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Umbimbilethu Crèche and Day Care Project 2015/2016

If you drive an hour south of Durban, you will find yourself near Umzumbe where a quaint crèche resides headed by the incredible Mrs Gumede. Starting out with 12 children in 2013, Umbimbilethu Creche now houses 77 learners, most from child-mothers who don't have the means to look after them or orphans from HIV infected parents. Supported by four ladies from the surrounding community, Mrs Gumede does incredible work with the basic facilities at her disposal, her passion and love for the children has seen the crèche grow in numbers despite the financial restrictions.

Carla Geyser from Blue Sky Society Trust remembers when she first visited the crèche in March of this year, "There was no access to water and the facility was in a diabolical state". Carla teamed up with Lion Match Company and Cherubs to assist the crèche with a much needed facility upgrade and to establish an outdoor play area. The upgrade has been incredibly successful with Carla being hands-on during the process saying; "It's been an incredible thing to witness it develop over the weeks and grow into something that Mrs Gumede can work with. She now has two renovated classrooms and a quaint sleeping area which has been decorated by the beautiful work of local artist, Marcelle Delew-Kappen."

Cherub was also kind enough to provide a large amount of their product offering for the care-givers on the young learners.

She continues by expressing her motivation for this particular project; "With the early child development, it is so important for them to receive an education and I hope that because Mrs Gumede now has the relevant facilities, she can continue to enable learners with these valuable life skills."

On Wednesday the 29th of June, Carla and her team officially opened the newly renovated crèche to a sea of excited faces and a delighted Mrs Gumede. She couldn't contain her gratitude saying; "We are forever grateful to Blue Sky Society Trust, Lion Match Group and Cherubs for allowing us to continue to grow and provide a better facility for our children."

The team hopes to eventually fund more workshops for the caregivers, provide a playground and are in the process of setting up a sustainable vegetable garden so that the children can receive on nutritious meal a day.

This is the third successfully implemented project by Blue Sky Society Trust and Lion Match Company.