

## **BLOG ON DECEMBER ACTIVITIES**

DATE: 25 January 2020

There is always great excitement when Christmas time comes closer because it is time for the children to go home for a whole month (16 December to 15 January) to spend quality time with their parents, siblings, other family and friends. It is very important that the children remain in close contact with their parents and that family ties remain strong.

The surprise gift to the Caregivers from Ugu Kidz was very much appreciated as they could enjoy some Christmas “goodies” with their own families. A HUGE THANK YOU TO ALL THE UGU KIDZ FOUNDATION SPONSORS THAT CONTRIBUTED! The facility is looking neat and secure with the new lounge suite, new security doors and window blinds installed and all the other equipment so generously provided by Ugu Kidz. Children can even have their hair cut with the new Electric Razor purchased, and enjoy fruit and vegetable “smoothies” that have been made in the new Food Blender.

However, Holidays have some drawbacks..... without the daily developmental therapy and activities provided by Othandweni, children regress and must settle back into their routines – therapy, exercises, social skills, behaviour management, independence training and now also water therapy with the bath and ozone mat donated by Ugu Kidz.

Two children could not wait to get back to the Center:

- Sta is 16 years old and has Cerebral Palsy. On admission she was very aggressive and displayed self-injury and anti-social behaviour. Over the past year she was given more chores to do around the Centre, which she enjoys very much, and it has been a great medium of increasing her basic skills levels. On her return her grandmother advised that she sews very well. We will look for a small sewing machine and teach her how to repair the bed linen and other small items – this skill will prepare her for her future life.
- Luya is 17 years old with Cerebral Palsy. He is a happy young man although he cannot speak but is always laughing and making hand gestures. Luya is being introduced daily to more household chores which he thoroughly enjoys. He removes the dirty laundry from the rooms and takes it to the laundry and dispenses the daily requirements such as soap and toilet paper. He feels very proud when he has achieved his tasks for the day.



**OTHANDWENI IS COMMITTED TO DEVELOPING EACH CHILD TO HIS/HER FULL POTENTIAL.**

Luya (back) and Sta (front with beads around her neck)