook, to clean and to work in the garden.**

### *Izinto esizenzayo kubo*

#### **Help offered to the residents**

Siyabacebisa, sibancedisa ekubeni bakwazi ukohlula into elungileyo kunye nengalunganga

**We teach them to differentiate what is right and wrong**

Sibafundise ukuba bakwazi ukunikeza imbeko ebantwini abadala kunabo kunye nokuzithemba.

**We advice them to give respect to the elders and teach them to be proud of themselves.**

### *Ekuphekeni*

#### **Cooking**

Sinentsuku ezintlanu evekini umntu ngamnye unosuku lwakhe kunye nomntwanangamnye.

**We've got five days in the week; every woman has her cooking day with an individual resident(s).**





**German volunteer Elke makes Sicelo happy- that only takes to be cooking with him!**

### Egadini

#### In the garden

- Sibafundisile ukususa ikhula ezityalweni
- **We teach them to weed the garden**
- Sabafundisa ukunkcenkceshela egadini izityalo
- **We teach them to water the garden**
- Ukubeka ingca phakathi kwezityalo ukuzexa sinkcenkceshela ungakhawulezi wome umhlaba.
- **We teach them to mulch so that the soil doesn't dry out easily in winter, and in summer to keep the weeds at bay**

### Egumbini Lokufundela

#### In the classroom

- Abantu abafundisayo bathathu: Alex, Songelwa, Pothelwa
- **There are three teachers: Alex, Songelwa, Pothelwa**
- Abantwana bathandathu.
- **There are six 'children'**
- Abanye babo abakwazi kakuhle ukuzibhalela bafuna ukuncediswa.
- **Most of them are unable to write by themselves and need help**
- Sibafundisa ezinto zilandelayo:
- **We teach the following:**
  - Amagama abo
  - **To write their names**
  - Izikhamiso kunye nokubala kunye nentsuku zeveki eziquka inyanga zonyaka.
  - **The alphabeth, counting, to name and write the weekdays and to know the month of the year.**

### Abafikayo kulo nyaka

#### Newcomers of this year

- Lungiswa, **21 years old, with her baby daughter Lulama**



**All clothes worn by these two in the photograph are sponsored by Marianne Guenther and friends- THANKS A MILLION!**

- **11-year-old Nosiphiwo**



- **Thembisa, who must be around 15-years old; we can't be sure, though, as Thembisa is an orphan and her birth date not well recorded**



**Thembisa is learning to 'houseclean'**

Isiphelo  
The end

- Siyathanda kakhulu ukusebenza apha e-Ikhaya Loxolo Project kuba siyabathanda abantu abakhubazekileyo ngokwase ngqondweni.
- **We like to work here at Ikhaya Loxolo because we like the people with special needs.**
- Singavuya ukuba le project ingaqhubela phambile kakuhle ngaphezulu koku ukuze babenomdla nabantu abangaphandle.
- **We would be happy for this project to progress and develop further even more than now, so that outside people can start having an interest in this organisation.**

Article written by Pothelwa (but put together by all women), **translated by Tabo.**

***Asking Thandisizwe to write this year's changes and developments in regards of our farm (edited and translated by Tabo Gola):***

*"Apha sinayo inkomo eyi-jezi umnqweno wethu kukuba isinike amathole. Sinazo ibokhwe imazi nenkunzi yazo.*

***"We have here a cow that is a Jersey. We wish for it to produce calves. We also have female goats and a male one.***



*Inhkukhu zikhona kodwa sike sane ngxaki kakhulu apha ezi nkukhwini sisifosiyazama nangoku.*

***Chicken are available but we did experience problems with disease lately; we are breeding more again now.***



*Sinayo imivundla sinawo namarhanisi amabini.*

***We have rabbits and two geese.***

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*Sinayo ikati igama layo ngu Tiger.*  
**We have a cat, its name is tiger.**

*Sinazo ihagu igama lenye ngu Suzi igama lenye ngu Rudi ziyaphila kakhulu.*  
*Eli licandelo laseforma ezizinto zizinto eziphefumlayo ezijongene ne no*  
*Thandisizwe no Mike.*

**We have two very healthy pigs, Rudi and Susi. This is the department of the 'breathing things' that I, Thandisizwe, and Mike are responsible for.**



*Sinazo izinja ezimbini amagama azo Bob no Khali; ezizinto zifuna ukujongwa ngeliso lokhozi ungathathi ixesha elide nceda ukuba ubona enye ingathi inengxaki faka ireport ekhawulezile yo ku Maiki okanye ku Thandisizwe.*

**We also have two dogs, Bob and Karli.**

**All these living things must be watched and observed with 'the naked eye', so that if an animal gets sick, it must be immediately reported to Thandisizwe and Mike.**

*Enkosi Thandisizwe Nyikima. Thank you, Thandisizwe Nyikima*

### **A bit more about the farm, from Michael and Alex:**

"In April of this year we purchased two great contributions to our farm: the Jersey Cow 'Candy' and the ram to our Saanen goats- again from Nieu Bethesda in the great Karoo.

By now all our Saanen females should be pregnant again and with their kidding the milk production starts again. Last season we have had plenty of milk for ourselves, some for sale, sour milk for own consumption and sale as well as goat's cream cheese; the latter was very much sought after, specifically by some of the doctors at the Madwaleni hospital.

Candy the cow was also purchased by us being highly pregnant. She should calf any moment and then we will truly not have any milk and milk product shortage any more.



One plan for our 'new land' (given to us by the headman and Hobeni Community) is, to establish a proper milk dairy. Funding has been applied for; we are now waiting for a response.

The new piece of land will also become a place for staple food and other crop production; vegetables for own consumption will still be grown at Ikhaya Loxolo gardens, whereas excess crops from the new site will be sold. It's been a long time since we can't satisfy the demand of our customers anymore- specifically because the number of mouths to be fed at Ikhaya Loxolo is continuously growing.

I feel that now, with the two pigs, the goats, the geese and, of course, Candy, our breeding stock is at hand. From now on, reproduction is the foremost aim of our farm work; therefore we put great energy into building proper goat's and cow stables, as well as pigsties.

### ***Asking Tabo Gola to inform about the garden:***

"[.....]The garden consists of presently 13 plots with different vegetables/crops that are planted on a monthly basis-such as: cabbage, spinach, beetroot, tomato, green pepper, carrots, broccoli, cauliflower, lettuce, sweet potato, beans and some foreign vegetables and fruit.

The purpose of the planting is to produce sufficient vegetables for own consume at Ikhaya Loxolo as well as sale to locals, the Haven Hotel and the nearby Madwaleni Hospital. Another purpose is to teach and train the people with special needs, volunteers and other locals, so that we can plant and grow vegetables at our homes. At Ikhaya Loxolo, we've got a beautiful river nearby, from where we pump water for irrigating the vegetables and other plants (such as herbal teas, fruit trees and flowers); this river water is also used for washing the clothes, body and dishes, specifically in winter, when the rains are scarce and drinking-water tanks are low. It is nice at Ikhaya Loxolo with the mentally handicapped and volunteers.

My name is Tabo Pawu Gola, I am born in June 1996. I am married and a matriculant, I am an employee and volunteer with Ikhaya Loxolo and Khari Gude (adult education project). My role at Ikhaya Loxolo has been to translate in the weekly training course for a long time, and since the end of 2008 I am also the gardener.



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***I am in the middle,  
translating this  
week's lesson in growing  
and using herbs.***

### **What else?**

*Written by Alex*

In April of this year I have taken half of my team (as I have also done in 2007 with the other half of the team) and headman Patrick to Camphill Village in Hermanus, to further our training and strengthen our focus.

And again it was a full success. My local volunteers, Songelwa, Pothelwa and Thandisizwe were not only incredibly impressed, but also learnt a lot and have future dreams/wishes for Ikhaya Loxolo now, which they didn't have before.

**Extract from Pothelwa's 'Camphill-Report'**, written after our return:

"CONCLUSION: I have the vision to see Ikhaya Loxolo work as well as Camphill. This small project must move forward; I hope for it to have a better future eventually."



**Camphill-Gardener  
'Maxwell' is giving a lesson  
in gardening.**



**Presenting Ikhaya Loxolo in Camphill**



**Making friends: Songelwa and Claudia**

***At this point: Thank you Leli and all of Camphill for this great chance!***

***Developments/changes which are happening now and before the end of this year:***

- At the very beginning of this newsletter, you see a **photograph** that was taken in **Island**.

A group of people from the Solheimar Community in Island are working very hard again for raising funds which shall support Ikhaya Loxolo. We are not sure how we have deserved such **generosity**, but the Solheimar's are the most selfless people I have so far come across! Not only have they already **transferred funds to extend our accommodation capacity** this year, but, as you see in the picture, they are still and again busy to raise more funds for further supporting Ikhaya Loxolo!

Thank you so much, Petur, Palin, Valgeir, Erla and Sr Birgir!

With their funding we are going to **build a small rondavel**, very similar to our guest cottage. This rondavel will then accommodate **3 residents**, who are more independent and not in need of the care of our night staff.

We will also build another **small flat**, which will capacitate **up to 6 more** residents plus staff. We will start with the rondavel, as this will be build the traditional 'way', from natural building materials (mud bricks, mud plaster and thatched grass roof) that may only be used in our dry season. The 'flat'

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will receive a percentage of cement and also get a corrugated iron roof, which allows us to build it even at the beginning of the rainy season.

- After our short winter-holiday, we will be joined by **three more residents:**  
Two 20 year-old boys/men, who have been longing to join us for a long time but are still waiting for their grants to be paid out, so they will be able to pay our monthly fee.  
12-year-old Thembinkosi, who is severely physically and mentally impaired through cerebral palsy has motivated our decision to create a **'children's group'**. As you know, we are a home and farm for people with special needs, and so far it was incredibly difficult for us to capacitate younger people with special needs; these are not easily to be involved in our practical day to day garden and farm work.  
With the help of our foreign volunteers, we are going to put these by then three 11 and 12 year old 'kids' together and offer special activities to them.
- **Emily** is Jason's girlfriend from The USA and is going to join us in the beginning of July, part-time volunteering with us; I have arranged for her to volunteer the bigger part of her time at the Hobeni Junior Secondary School.
- **Vanessa** is from Canada and will also volunteer with us from September.
- We are searching and waiting for the **funding of a vegetable seedling nursery**, a **dairy building** and equipment as well as **sponsors for the three new residents** (R 500 per resident per month).

**This is our new site for these two income procuring projects.**



**In April 2009, the Nottingham Collage in England was sending almost 50 students not only to carry fencing poles.....**





**They also not only funded the whole fence through the Donald Woods Foundation, but took half a day in the 'African heat' to start establishment of the fence at Ikhaya Loxolo's new site. Thank you, guys!**

**Sponsoring the new residents:** Once they have joined us, I will take the freedom and 'call for your help' again, by writing up the details with photographs of each individual to be sponsored. I hope you are in agreement and don't feel negatively about my involving you.

***A sponsor I would really like to mention:*** The Mahle-Stiftung in Stuttgart, Germany. Through the donation of this Organisation, Ikhaya Loxolo has not only received support in covering the living cost and ensuring a healthy diet for the residents, but also raise the volunteer's monthly pocket money (which they have truly deserved after accomplishing 1 ½ years of their training) and take on another volunteer for the garden, who himself is now able to feed his 5-headed family at home. Thank you so very much to the **MAHLE STIFTUNG!**

***Two more 'THINGS' worth mentioning:***

1. For the first time in Ikhaya Loxolo's life-time, we have a 'real volunteer' participating at Ikhaya Loxolo:



**Lwandiso Gqwetha, from Hobeni Village. He is a sub-contractor by trade, but has started recently to provide us with his help whenever he can. He truly works 'for free', just out of appreciation for Ikhaya Loxolo. He is warming our hearts, as we had doubted that people like him (and Alex and Michael) -who help without expecting any gain for themselves- really exist.**

2. Also in April, the '**COUNTRY LIFE**' Magazine has published an article (written by Dale Morris) about Ikhaya Loxolo. The article was written long time ago, but it has taken freelancer Dale quite a while to find a publisher for it. We thank you Dale, your article is brilliant!

***Although we are only at 'half year', we already had plenty of comings and goings.***

Welcome and goodbye to you all: Patte and Beli, Marianne and Matthias Guenther, Elke Harnisch, Wilhelm and Beate Drechsler, Jason Lange, Most of you lent a hand- thanks and appreciation!!

***I am completing our little newsletter by asking new resident Lungiswa Xangase to write about her 'new home'. She was helped by Pothelwa:***

*"Ndingu Lungiswa Xangase. Ndine minyaka eyi 21. Ndihlala e-Ikhaya Loxolo. Ndinomntwana ono nyaka onenyanga eziyi 6.*

*Ndaziva ndonwabile xandandixelelwa ukuba ndizohlala kulendawo ingcina abakhubazekileyo.*

**I am Lungiswa Xangase. I am 21 years old and staying at Ikhaya Loxolo. I have a child who is one year and six months old.**

**I felt so happy at the time I was told that –Lungiswa, you are going to stay at this home for people with special needs-!**

*Kwakutheni iindonwabisa nje ngalonto?*

*Kukuba ndikulela kwikhaya lam elinga thalintweni, ndikhule ndinxiba amadlakadlaka empahla. Ndibona ukuba ndilala ndityile ekhaya. Ndingakhuselekanga kanga ngoba ndidendafumana umntwana.*

**Why am I happy about this?**

**I have lived at my own home for many years, but we are so poor, we all are wearing bad clothes. Poverty is so big at my home, that I never had enough food. I was also not safe at my home, as a result of which I now have a baby.**

*Ndizibona ndithsintshilengoku ebomini apha kuba:*

*Ndinempahla endiziphiwayo apha, ndisegazini ngoku kubandilala ndityile ndikhuselekile kunye nomntwana wam. Umntwana wam ufumana izipho angaphezulu kokuba ndizifumana.*

**My life is now better than before:**

**I received more/better clothes here as a gift from the project. I am in a very healthy condition because I access the balanced food- I was so thin. I and my child (Lulama) are very happy because we are safer than before. My child owns many things now, even more than me.**

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*Ndinovuyo lokuba umntwana wam uzokhula ekhuselekile akazifumana ukuxhatshazwa njengam. Ndiyabulela ku le project, enkosi!*

**I am so happy because my child is safer than I was; she won't be abused like me. I want to say THANK YOU IKHAYA LOXOLO!**

**Translated by Pothelwa**



**Lungiswa in the back, middle**

***Bye and thank you for taking the time and interest to read our news!***

***From all of us at Ikhaya Loxolo***

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