

Big Sister Project – 22 June 2015

Puberty marks the entrance into womanhood and should be a time of celebration. Young girls from disadvantaged backgrounds do not share in the excitement with little to no education on the matter and a lack of sanitary pads at their disposal during this life-changing period. This often results in a drastic decline in school attendance and their education suffers.

Lion Match Group, Comfitex Pads and Blue Sky Society Trust launched their Big Sister Project on the 22nd of June at Hlengimpilo Primary School in Inanda, KZN in the hopes of igniting an initiative to bring about positive change throughout the province. Their hope is to empower young females by educating them and providing them with the necessary sanitary aids to show them how they can experience normalcy and continue to attend their lessons. Each student received a six-month supply of Comfitex sanitary pads, panties, as well as an education pamphlet and an interactive lesson provided by the organisers.

The lack of education was evident during the informative demonstration, the students were hanging onto every word and relief washed over their faces as their troubles and concerns were diminished. CSI Manager from Lion Match Group, Milena Domiro, summed up their efforts: "We are ever so grateful that the school allowed us to come here today to educate their wonderful girls between the ages of 9 and 15 about menstruation, what takes place when they get their period and what to expect. We are so grateful we are able to educate them on behalf of the Lion Match Group and Comfitex Pads."

These young female students often cannot afford sanitary protection or even underwear, leading to embarrassment and bewilderment at what is happening to their bodies. What should be a celebration into womanhood often leads to detrimental consequences to their futures. As Blue Sky Society Trust founder Carla Geyser comments: "We're very happy to be able to educate the young girls about the importance of what is happening to their bodies and that it's actually an exciting time in their lives and there's no reason to be shy or embarrassed."

The schools gratitude was evident in the Deputy Principle Ms Nduli thanks: "Lion Match Group and Blue Sky Society, we are so grateful and we thank you for the teachings and thank you for the love that you have given to our children. We are so happy."

This is an ongoing project and you can get involved by contacting Carla Geyser from Blue Sky Society Trust

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