

Lwandle/Nomzamo/Asanda Village



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IN GOOD HEALTH AND WELL LOOKED AFTER

Partnership saves the life of 'Ayabonga'

TARZAN MBITA

HOORAY! We have a baby boy! His name: Ayabonga! And baby and 'parents' and all others involved are doing iust fine . .

The excitement was so palpable. The euphoria, beyond imagination.

This news reached the office on Monday afternoon last week, and everything else and everybody seemed to stop in their tracks to savour the moment.

So it is that the partnership between Kasi Vision, the Choices' Helderberg Baby Saver, and Patch - an organisation that looks after the interests of abused women and children - has borne the first fruit of its collaborative work

It all evolved from an idea of community activist Sandy Immelman, from Masikhule, to provide a safe and enabling environment for mothers to rather place their unwanted babies in a "Baby Saver" than dump or abandon them in obscure places where they could die from the elements.

Last year, two babies had been found abandoned in Somerset West, and Immelman suggested a "safe" where mothers could place their babies. Choices, a crisis pregnancy centre, obliged.

Immelman said the centre was convenient for women from the Somerset and Strand areas.

"It can be accessed by either train or taxi."

The Baby Saver "safe" is built into the wall of the Choices Centre, and it is only when a mother places a baby on a special pad that an alarm is triggered and any of the responders then have access to it and can retrieve the baby.

On the day of baby Ayabonga's discovery, it was Amanda Lea Jones who responded to a call from Secure Rite - a company that monitors the alarm at the centre - that the alarm had been activat-

Jones said her first impression was that the baby was well looked after.

"The baby was in good health and well looked after. He even had baby clothing



Community activist Sandy Immelman and fellow responder Amanda Lea Jones show the PHOTO: TARZAN MBITA safe where mothers can place their unwanted babies.

Paramedic Cindie Van Rooyen, from EMO, was part of the team that responded to the PHOTO: FACEBOOK alarm alerting them to baby Ayabonga.

and a dummy in his mouth."

Kasi has been involved in the project for about two months now, regularly placing adverts on Page 3 of the publication, which are in IsiXhosa, Afrikaans and English.

This is done as part of our social responsibility in our areas of distribution. Immelman said finding a baby in the 'safe' was good news for all involved; there have been false alarms in the past.

"The message we send is for mothers

to not just dump their babies, but place their unwanted babies in the safe, to give them a fair chance of survival," she

She added that Ayabonga may well end up for adoption, like baby Amber who was found dumped under a bridge last year - who was eventually adopted by a family from Europe.

The identity of baby Ayabonga's mother and his real name are withheld to protect them.



