



Johann Spies, Director of Big Five Chapter, Karin Booyum, founder and Chairperson of Thusanang Trust Magoebaskloof and Maria da Silva, President of the Rotary Club of Haenertsburg at the handover of the donations to Thusanang Trust.

Rotary and Harley owners help Thusanang

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The Thusanang Trust for Early Childhood Development based in Magoebaskloof was pleasantly surprised when two donations totalling R20 000 were presented to them by the Big Five Nelspruit Chapter of the Harley Owners' Group and the Rotary Club of Haenertsburg at a function on Saturday.

Maria da Silva, President of the Rotary Club of Haenertsburg informed **Polokwane Observer** that the donations would be part of the contributions towards a complete training module for 15 Early Childhood Development Practitioners through the Thusanang Trust. "At the same event two more donations of R10 000 each were pledged towards Thusanang which will be added to our Global Grant contribution. It is quite a lengthy process to obtain funds through Rotary International's Global Grant Programme, as we have to source partner clubs through our international links," Da Silva said.

According to Da Silva, Rotary is committed to making a difference in the first 1 000 days of a child's life and she believes that the successful future socio-economic development of Southern Africa greatly depends on the current education of its children.

"A few months ago our District Governor Elect Grant Daly, shared a presentation made by David Harrison from the DG Murray Trust which describes the critical importance of Early Childhood Development (ECD) in the ability of young children to develop to their full potential and to contribute to the upliftment of our region," Da Silva said and added that if the young children of today, being the future generation, are to make a difference to Southern Africa, the building blocks that are essential to their future development, should receive attention.

"Without the establishment of these critical building blocks at an early stage, being from 0 to 6 years, a child will struggle to fulfil its full potential in the years to come," Da Silva said.