

HS



**PROJECT BUILD:** Celebrating the opening of an extension to the KwaMashu Sunshine Crèche are Marc Mainville, left, an architecture intern from Canada, Dean Chiazzari of Harber & Associates, and crèche operator Sibongile Suthu with some of the children in her care.

PICTURE: ZANELE ZULU

## KwaMashu crèche benefits from build project

### NKULULEKO NENE

THE humble two-roomed home of a KwaMashu foster mom and crèche operator has been extended to help her to look better after the orphans and other children in her care.

A large bedroom and a fully fitted bathroom has been added to Sibongile Suthu's house in KwaMashu C section, which doubles as the KwaMashu Sunshine Crèche.

The extension cost an estimated R130 000, and was sponsored by non-profit organisations Save the Children KZN and Built Environment Support Group.

It is the first of eight houses that are being extended as part of a project to improve crèches in Durban townships.

Director of Save the Children KZN, Mari van der Merwe, was delighted that the first home had been completed.

"It's challenging to get funding, but we are grateful to those who lent support to this project. Our interest is in the foundation phase of children. We're building in the spirit of ubuntu," she said at the official opening yesterday.

Save the Children KZN cares for more than 200 children across the province.

Suthu had been attending

child-care training programmes run by the organisation and that was how she came to be identified as a crèche worker who was deserving of help.

"It is such a relief to have a fully fitted bathroom inside the main house. It has been scary to step outside at night to use the toilet," Suthu said.

"I am very happy. It shows that perseverance breeds success. The extension has added a bright look to the main house which is in a dilapidated state.

"I just love caring for orphaned children," said Suthu, 51, who herself became an orphan when her parents died when she was 11.

The project to extend the homes to relieve overcrowding was conceived in 2002 but it took years to resolve planning and financial problems.

Architecture intern Marc Mainville, of Rooftops Canada, who helped with the project said the building work took seven weeks to complete.

"I've been asked by friends if I was not afraid to go to KwaMashu. I often responded that people were friendly and I enjoyed being part of the project."

He is set to fly to Canada today to stay for a month before he takes on another building project in Tanzania.

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