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CTICC chief executive officer Julie-May Ellingson helps excited children from the Beautiful Gates after school programme.

PHOTO: MANDLA MAHASHE

## Beauty of the hearts

MANDLA MAHASHE

It was day to remember for young children from Beautiful Gates Child and Family Centre's after school care programme on Tuesday afternoon in Lower Crossroads.

They were the recipients of a bag full of stationery and snack boxes donated by the Cape Town International Convention Centre.

According to CTICC chief executive officer, Julie-May Ellingson, much thought went into deciding what the donation should be.

"We recently hosted the Mining Indaba Conference and we had a surplus of bags that were left over. We couldn't donate empty bags and we tried to find out what we can put into the bags that can be of help to the children," she told City Vision.

Ellingson said that they decided on stationery as it would be helpful to the after school programme.

Beautiful Gate South Africa provides care and support to vulnerable children and families in Crossroads, including a paediat-

ric HIV clinic, a children's home, family reunification services, an activity centre and holiday clubs.

There are about a 100 children in the programme from three local schools.

"We want to make sure that we give them what they need.

This is not the last they will hear from us as we will continue to partner with this organisation to help where we can," she added.

Tinotenda Tadokera, fundraising manager at the centre, said that the items donated were much needed as many children in the programme were in the grip of poverty.

"All of the children in this programme were identified by the teachers as having problems either at school or the home environment.

Many of the parents simply cannot afford to purchase such instruments so this will go a long way," he said.

He said such meaningful donations will go a long way in encouraging young pupils who are facing socio-economic problems to focus at school.

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