

# Who's the cutest baby?

**SIMONE JURGENS**

**TINY tots are invited to take part in the House of Thembiso's first baby competition.**

The competition will run for five weeks in which all baby entrants' photographs will be taken by a professional photographer from Busy Bee Photography.

Entry is free, but a voluntary donation can be made to Thembiso.

The House of Thembiso is a place of safety for babies younger than two years.

The home is classified as a special needs house and receives abandoned babies that are HIV positive or have physical or mental disabilities.

The babies are cared for until they are healthy enough to be placed with suitable adopted parents or foster care.

The house opened its doors in January 2007 in Langeberg, Kraaifontein.

Thembiso began with the desire by both Dova Langeberg and the

Durbanville Baptist Church to make a difference in the lives of children with special needs in the Kraaifontein community.

The joint venture between the two churches falls under the guidance of the uMephi organisation.

UMephi has been operating in South Africa for over 20 years and supports over 70 projects including special needs homes for babies and foster care.

All the babies that arrive at Thembiso come from social welfare, Kraaifontein police and hospitals.

Thembiso member, Mrs Loenora Staniforth, said Thembiso gives orphaned babies a future.

"All the children who are saved from the streets came through volunteers from the community who are helping Thembiso's caregivers. This gives the community a sense of involvement and ownership."

Thembiso encourages anyone who is interested in helping these children and has skills in medicine, fundraising, public relations and maintenance to step forward and

help the less fortunate.

Staniforth added the need for baby formula, nappies, baby lotion and shampoo is endless.

"There are many financial needs that need to be met and it costs approximately R90 a day to care for a baby."

People entering their toddlers stand a chance to win A2 canvas bond prints, as well as certificates, vouchers and various hampers.

Categories are 0-6 months, 7-12 months and 1-3 years.

Entry forms will be available in the July and August *CapeGate Life* magazine found at the CapeGate Centre.

Photo schedule:

- Vines Pharmacy on the corner of Aurora and Burton Road 8-10 July.

- Sonate Pharmacy at the Sonstraal Centre 15-17 July.

- Silly Billy Funworld at Glen Garry 22-24 July.

- Reggies CapeGate 29-31 July.

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