



Kids enjoying every moment on the rides and showing off their new T-shirts.



The kids with main sponsors, Ryan Johnson and Fiona Ayers.

Green care for kids

Environmental organisations are noted for their efforts to wipe out humankind's carbon footprint from mother earth. A new initiative with its beginnings in Mossel Bay now shows these organisations care as much for our community as for the environment.

Three founding sponsors, Oceans Initiative (previously known as SAMPLA), Fiona Ayerst Underwater Photography and Delfino's Restaurant combined

efforts with Agate Children's Shelter to alleviate the circumstances of local street children. At the same time they are teaching them to care for themselves and the environment.

The initiative kicked off with a Christmas party for the children held at Funland Amusement Park. The sponsors also included Oystercatcher Trail and Bushitayl Pottery who donned their Father Christmas gear to deliver screen printed t-shirts, lucky packets and

gaming sets to brighten up the lives of these kids.

Louw and Pieter Pretorius of Funland Amusement Park kept the kids busy with free rides and Struisvogel Butchery kept their tummies full with an ostrich braai as well as doggy bags for their evening meal.

But the event that still has their little bells ringing was a "lolly drop" by Kiwi Ryan Johnson from Oceans Initiative. Ryan explained this Kiwi tradition to the

kids before the fun began, ensuring that they learned while they played.

According to Beverly Boer of Agate Children's Shelter, the ideal is to get the street children off the streets and into the shelter and back into the school system. A soft approach is needed to achieve this. This is just one of the projects planned with the assistance of George Child Welfare.

The project sponsors created a charity fund to ensure funds will

be available for more projects and to have a better and bigger Christmas party at the end of this year. They want to involve more street kids and abused children. The children can get counselling at the Agate Children's Shelter, so they realise that they are not alone.

The next big event is an Easter Party. Anyone who would like to get involved in this project should contact the project co-ordinator Lezanne at info@sampla.org (Petro Alberts)