

# Camphill needs help to fight crime

**The Camphill School and Farm Community has been plagued by a spate of burglaries, attempted burglaries and incidents of theft that have highlighted the need for increased security.**

The principal, Dr Matthi Theron, says because the children and adults at Camphill suffer from mental disabilities, and because most of their live-in workers are women, they are particularly vulnerable and an easy target for criminal elements.

“As the executive official of the Camphill Company I am personally responsible for the safety and care of everyone at the school,” says Theron. “If it can be proven that we are not fulfilling our responsibility, claims may be instituted against us that could lead to bankruptcy and even closure of the facility.”

Theron says he would like to do everything in his power to ensure the safety of the children, adult clients and personnel. “This is no small task and assistance from the community will be highly appreciated.”

The owner of Wine Village, Paul du Toit, who has been actively involved in fundraising projects for the Camphill School and Farm for many years, has again initiated a music event for 24 August, starring the highly acclaimed HaMan! “With this concert we hope to generate about R10 000, and the Rotary Club of Hermanus will be donating a further R10 000,” says Du Toit.

“Fortunately there are many business people in Hermanus who are prepared to help. T-tac Garage Door & Electronics are in the process of building a car gate that will be installed at the entrance to the school and farm. However, there is still about 500 metres that needs to be secured

by a fence, for which we need funds, materials and services. These include sand, stone, cement, barbed wire, steel and wooden poles, the hire of a cement mixer and chainsaw, and the machinery and labour for digging holes.”

Du Toit says an estimated R50 000 is needed to complete this project.

In spite of the security service offered by ADT, several incidents have taken place at Camphill over the last year: a pupil’s ipod and phone were stolen during the night by a burglar while he was in the

room; one of the house mothers was gassed by burglars and her handbag and phone were stolen; another house-mother’s laptop and phone were stolen while she was in her flat; copper pipes were stolen a number of times; various tools, a weed eater and a microwave oven were

stolen from the maintenance hut in separate incidents; the school and farm’s Telkom lines have been stolen a number of times and they have been without a telephone line since February; in the same month the school’s mini bus was stolen and could not be replaced.

Camphill School is a private community school and 87% of the learners are from the local community. Not one of them is able to pay the full school fees and the school has to carry them financially.

Another large expense for Camphill School and Farm is the poor state of the road, which is the main reason why they have to spend large amounts on the maintenance of their vehicles, says Theron. Although they try to maintain the road themselves, help from the community in this regard will also be appreciated.

Anyone interested in lending a helping hand can contact Du Toit on 082 820 3331 or Theron on 083 303 8402.

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