



Home of Hope
A brighter future for every child

Getting Groovy for Children in Need

Being still a newbie to Home of Hope and only having joined in May. I had heard a lot about Home of Hope's famous ladies fundraising lunches. So being tasked with actually putting one together, I must admit filled me with just a little anxiety.

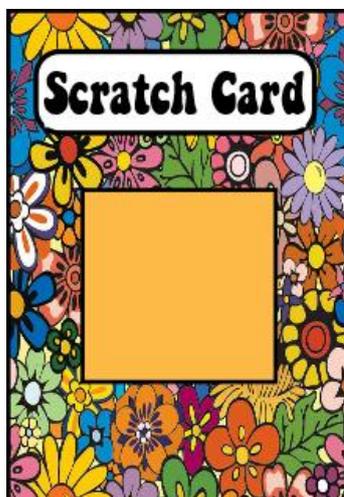
The theme was set and invitations sent out. Preparations for our "Groovy Party" could begin. I work with a wonderful bunch of people here at Home of Hope and everyone got stuck in. Even the only male in the office our social worker assist Oneness was not exempt from cutting out flowers. Let me tell you cutting is no joke when you haven't done it in a long time. I had numb fingers from the pressure of the scissors for a week.



Getting the children involved was the highlight for me. We had children colouring flowers so that each goody bag could have a flower done by one of our children. We also had a photo shoot with the children and a bunch of photo props which I think was the highlight of the preparations. It is always amazing to see how much fun can be had with a camera and a bunch of props. We used each photo with a story of hope of each of our children and made our "Seeds of Love" packets.



This year we decided instead of a raffle we would make scratch cards. The hunt for prizes began. We were determined to make sure that each scratch card had a prize even if it was a lollipop. To add to the challenge we still needed spot prizes and auction items. Our poor phone lines were burning as I spent months asking people to sponsor our event. It was amazing to see how giving some of the companies were and how keen they were to support our cause. We managed to have 10 really decent auction lots as well as make 500 scratch cards with a huge thanks to each individual and business that sponsored our event.



One of the most exciting aspects of our ladies lunch for me was our photo booth that we planned. I would just like to remind everyone I work for a non-profit organization and we started this event plan without a budget which meant that besides the food and venue cost everything had to either be loaned or donated. I approached a company with an idea and they completely exceeded my expectations for our photo booth. In fact it was so large when it arrived that we had to ask my brother-in-law to transport it in his bakkie for us because we couldn't fit it into our vehicles.



The day arrived cold and blustery but high on excitement. The vehicles were loaded the day before so it was a matter of meeting at "On the Rocks" at 9am to start setting up. The staff and volunteers worked like Trojans and a big thanks to Bianca our social worker and her wonderful artistic eye the tables looked amazing. The scene was set.



Ladies started pouring in each more colourful than the other. Most our guests had embraced the theme and it felt like we had stepped into a time warp. There were loads of beads, bell bottoms, headbands and peace signs. Even an afro wig or two. The ladies really brought an excitement to the event and it was just amazing to see how well they responded to their surroundings and how generous they were in supporting our cause.

I would like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to all our sponsors, volunteers, staff and most importantly our guests. Without each and every one of you this day would not have been such a huge success. We managed to raise R46 000.00 on the day which definitely is much needed funds for Home of Hope.

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