

Lobbyists visit rural women

By ANNELISA NKQUBEZELO

THE Eastern Cape Commission on Gender Equality (CGE) has pledged to help work through the challenges faced by rural development projects run by women.

The commission has identified lack of transport and shortage of electricity as a threat to the survival of these projects.

In response to challenges identified, it aims to do follow-up visits to the area and bring relevant departments closer. On International Day of Rural Women, it visited Macadamia farming and co-operative bakery projects in Ncerha to acknowledge women's roles in rural development, poverty alleviation and food security.

Commission chairman, Mfanozelwe Shozi, said: "It is our responsibility as a commission to ensure that challenges faced by women involved in rural development programmes are resolved be-



GIRL POWER: Commission on Gender Equality legal officer Kerry Oosthuysen, left, and administrator Babalwa Dick standing in front of Ncerha village's bakery cooperative project, which they visited on International Day of Rural Women recently

cause they are playing a huge role in combating poverty."

The commission urged women owning projects to complain and highlight challenges. The United Nations' International Day of Rural Women honours rural women's role on October 15 each year.

Project coordinator, Nonceba Dweba, said: "We are so grateful CGE has visited our project. It was indeed a joyful day."

Helping to make life a little easier for centre



THANK YOU: Canaan Care Centre received a Milton combi microwave steriliser recently and young Anastacia Hendricks helped open the new package. Picture: SUPPLIED

Day care for severely disabled kids gets steriliser

By ANNELISA NKQUBEZELO

THE health of the children at Canaan Care Centre was given a boost with the donation of a Milton combi microwave steriliser recently.

The donation forms part of Milton's Care Initiative that aims to reduce common intestinal infectious diseases among babies, believed to be caused by germs found in unsterilised baby equipment.

Canaan Centre, which provides a day-care facility for babies with intellectual and profound disabilities, was happy to be one of the beneficiaries.

Canaan Centre is a nonprofit organisation catering for children aged between birth and 16 years old with severe physical disabilities and profound learning disabilities. The children receive full care and stimulation, and an individualised programme of physiotherapy, occupational therapy, speech and language therapy, aqua therapy, sensory integration therapy and many other complimentary therapies and techniques.

A full menu designed by a qualified dietician is provided. Every child that goes to the centre requires full assistance with the changing of nappies, feeding, moving, playing and learning.

Manager at the organisation, Ellie Saayman said: "The health of our children is our top priority and in receiving this donation from Milton we feel so happy and blessed. It will make our jobs a little easier.

"It could not be more perfect. We will be using this predominantly for sterilising the suction catheters and cutlery. The kids were so excited that we actually had a package delivered that I let them help me open it."

In fulfilling its target of distributing 1 000 combi sterilisations packs to deserving communities by the end of this year, Milton has urged communities to assist in nominating areas in need.

"At Milton we have an opportunity to change lives and we believe through this initiative we will make a difference," Milton marketing manager Steve Donald said. To nominate a deserving organisation in your area visit www.milton.co.za or contact Laura on (011) 234-0266.

Shining bright for EL

By QHAMANI LINGANI

EAST LONDONER Nikolas Jankovich was in the top eight of this year's Global Cleantech Innovation Programme (GCIP) in Johannesburg this month.

Jankovich is the founder of Twerly Street Lights, which provides an off-grid renewable energy source that can power street lights, wi-fi and surveillance cameras for developers, municipalities and industries that need to provide electricity in noise-sensitive areas without laying cables.

Unlike competing solutions, Twerly uses both solar and wind energy to provide consistent power for an extended period.

"Although we didn't win, we got the right exposure and that is good.

"This is an Eastern Cape product and it has the potential to grow. The long hours and hard work has paid off," Jankovich said.

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