

MTN DOLES OUT E250 000 TO SHISELWENI HOME BASED CARE



By Gugu Simelane
Mbabane

SWAZI MTN Foundation handed over a cheque of E250 000 to Shiselweni Home Based Care, a non-profit making organisation which runs multiple projects in areas of health, and education in 45 communities in the Shiselweni region.

Dr. Arnau Van Wynjaard, a missionary and pioneer of the home based care project said he was grateful for the support from MTN Foundation which dates back to 2011.

“When I started Shiselweni Home Based Care in 2006, MTN Foundation came through to support the early childhood care and development centre which prepares children for school in 2011. The initial funding was of a staggering E350 000 and was disbursed in March 2012 to Shiselweni Home Based Care whilst in the following year the centre received E186 137.”

Dr. Wynjaard revealed the groundwork at the outset of the project involved renovating an existing building to comply with the regulations set by both the ministries of health, and ministry of education and training.

He said part of the donation from the MTN Foundation was used to support the appointment and training of three teachers though the support of Stepping stones Christian Academy.

“I must say that MTN Foundation gave us a head start since we managed to convert this building into four classrooms,” reflects Dr. Wynjaard.

He further explained that part of the reason his organisation rolled out a pre-school was because he had noticed how a number of children could not afford a pre-school edu-

cation.

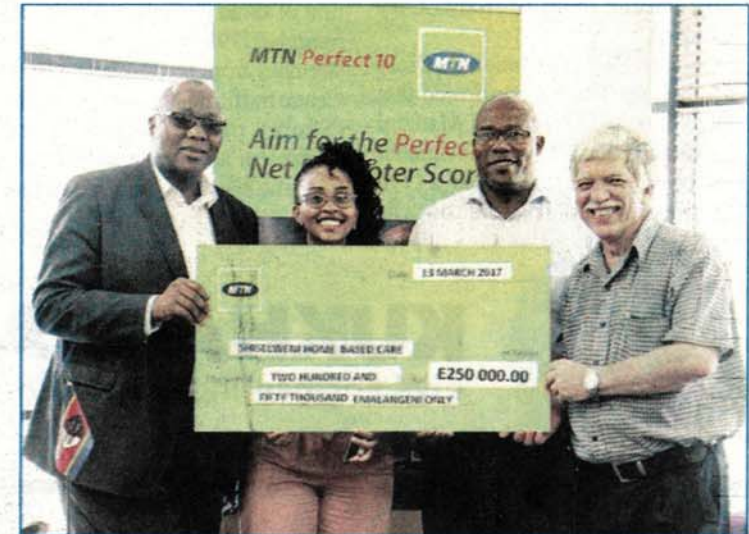
“We felt it was important to afford children a great foundation to pursue their studies,” said Dr. Wynjaard.

Dr. Wynjaard said four years later, the pre-school has done so well that they are considering establishing the first three grades of primary school, to become a school of choice in the community. He however, said prospects of that were still in discussion with the relevant stake-

holders. Ambrose Dlamini, Swazi MTN Chief Executive Officer, said MTN Foundation was proud to be associated with an organisation that diligently serves communities in the area of education. “We have seen Shiselweni Home Based Care grow from strength to strength, and we are happy about the investment, and how it has been used to improve quality

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SNIP



EVERYWHERE YOU GO: Ambrose Dlamini Swazi MTN CEO, MTN's Lando Dlamini and MTN's Sibusiso Nhleko handing over a cheque to Dr. Arnau Van Wynjaard. (Courtesy pic).

of life for children,” said Dlamini. This donation means that MTN Foundation has invested slightly over E1.1 million in basketball, music, golf, and the home-based care, in the past four weeks. Since the start of

the year E475 000 has been invested in SWAMA Music Awards, E250 000 has been invested in basketball, E135 000 has been invested in golf and E250 000 invested in pre-school education.