



DEPARTMENT of
CULTURAL AFFAIRS
and SPORT
Provincial Government of the Western Cape

DISCOVERY BIG WALK THROUGH GUGULETHU



Team DCAS supporting the Gugulethu route in 2009



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The Discovery Big Walk is not just a day of fun and camaraderie but also an opportunity to give to those who are in need. This charity-driven event started in 1903 and commenced from Greenmarket Square in Cape Town, where the Head Office of the Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport (DCAS) is situated today. Indeed a historic event, as it attracted its very first female competitor in 1926. The Big Walk was only interrupted from 1940-1945 by World War II.

The Big Walk is about bringing the diverse communities in Cape Town together. The thousands of participants emphasize our diversity, but at the same time highlight our common love for the outdoors, our love for our Province and the ability that sport and recreation have to bring people - irrespective of age, race gender - together in a fun way.

DCAS has for a number of years been a partner in sponsoring the Big Walk in the Mother City. Today, as one of the biggest mass participation events on the calendar of the Western Cape, it unites a cross-section of citizens, with up to 34 000 participants having registered in the past and thousands of families, friends with disabilities, old and young, and even the occasional pet, have shared their common passion for participation, recreation and the outdoors. At the same time they were also doing their bit to promote the spirit of philanthropy by contributing to various charity organisations.

This year DCAS participants have a choice of supporting Nazareth House or the Breast Cancer Fundraisers. Nazareth House provides a caring and compassionate haven for more than 120 of the most vulnerable members of our society, which includes the destitute, the aged and children. They also provide a loving, stable environment for babies and children with HIV/AIDS or terminal conditions, those who have been abandoned, orphaned or abused and also offer hospice to those dying of HIV/AIDS. The Breast Cancer Fundraisers is a dedicated organisation making a difference in the lives of females of all races and demographic groups by educating and providing screenings to those who cannot afford it.

Last year, coinciding with the 50th anniversary of the Gugulethu Township, DCAS introduced a brand new feature: the 11 kilometre route that starts from the NY49 Road at Gugulethu police station, making its way down Duinefontein Road, taking a left into Philippi Ring into Turfall Road, all the way down Lansdowne Road, taking a right turn into Belvedere Road, then into Milner Road, left into Park Road, right into Campground Road, left into Alma Road until Liesbeek Parkway and then on to the finish at the carnival area. This new route has proved to be extremely successful. Key to its success was the role played by Gugulethu Athletics Club, the principal and governing body of Bonga Primary School, local councillors and the Sport Council.

Approximately 450 employees of the Provincial Government of the Western Cape have signed up to participate in the Gugulethu route to demonstrate that the Western Cape is indeed blessed with a cadre of civil servants who certainly are more than willing to go the extra mile for the cause; in this instance the cause was not only charity but also ensuring the sustainability of this route.

DCAS strongly supports the approach of the Discovery Big Walk to create an opportunity for people of diverse backgrounds - irrespective of age, race or gender - to share in one of the largest mass participation events in the South African calendar.