

# **Moya we Khaya (Spirit of home) Peace Gardens**

## **A Rotary / Abalimi joint project**

10 June 2014

It has been a while since our last update was sent but some great progress has been made at Moya we Khaya.

### Background:

Abalimi Bezekhaya was established in 1982 and together means 'Planters of the Home'. It is a local food garden & environmental initiative which provides support to a community living in an area of Cape Town, South Africa where unemployment exceeds 30%. For many living in the Cape Flats, poverty and thus food security is a constant challenge. Abalimi establishes food gardens and provides the training and ongoing support to households and groups managing their own micro-farming projects (from which over 100 families benefit). In some cases the farmers are able to produce enough food to sell and thus make a profit. Sales are made through "Harvest of Hope" a project of Abalimi Bezekhaya, who supplies organic vegetable boxes to parents at the more affluent schools on a weekly basis!

### Update:

The windbreak and landscaping of the entrance driveway took place in mid-May 2014. A friend of Dave Golding (Abalimi) who lives in the USA (but is a South African) runs a company that brings groups to South Africa from the USA to volunteer on projects. Stephen Abelsohn had brought a group down to volunteer for a day in January and suggested that he bring another group in May. The group consisted of 2 Professors and 20 students who had raised R12000.00 towards plant costs, catering by the locals for the day and associated expenses. The group comes from Elmira University outside New York. They were joined by garden and local community members, as well as Abalimi staff and volunteers.

The preparation for the day consisted of a focussed clean-up of the site, sourcing plants and mulch material, as well as placing over 350 indigenous plants on the Sunday. The community members prepared a traditional meal for lunch. On the day the volunteers arrived, they were introduced to the gardens and community members and planting teams were set up and led by Abalimi field workers. Then the fun began – the actual planting of the trees. The function of the planting was to bring indigenous perennial plants onto the site to create nature strips, thus creating windbreaks, but also bringing in biodiversity and beautification. An indigenous medicinal garden was also planted.

It was a fantastic day with lots of activity and energy. In addition, painting of murals on the walls continued (through the help of Janet and Doreen, Rotary Club of Constantia) with the help of the volunteers and visitors. The community lunch was really good and enjoyed by all.



Cleaning up of the site to prepare for the planting day in May 2014.



Volunteers, community members, Rotarians and Abalimi staff getting their hands dirty!





Visit to the area by members of the Rotary Club of Constantia – you can see the art murals on the walls in the background. The vegetables over much of the area are flourishing.

Huge thanks!

Thanks once again to the supporting Clubs and Districts of Bristol Aztec, Salisbury, and Workington Derwent in the UK, plus their respective District numbers 1100, 1110 and 1190, plus Eastlake Sunrise Club in the USA and its District 6950, plus the Rotary Foundation Constantia Open Gardens 2012, the City of Cape Town, Just Trees, Green Pops and of and of course Constantia, and our District 9350.

For more information or to donate to this great project please contact Bronwyn Maree ([brooco@gmail.com](mailto:brooco@gmail.com)) – Constantia Rotary Club.

Websites: [www.constantiarotaryclub.co.za](http://www.constantiarotaryclub.co.za)  
[www.abalimi.org.za](http://www.abalimi.org.za)  
[www.harvestofhope.co.za](http://www.harvestofhope.co.za)

