

Foster home receives much needed support

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The babies being cared for at the Izibusiso Foster Home in Zwelihle will have lights, cooked meals and warm baths through-out the winter because Abagold has undertaken to pay the home's monthly electricity bill.

Izibusiso (house of many blessings) is a joint venture between the Hermanus United Church and Hermanus Child Welfare and seeks to address the plight of small children in Zwelihle who have been abandoned or orphaned. Traditionally children found in these circumstances would be sent to either state orphanages or foster homes. As an alternative place of safety, a small intimate foster home, headed by a house mother, was built in Zwelihle.

Izibusiso is a safe haven where children can be cared for and nurtured within their own community, until suitable and sustainable long-term arrangements for their future can be made. Izibusiso is almost entirely self-sufficient and relies on fund-raising events and donations.

When Abagold learnt that the children at Izibusiso needed winter clothing, they immediately went shopping. During a recent visit to Izibusiso to hand out the new purchases, Christo du Plessis, Abagold's managing director, and Glenda Furst from Izibusiso discussed the various financial challenges that the home faces. Furst said it is a battle to keep up with the mounting costs of caring for small children, especially in winter when they are faced with the electricity bill.



Happy people at Izibusiso are Nombulelo Gwebelweni (assistant at Izibusiso), Chane de Goede and Tracey Giles of Abagold, Pumza Nynlela (house mother), Christo du Plessis (Abagold) and Glenda Furst

There and then Du Plessis pledged continuous involvement with the home by paying Izibusiso's monthly electricity bill. "The project is astonishing and helping with something trivial like the electricity helps the women concentrate on caring for the children and finding them good homes," said Du Plessis.