Pablo Picasso (in spirit) added the spice to the annual MAB fundraising event, sponsored by Chana SA. The project started off in July when artist, Portchie, undertook his biggest paint challenge - painting a life-size car. After paying several visits to shopping centres in Gauteng, the Portchie Bennie was finally auctioned at the “Picasso’s Paint Party”, hosted at Montecasino.

The evening was a “force-de-art”, showcasing spectacular body painting, Spanish dancing, live illustrations by graffiti and cartoon artists and a performance by students from the Pro-Arte School (who had many of the audience in tears). The first auction of the evening was for an art lesson with any one of our four top SA artists – Karin Hougaard, Bosch, Harry Erasmus and Gorgio Trobec. After dinner the students and masters took to the stage and created priceless pieces of art. This was framed as one master piece and auctioned later in the evening.

It was however the auction of the Portchie Benni and the scale model Bennies, decorated by the “who-is-who” of SA celebrity scene, which was the highlight of the evening. Auctioneer Koop Steyger, with the assistance of compere Gavin Sharples, made sure that the scale model Bennis, went for record prizes. Guests had a tough time choosing between the Blue Bull car (complete with horns) by Steve Hofmeyer, Nataniel’s flower power car, South African rugby ball car (by a naturally born artist, Jake White) and Mr Bone’s (Leon Schusters) car full of bones!

The scale model of Cornelius Bosch sold for the highest price (R30,000), whilst Edith Venter’s model, decorated with hundreds of Swarofski crystals got R20,000. After serious bidding, Matla A Bana supporters, Johan and Melanie Van Huyssteen became the proud owners of the Portchie Bennie. The party made headlines – thanks to Kyknet’s Glitterati and Rapport’s Gavin Prins (who was extremely well behaved!).

Matla A Bana has celebrated a year with projects full of colour and beautiful creations. One such project is the Children’s Rights Birthday Calendar, launched in December. The idea to create a calendar depicting the Children’s Rights was born about three years ago. With the help of Alice Pitzer (Alice Art Gallery), twelve of SA’s top artists were approached to donate their talents. They set to the task immediately and a few months later MAB received twelve exquisite pieces of art. Black Khaki Advertising add the final design touches and the MAB Children’s Rights Birthday Calendar hit the “stands” just in time for the Christmas shopping! During the launch at Clearwater Mall, artists, Georgio Trobec, Annette Poulton and Munro, not only demonstrated their painting talents, but also made sure that each calendar was personally autographed. The journey of the calendar has been a long and patient one. One which saw many highlights (Artist Munro finally got married to the love of his life!) and some sad moments (Father Claerhout sadly passed away shortly after completing his contribution and At Botha lost his dearest wife), but it was a worthy one.

Today many people can enjoy this collection, whilst we continue to lobby for the rights of our children!
MAB AGM - Managing the press

Guest speaker, Mr Tim Du Plessis, caused a few grey hairs when the demands of his new position forced him to cancel his appearance at the MAB AGM in November. But his replacement, journalist Sonja Carstens, captivated the audience with her presentation on the media (What journalists want and how the public should react) resulting in a lively Q&A session! The rest of the morning brought the normal formalities, including the confirmation of sound financial management by Absa Trust (the administrator of MAB). Lizel and Monique gave feedback on the projects completed. An impact study done by MAB showed that, during the period January 2007 – July 2008, the projects of MAB had a direct impact on more than 3000 child abuse victims. Once again most of the projects were made possible by the sponsorship of goods and services (more than R 1,2 million during this period). One of the greatest challenges is still funding for the administrative costs. The highlight of the day was the introduction of our new board of trustees and the handing over of the MAB Certificates of Appreciation to a group of our top donors. We would like to thank Absa Trust, our board of trustees, Randburg Dutch Reformed Church and our donors for believing in us and supporting us.

Special thank you to our sponsors: Tuks Rag, Allied Mobile, Anglo American’s Chairmans Fund, FNB Property Commericial Finance, Colliers International, Gerhardt Jooste.

Please contact Alet on 011 787 6742 or info@matlabana.co.za for more details.

You can help our project:

1. Get your church to adopt a FCS Unit or court.
2. Make a donation to us (cash or debit order).
3. Buy a Children’s Rights Key Ring holders - only R 20 each.
4. Buy a Children’s Rights Birthday Calendar at R120 each.

Please contact Alet or/and Impact Study to study MAB Annual Report or/and Impact Study.

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MABAGM

Please contact Alet for copies of the MAB Annual Report or/and Impact Study.

how you can support us!

MAB assisted the Gauteng SAPS Women’s Network in hosting a WOW morning for the ladies during Women’s Month. Thank you to Ciao Baby, Clearwater Mall, Leap Training and Captain Otoff.

Nando’s “Peri-Peri Cruise” (94.7 & KFM) Those of you who listens to fun radio stations will have noticed that MAB is one of the beneficiaries of the “Nando’s Peri- Pen” Cruise. Thanks to Nandos for believing in us and our radio stations for promoting us! Keep watching this space for more news!

MAB has been chosen as one of the beneficiaries of Mr Price in Gauteng and the Western Cape.

HCl Foundation will be sponsoring various of the MAB training courses for the police for the next year. Thank you HCI!

MAB can now issue BEE certificates for donations, helping smaller companies to obtain up to 25% of their BEE status. Thank you to BEE Solutions for sponsoring this service.

MAB was chosen by the art community of the Hartbeespoort Dam as the beneficiary of the “Art with the heart” project hosted in October. The aim of this exciting project was to profile the galleries at the dam as businesses with a heart for many children who never see beauty. Many visitors who wanted their Art with a Heart passports stamped walked off with a MAB Children’s Rights Key ring holder and a percentage of the sales were donated to MAB! We would like to thank the following galleries: Adlou Art Gallery, Alice Art Gallery, Dam Wall Art Gallery, Blue Ivy Art Gallery, Absolute Art, New Village Art and Island Art Gallery for their commitment.

To create awareness during the “16 Days of Activism of no Violence Against Women and Children”, MAB launched the “Light Up A Childs Life” campaign at Clearwater Mall. Glamour girl, Edith Venter hosted the evening and she was joined on the stage by celebrities Annie Malan, designer Gerrit Pienaar, TV presenter Nadine Blom, singers Catherine Jones, Monica, Leandie Lombard and Watershed’s Craig Hindes, who all lit up a candle for an abused child. Our artists entertained the audience with some great singing, whilst they in return enjoyed some fabulous dining at the participating restaurants. The highlight of the evening was the handing over of a cheque for R15,000 by Clearwater Mall to MAB. This money was collected from the fines paid by illegal parking in the shopping centre and will now help a very worthy cause! We would like to thank all the artists and celebrities, Clearwater Mall and Lion Match, Spur, Meat Co, Ciao Baby, Café Fino, House of Coffee’s and Maestro.

You can now support this project by eating at the participating Clearwater Mall restaurants in the next months and putting your donation in the match box on your table and depositing it in our MAB Light up a Child’s life box.
Whether it is a pending exam or a lack of transportation, one of Gauteng’s top cops does not let any excuse stand between her and arresting criminals. Sergeant Mazibuko, a member of the Hillbrow SAPS Family Violence, Child Protection and Sexual Offences units, was on study leave when she was called by a victim who saw her rapist in a park. Sergeant Mazibuko, who was until then faced with a lack of official transport, dropped her studies, got into a taxi, arrested the perpetrator and took him to the station (in the taxi) – all at her own expense! Apparently this was not the first time she has used public transport to solve cases! It is this dedication, together with volunteering at NGO’s in her free time that has earned her the Matla A Bana Incentive Award for the FCS Performer in Gauteng (Jan - Jun 2008) hosted in August 2008.

During the awards ceremony, guest speaker John Robby, 702 presenter and police critic, acknowledged the police men and women who go the extra mile. A surprised Yusuf Abramjee (Primedia) was the first civilian to receive an award in recognition of the Crimeline initiative.

We would like to salute the following MAB FCS Gauteng winners:

**Best Performer (1):** Serg Mazibuko (Hillbrow)

**Best Performer (2):** Insp Morolong (Vanderbijlpark)

**Best Performer (3):** Const Vilakazi (Katlehong)

**Best Station Commissioner:** Comm Reddy (Honeydew Police Station)

**Best FCS Section:** Roodepoort Police Station

**Best FCS Commander:** Capt Pretorius (Roodepoort)

**Outstanding Achievement Awards:**

- Insp Du Toit (Krugersdorp) for solving the severe sexual abuse (including child pornography) of a young girl by her parents.
- Insp Phetla for solving a house robbery case (with aggravating rape and assault), arresting the perpetrator and securing five life in prison sentences.

**Service Excellence Award:** Dep. Prov. Comm. Henriette Bester for her outstanding leadership

**Special Recognition Award:**

- Mr Yusuf Abramjee for his Crimeline Initiative that has resulted in the arrests of many criminals.

Lizel van Eeden, Monique Strydom, Dep Prov Comm Henriette Bester, John Robby, Yusuf Abramjee

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**Feminine Leadership Training**

MAB assisted in securing this training for female middle management of SAPS and also served on the assessment panel of this course.

**Sponsors:** Lynette Viljoen (Leap Training)

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**Reach Africa Soft Skills Training**

Reach Africa has been instrumental in the successes of the MAB training soft skills program in Gauteng. These soft skills are crucial for equipping the detectives working with women and children with the much needed understanding, leadership qualities and sensitization. Two courses (of 4 modules each) where hosted during the last 6 months of 2008, equipping 60 police officers.

**Sponsors:** Leanore – Reach Africa

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**MEC Training**

Matla a Bana joined the Teddy Bear Clinic and Reach Africa in hosting Soft Skills Training for the Office of the MEC of Safety and Security. This week course consists of training in skills such as Conflict management, legal aspects and the investigation of child abuse cases.

**Sponsors:** Woord en Lewe Church (Sunward Park) and Clearwater Mall

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**CSC Training**

In January this year MAB launched a pilot programme, training 21 staff members of the Client Service Centre at Honeydew Police Station in the “Advance Management of Sexual Abuse”. This two-day course was specifically developed by MAB to train the front office staff of the police in dealing with children and abuse victims when they report crimes to police stations.

**Sponsors:** Leap Training, Rosebank Union Church

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**Main Training Sponsor:** HCI Foundation

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**Training**

**Child Friendly Reporting Facilities**

Nuwé Lewe Church upgraded the victim empowerment room at Brakpan Police station.

Projects to implement or upgrade facilities in Vereeniging, Honeydew, Moroka and Krugersdorp are currently underway and should be completed in the next month or two.

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**Forensic Social Workers**

MAB donated six notebooks to the forensic social workers in Gauteng. **Sponsorship:** Sanlam

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**Team Building FCS Commanders Gauteng**

In August Matla a Bana treated 60 FCS commanders to a team building and relationship development session, which included a game drive and a lunch. **Sponsors:** Heia Safari and ABSA

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**News Flash**

The Hillbrow FCS received a state vehicle from the office of the SAPS Provincial Commissioner in response to the success of Serg Mazibuko.

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**Forensic Social Workers**

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The Western Cape saw the launch of the first MAB WC FCS Incentive Awards in December, hosted at the Mount Nelson. The group of finalists and VIP Guest, Commissioner Ntobela was motivated by the inspirational words of well-known magician and motivational speaker Wolfgang Riebe, who shared with them the wisdom of 6 year olds!

Top performer, Constable Sidinana (Nyanga FCS) received an average of 65 cases in the 6 month period (May to October 2008) and has an arrest rate of 90% all within a month. In addition to this he has secured more than 150 years of imprisonment for various rape cases. His outstanding detective skills were demonstrated in a rape case where the victim had very little information, but did remember that she bit the perpetrator’s tongue. Constable Sidinana visited every hospital, clinic and doctor until he found a patient with the medical history consistent with the case. The perpetrator was positively identified and could be arrested. Constable Sidinana received a fabulous breakaway for him and a partner kindly donated by their adoptive church Christian Heritage Krugersdorp FCS.

Adoption Project

The home cell group of Burger van der Merwe has hosted various projects in support of the Nyanga FCS unit. Building alterations was undertaken to ensure a private office for the commander, members and their families were treated to a family day and in September the group sponsored 100 tickets to Angus Buchan to members. This group has also hosted a talk on Financial management and has implementing a feed scheme at the unit for victims of abuse.

Paarl Hospital – Paarl Suid NG has agreed to adopt Paarl Hospital. The group is busy upgrading the medical examination room to a victim friendly facility. MAB has been invited to serve on the committee looking at the child victim.

VIVA Cutting Edge Conference

Thanks to the Strydom Trust, Monique attended the VIVA Conference in Chicago last year. The theme of the conference was Journeys of Hope with South Africans Deborah and Monique visiting a charity project. The home cell group of Selma van der Merwe has hosted various projects in support of the Nyanga FCS unit. Building alterations was undertaken to ensure a private office for the commander, members and their families were treated to a family day and in September the group sponsored 100 tickets to Angus Buchan to members. This group has also hosted a talk on Financial management and has implementing a feed scheme at the unit for victims of abuse.

On the eve of the MAB staff goes on a “destress” team building session. This year took the team high up into the cliffs of the Magaliesburg on a canopy tour (causing a lot of stress for some staff members!). All had a great time and came back fully recharged! Thank you to Workhouse Communications for the sponsorship of this trip.

National News

We would like to welcome our new MAB family members:

Board of trustees: Alice Pitzer, Esme Ehlers, Pastor Ndaiba Mazabane
Staff: Ingrid Botha - Manager Fundraising and Marketing