



RAM delivers to Orange Farm's most vulnerable children

Left to right: HOD Gauteng Department of Social Development, Bheki Sibeko, RAM Director Alan da Costa and MaAfrika Tikkun Chairman, Bertie Lubner, with an EDC learner at the centre opening.

A strategic partnership between RAM, MaAfrika Tikkun, the National Distribution Trust Fund and the Gauteng Department of Social Development is already having a major impact on the lives of scores of vulnerable children in one of Gauteng's poorest townships: Orange Farm.

Over the years, hundreds more babies, toddlers and children up to the age of six will benefit from the care and nurturing provided at the Arekopaneng Early Childhood Development Centre (EDC).

The centre was officially opened earlier this year at a heart-warming event attended by dignitaries, members of the media, partners in the venture and, of course, the children. The kids' delight was palpably evident in broad smiles, songs and laughter.

The EDC provides children from the most impoverished and deprived backgrounds with a safe environment to play and learn life skills.

Age-appropriate literacy and numeracy are taught and the children enjoy nutritious meals. When necessary, social workers are called in to deal with specific cases, and NPOs Childline and the Teddy Bear Clinic offer support in physical and sexual abuse cases.

"This is one project where we are able to make a real difference," says David Lazarus, Joint MD of RAM.

"The EDC offers a phenomenal service to the community of Orange Farm and the young children who bare the brunt of these difficult times. While this centre might be just a drop in the ocean, it will play a critical role in the development of the children lucky enough to have the Arekopaneng ECD in their lives," he adds.



2009 RAM Captains' Breakfast series

An invitation to the RAM Captains breakfasts' have become highly coveted by corporate hosts and cricket fans alike. This year's corporate event again featured Australian captain Ricky Ponting and the Proteas' Graeme Smith.

The breakfasts, which have annually been held in Johannesburg, Durban and Cape Town over the past three years, bring together two of the world's greatest current cricketers and local cricket fans.

The breakfasts provide an opportunity to interact with world-class cricketers and ask them some of the most burning questions.

As the broadcast sponsor of cricket in South Africa, the breakfasts provide a natural extension to RAM's TV sponsorship.

"The Captains' Breakfast series just seems to get bigger and better every year," says David Lazarus, Joint MD of RAM.

"This year, over 1 600 people attended each event. We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their continued support. It's an absolute pleasure for our brand to be associated with quality events of this magnitude."

"We've no doubt our boys will deliver on the field as RAM delivers off the field," adds Graeme Lazarus, Joint MD of RAM.

RAM Soccer round-up

With the count down to the 2010 Soccer World Cup gaining momentum, RAM Hand-to-Hand Couriers' soccer teams are getting into the spirit of things and putting their best boot forward.



The RAM Rustenburg team at their home ground, Rustenburg Olympia Stadium

Rustenburg Soccer Team

The RAM Rustenburg team was formalised on 23 June 2009, with Mojalefa Matsume as Head Coach, Godfrey Malobisa as Technical Director and Rustenburg Branch Manager, Samuel Maphosa, as the team's co-founders.

The team's first-ever match was against Three Stars Cash and Carry, which they lost 1-0.

"The overall performance was superb, bearing in mind it was our first ever game as a team," says Samuel.

The team is currently looking forward to unveiling its new kit.

Pretoria Soccer Team

The RAM Pretoria team was formed late in 2008 and have proved a force to be reckoned with, winning most of their matches.



Khulekani Mthembu, Musa Kaka, Innok Khoza, Godfrey Khoza, Tebogo Molothanyi, Nathaniel, Thabiso Serati, Jackie Chan, Jobe Molothanyi, Christopher Moses, Emmanuel Mathe, Morris Dikutte, Godfrey Khoza (Captain) and Tsepsiso Molothanyi **Insert** David Dlamini (Branch Manager)

Gold for our kids

RAM could be nurturing some stars for the 2022 Bafana Bafana World Cup team!

Our Under Six youngsters were the stars of the recent Seam Sports Hyundai Tournament. Kitted out in their RAM strip, they played nine games in their division, taking the gold. Well done boys, and keep it up!



Jason Knott, Jayden Prinsloo, Connor Bergström (Captain), Chad Bergström (Coach), Daniel Juanas-Uriol, Jayde Breen, Alessio Lo Guidice, Caleb Arries and Daniel Du Preez

RAM Durban News

Branch Manager cares for the poor

While most of us enjoy a lazy lie-in on a Saturday morning, RAM Durban's Branch Manager, Mohammed Nizamie fills his bakkie with bread and other food and heads off into the city's outlying areas where hunger is rife.

In winter, Mohammed purchased 200 blankets and distributed these to the destitute in a RAM bakkie he borrowed from the hub.

Well done and thank you for making a difference, Mohammed.



Spotlight on Human Resources



Redford Kistan

"Not everyone can say they are happy with what they do: some people work because they need a salary. I do it because I am passionate about what I do," says Redford Kistan, head of Human Resources at RAM Durban.

Redford joined the company in 2000, with the thought that he would take the position until something better came up. He admits that he had no idea what was in store for him at the time.

"My journey with RAM has been progressive – very progressive – but only once I admitted that I did not know everything.

"I was inducted as a secure courier in 2000 and at the time was not ready to agree that it took two hands to clap. In 2007 I became a controller and got to know more about the company and what happens internally.

"In 2008 I took up the position as queries supervisor, which gave me an insight into understanding how non-performing employees adversely affect the business

and finally in October 2008, I assumed a role in Human Resources, where I have learnt to respect and appreciate procedures and why it's important to follow them."

"RAM Durban is led by Mohammed Nizamie, who is absolutely committed to promoting from within, and he has a very astute understanding of what it takes to run a successful business," says Redford.

"Many employees misunderstand the role of Human Resources. HR is not there to victimise anyone. Its processes and procedures might sometimes seem rigid but they are essential to helping employees reach their potential and ensure everyone is treated fairly.

"I enjoy my work within Human Resources and I am grateful to be employed by a company that is strong and focused on being the best courier in the Southern Hemisphere. It is up to me to be unbiased, to lead by example and to be the best I can be to promote a positive and professional work environment," says Redford.

Attendance and Performance Awards

Six employees at RAM Durban recently received certificates for outstanding work attendance and exemplary job performance. We commend them for their contribution to the success of the hub. Keep up the good work!



Tahir Khan



Rabika Manilall



Goolam Hoosen Sheik



Andrea Naidoo



Xolani Mtshali



Zinhle Mthembu

A shining example



Sipho Mbele was awarded an "Outstanding attendance record" certificate for 100% work attendance for three years in succession.

Well done Sipho, thank you for your commitment to RAM.



All in the family...

Thanks to the continued commitment of the Durban RAM cleaning team, the hub is always kept in tip-top shape... and keeping cleaning in the family seems the way to go for the Shezis.

Durban's cleaning team: Joseph Shezi, Ruth Mazibuko, Eunice Gomazi Shezi, Stanley Shezi

New hands at the wheel

RAM takes pleasure in welcoming Guy, Debbie, Jonathan and Caroline to the Group. RAM News asked them a few questions to help you get to know them a little better.



Debbie Pahalad
Creditors Manager

What's your favourite food?

Seafood

What book are you currently reading?

Deception Point by Dan Brown

Your favourite TV programme?

CSI

Favourite music?

Anything from the Eighties

You're stranded on a desert island. What

two things do you need to survive?

Food and water

If you could invite any six people in the world for dinner, who would they be?

My Dad; my Grandad; my two uncles, Nelson and Reuben; my favourite cousin, Aldrin; and my father-in-law. They have all passed on and I would do anything to have them at my home for just one night

Where's your ideal holiday destination?

Cape Town

Any pet hates?

Lies, deception and inefficiencies

What word best describes you?

Loud

What's your passion?

My family, Zanjeer, Aidan and Keziah – they are my heartbeat

What do you do at the weekend?

Anything my kids want to do, so it's normally Adventure Golf, watching the latest-release kids movie or bowling



Guy Moretti
Group Accountant

What's your favourite food?

Tough one, I love all food... if I have to choose one, then ravioli

What book are you currently reading?

Sacred and Magical Places by Martin Gray

Your favourite TV programme?

Stargate Atlantis – hey I'm a sci-fi freak

Favourite music?

Fusion, I like the mixing of sounds from all the parts of the world

You're stranded on a desert island. What two things do you need to survive?

I'm confused, what's to 'survive'? That sounds like my best holiday destination

If you could invite any six people in the world for dinner, who would they be?

Nelson Mandela; Dalai Lama;

Barack Obama; Robert Mugabe;

Osama Bin Laden; Sasha Baron Cohen (to keep it light!)

Where's your ideal holiday destination?

Tahiti

Any pet hates?

Arrogance

What word best describes you?

Guy

What's your passion?

Wine, women and song

What do you do at the weekend?

I enjoy chilling out with family and friends



Caroline Morrison
Personal Assistant

What's your favourite food?

Pizza and prawns

What book are you currently reading?

Nothing at the moment

Your favourite TV programme?

Desperate Housewives and Survivor

Favourite music?

All types

You're stranded on a desert island. What two things do you need to survive?

A blanket and fire

If you could invite any six people in the world for dinner, who would they be?

Oprah; Denzel Washington;

Barack Obama; Wentworth Miller;

Bono; Bill Gates

Where's your ideal holiday destination?

Ideal holiday: Drakensberg or Kruger

National Park; dream holiday destination: tour of the USA

Any pet hates?

Littering

What word best describes you?

Helpful

What's your passion?

Nature

What do you do at the weekend?

Gardening and mosaics



Jonathan Lurie
Personal Assistant to the Joint Managing Directors

What's your favourite food?

Chicken and rice

What book are you currently reading?

The Common Lawyer by Mark Gimanez

Your favourite TV programme?

Seinfeld

Favourite music?

Pop and rock

You're stranded on a desert island. What two things do you need to survive?

Everything that I currently have and everything I may need in the future

If you could invite any six people in the world for dinner, who would they be?

Adam and Eve; Nelson Mandela; Rowan Atkinson; Ricky Ponting and Jerry Seinfeld

Where's your ideal holiday destination?

Cape Town

Any pet hates?

I prefer dogs to cats

What word best describes you?

Spirited

What's your passion?

Nestle Passions. On a more serious note, my food, playing sports and doing well in any activity I participate in

What do you do at the weekend?

Relax, play sport, spend time with family and friends, catch up on the loads of work and watch TV



Lulu Pretorius

Lulu has a big heart

It takes someone with a big heart and creative spirit to initiate a fund-raising drive in the workplace. Lulu Pretorius, RAM's National CSD Manager and her team identify RAM employees whose children have a specific need that requires financial assistance.

The CSD and Collections team conceptualise a monthly theme, and plan novel outfits in keeping with the theme to wear to the office on a specific day.

Each employee in the team who "dresses up" on the day then makes a donation towards the monthly fund-raising cause.

Lulu inspires her team to get involved and is proud to say that "my team has never let the people in need down".

In addition to the money raised, the team also tries to meet whatever requests they receive from the family, which often includes requests for clothing or food.

"Not only is the team reaching out and assisting their fellow employees, but the initiative also boosts team morale and team spirit within the department," explains Lulu.

A big hats-off to RAM CSD and Collections.



Michael Jackson theme party

RAM Rustenburg celebrates one year on



RAM Rustenburg anniversary



Samuel Maphosa

Samuel Maphosa, proud Branch Manager of RAM Rustenburg chats about his year at the helm of RAM Rustenburg.

There is a total of 39 employees at RAM Rustenburg, and I do my very best to personally ensure that all employees are instrumental in the daily satisfaction of all our customers. It is imperative that all deliveries and collections are executed and managed in a very professional manner.

I have been with RAM since 2006, and believe that my success in the company may be attributed to my creative approach. On 1 June 2008, I was promoted to the position of Branch Manager of RAM Rustenburg, which was a big step as I was

responsible for getting the hub up and running with the assistance of four employees, who moved with me from the Pretoria hub.

The employees looked so lost and confused, wondering how on earth we were going to make it on our own in a new environment. I kept assuring them that they were in good hands, and we have proven over the past year that we are second to none.

I am very proud that RAM Rustenburg is considered one of the best RAM hubs,

as we have not had a single loss in our first year of operation. If we were a hotel we would have achieved five-star, if not six-star status in our first year.

My vision for RAM Rustenburg is to keep growing by offering the best customer service and outperforming our competitors. I believe that this goal will only be attainable if we bow our heads and work together, never losing sight of the fact that "United we Stand, Divided we Fall". – Samuel

Ten years and still RAM'ing

Several RAM employees, including David Lazarus, recently celebrated their ten-year anniversaries with RAM. We hope to continue working together in the years to come.



David Lazarus
Isando



William Solomons
Isando



Mogamberry Gounden
Durban



Emmanuel Nembahe
Isando



Lorenzo Davids
Cape Town



Turaan Jardine
Cape Town



Godfrey Martin
Isando



Lezel Bailey
Cape Town



Billie Shaik
Isando



Pragasen Pillay
Durban



Sandy Arends
Isando



Daniel David
Durban



Tesha Hill
Isando



Aurora Niemandt
Cape Town



Gopaulkrishna Pillay
Durban



Jaques Jacobs
Cape Town



Fabian Raubenheimer
Cape Town



Harmy Arumugam
Durban



Abel Mahlangu
Pretoria



April Vilakazi
Isando



Claude Rodrigues with the umbrella he wished he'd had when he took a long, wet walk to deliver a client's same-day parcel delivery.

Against all odds

It takes a dedicated employee to go the extra mile to meet the expectations of RAM clients and set us apart from the rest. RAM Cape Town would like to make special mention of one of their own: Claude Rodrigues.

Claude was going about his daily deliveries on a typical rainy, cold and wet Cape Town winter's day. He was intent on meeting the client's same-day delivery deadline, when his vehicle suddenly broke down in peak-hour traffic.

Claude knew that the delivery had to be made, breakdown or no breakdown. He managed to get the vehicle to the side of the road, locked it and walked the 2km he still had to go to make the delivery.

Claude called the client from his cellphone to say their delivery would be delayed. He didn't get through, but he still made the delivery within the same-day time frame, despite being drenched. Claude got back to the office soaked to the skin, ready for his next assignment. "It's all in a day's work," he says.

RAM Cape Town Branch Manager, Aurora Niemandt, says, "We really do appreciate Claude's hard work and dedication."