

## **PRESS RELEASE ISSUED BY MEALS ON WHEELS SOUTH AFRICA**

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### **Local Hero: Advent Educare Kagiso Bubbles With Energy**

Meet Belinda Bangasi, new branch manager for Advent Educare Kagiso in Krugersdorp. Despite a full-time job as a Market Development Manager at a large company, Belinda has taken on the after-hours job of branch manager for a crèche, pre-school and Meals on Wheels service center.

Her first priority at the center, which uses a church hall as its venue, is to organize separate classrooms for each of her three pre-school classes.

The branch was facing a challenge as a result of lack of funding, which is why Belinda has taken on the daunting job part time.

“I am acting as branch manager on a part-time basis while I hold down a full time job,” says this livewire lady. “We raise just enough money to pay the teachers subsistence wages. We don’t have enough to pay a manager, so I am stepping in on a voluntary basis. Many people who run Meals on Wheels are generous souls who could really use help in organization and communication.” And this is where Belinda’s skill as a manager really comes in handy.

Advent Educare uses its church hall to educate two of the three groups of children. More than 40 children are divided into two classes - from 18 months to 3 years and 3 to 6 years old. However, it’s difficult and distracting to teach under these conditions. The same church hall is used for church business and to feed the children, which is a distraction from teaching. The Grade R class of 13 children is housed in a donated container on site which is handy albeit rather narrow.

“Ideally we need one or two new classrooms,” says Belinda. “There is possibility that a screen or room divider inside the church hall would create two more separate teaching areas.” Belinda has also spotted another possibility; Advent has a paved area outside the church hall which could be roofed carport style. Canvas roll-up ‘walls’ could complete this third classroom. This would be a good interim measure for all but the coldest and rainiest days. “In the long term we would love two more brick classrooms,” she says.

The Advent children receive two meals a day. This is filling a vital gap in the community – without Advent and Meals on Wheels the children would roam the streets and go hungry.

Meals on Wheels is a charitable organization that provides meals for people too poor or infirm to fend for themselves. You can sponsor a hungry person via SMS – simply SMS the word ‘**MEAL**’ to **39055**. Your SMS is billed at *R15.00*.

For further information or for comment, please contact Belinda Bangasi on +2782 900 4500.

**You can also visit the following websites for more info on Meals on Wheels for the Aged:**

- Meals on Wheels website: [www.mow.org.za](http://www.mow.org.za)

#### **Social Pages :**

- Facebook: <http://on.fb.me/eSkF9s>
- Twitter: <http://twitter.com/mowcssa>



**Advent Educare Center, Kagiso, Krugersdorp**