



A team of girls play soccer at Nomfihlela School, which has received funding from a Swedish sportsman. *Photo by Andrew Mthimkhulu*

# The greatest gift is a good education

By ZANELE MAZIBUKO

NOMFIHLELA Primary School, has become the only school in the area to benefit from a combination of activities aimed at changing the lives of vulnerable children.

This school, which is 60km north of Durban, in Kwa-Ximba, KwaZulu-Natal, has received help from a partnership between Swedish sports icon Sven Tumba and pharmaceutical company AstraZeneca.

The partnership began by starting a literacy and numeracy programme, and then built an additional classroom for Grade 0 pupils.

Now the school will play host to inter-school sports days in Kwa-Ximba.

This school has already nominated four other schools in the area to benefit from the sports programme.

This was all possible because of R2 million donated by the partnership in support of the school until 2010.

Nomfihlela School principal Bonga Nkomo said that in just one year

since the partnership has supported them, the school has progressed remarkably.

"Things have not been easy in this school, but these people have worked tirelessly to change the lives of vulnerable children and address critical issues including supporting in literacy and numeracy, sport and building infrastructure upgrades.

"When these funders approached us, it was at the time we needed them the most.

"Today I am certain that more better things will come," he said.

Tumba said he came to know about the plight of children there during his visit to KwaZulu-Natal, where he was moved and saddened by the poverty he witnessed in that region.

"I believe social responsibility should be on everyone's agenda," the former ice-hockey star said.

"Even though one cannot eradicate the problem in its entirety, I believe that changing the lives of just one small group of children can affect the lives of many."