

## SA WISE WOMEN'S DAY 2013

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### *Making a difference to the cycle of abuse against women*



To mark Women's Day 2013, SAWISE partnered with the Jes Foord Foundation's Handbag Project. The Jes Foord Foundation is aimed at supporting rape victims following their traumatic ordeals, to restore lives after rape, to be that somebody to those that have nobody, and to educate people about the realities of rape in South Africa.

*"The Handbag Project gives handbags full of much needed supplies to victims at a critical point in their journey to becoming a survivor... Receiving a bag full of personal supplies like shampoo, conditioner, body wash, and lotion not only helps her feel clean again but restores her dignity. It is the first step in claiming her body and her life back."*



The Pack-a-thon was held at the beautiful Intaka Island Eco-Centre (Century City) where those who attended were first treated to interesting and informative talks from our speakers, Prof. Lorna Martin (Head of Forensic Pathology, UCT), Captain Fienie Nimb (South African Police Services, Bellville), Kathleen Dey (Rape Crisis) and Leandri Van der Vyfer (Education & Eco-Centre, Intaka Island). After a celebratory brunch, the donations were sorted into categories and the pack-a-thon began with everyone lending a hand to produce 130 handbags ready for donation to the Jes Foord Foundation. Fifty of these went directly with a representative of the JFF for a new centre that has been opened in Port Elizabeth.

Donations were too numerous to collate entirely at the pack-a-thon and are being assembled by the SA WISE committee to produce at least another 70 bags which will be delivered to Rape Crisis and the Bellville SAPS Department!

A big thank you to all who generously donated goods for the hangbags and to event sponsor Roche Applied Sciences *who made the Women's Day Pack-a-thon on the 17th of August such a great success!*



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