

# 50TH GARDEN CITIES ARCHWAY HALL MARKS CAPE SCHOOL'S HALF CENTURY

## Archway Foundation reaches ten year milestone

In the ten years since it was established, the Garden Cities Archway Foundation has provided 50 school halls for the children of the Western Cape, valued at more than R200 million. More are in the pipeline.

The 50th hall also represents the half-century celebration of the school that received it - Sullivan Primary School in Steenberg, Cape Town.

Sullivan Primary is one of the 750 schools in the province that do not have a school hall, and where one million children have to endure sun, wind and rain to hold their assemblies outdoors. They also have nowhere to stage their school performances, or hold prizegivings. The disadvantaged status of these schools has never been redressed.

Ten years ago, the Board of Garden Cities voted the Archway Foundation into being, donating a large percentage of profit to the project. Since then schools as far afield as Mossel Bay have received halls from the foundation – either outright, or in joint ventures with the WCED or private donors. The halls have been provided where they are most needed, and where most to the advantage of under-resourced schools of the Western Cape.

The hall at Sullivan Primary is set to make an enormous difference to the lives of the 582 pupils, their parents and the entire community, already strongly invested in their local school, where parent and neighbourhood participation is at an unusually high level.

'The school's history is tied up inextricably with the people of the suburb, and they take pride in it, in spite of its shortcomings in facilities,' says principal of 15 years, Ernest Moore.

But further good fortune exists for the school in the goodwill of a former pupil, Professor Jonathan Jansen, Rector of the University of the Free State, and one of South Africa's most respected academics. Prof Jansen, who started school as small boy at Sullivan Primary in the year it was established, has been a strong supporter over the intervening decades.

It was he who brokered the Archway's granting of the hall in meetings with Garden Cities CEO and founder of the Archway, John Matthews. He was also influential in the R500 000 contribution to the hall by the Rolf-Stephan Nussbaum Foundation, committed to the arts, sciences and music, which had previously provided



*Premier of the Western Cape, Helen Zille and Chairman of the Garden Cities Archway Foundation, Sean Stuttaford, cut the ribbon at the opening of the 50th Archway Foundation hall, watched by Ernest Moore, Principal of Sullivan Primary School. The building of the hall also coincided with Sullivan Primary's 50th anniversary.*

funding for a project at the school, as well as the Albert Wessels Trust, which donated R300 000, Investec (R50 000) and PolyOak (R20 000)

With the balance of the funding from the WCED, the hall has become a reality.

'We are enormously grateful to the Archway, the Rolf-Stephan Nussbaum Foundation, the WCED, the Albert Wessels Trust and Prof Jansen for this wonderful facility,' says Ernest Moore, who has spent his entire career at the school trying to have a hall built. Finally, prefabricated classrooms knocked together for a little makeshift hall have been demolished and the Archway hall has risen on the space.

'I am personally revitalized by this good fortune, and the huge opportunities it brings, not only to us, but also to the community.



I am also aware of the prestige a hall brings to the school and its image in the eyes of the people. It is wonderfully invigorating,' says Mr Moore.

**John Matthews, Group CEO of Garden Cities, the development company whose board established the Archway Foundation 10 years ago, says that the**

**foundation's task is colossal. In spite of the now more than 50 halls that the Archway Foundation has provided, every year the number of kids who are without a hall increases. These children suffer the deprivations that their more privileged young peers don't even think about. They don't have the basic amenity of a place to gather, a place to do the things that all kids love doing. And, without a hall, most school principals believe they cannot do their jobs properly.**

**Funding of the halls comes largely from a substantial portion of the earnings of Garden Cities, the oldest housing and suburb developer in the Cape Peninsula, established in 1919. Funding partners and the WCED are also involved in financing some of the halls.**

**John invites fellow corporates to join the initiative and put their CSI funds behind the Archway. He can be reached at 021 558 7181.**



**Garden Cities**

