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## CYCLING

### Cyclists help poor children

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Christoph Sauser, world champion cyclist, will join South African mountain biking star Burry Stander in transforming the lives of children in Kayamandi, outside Stellenbosch.

The two cyclists plan to take part in the 2008 ABSA Cape Epic, to raise money to build a BMX track in conjunction with the JAG Sports and Education Foundation. The track will provide children with a safe place to do sport, keeping them off the streets and away from drugs and crime.

The JAG Sports and Education Foundation, headed by Elana Meyer, is an NGO focused on getting children fit and healthy by implementing sporting programmes aimed at primary school children in underprivileged areas. Last year the JAG Foundation established an after school running programme in this community. "This BMX track project complements our goal in Kayamandi perfectly," said former Olympic medalist Meyer.

Current World Champion and 2004/2005 World Cup champion, Sauser, who does his winter training in Stellenbosch, established the Songo.info Project to raise money to uplift the lives of children in Kayamandi.

"A typical BMX track is short and fast, the bikes are small, compact, tough and low maintenance," said Sauser. "A track would allow the local children to develop skills such as fitness, conditioning, confidence and sportsmanship. Not only is it a platform to launch riders into the different areas of cycling, like road and mountain biking, it is also an area for recreation and creativity where typically South African wire-cars and speedy-wheel-creations can be tested and enjoyed on the track." he said.

The public can 'Buy Kilometres Build BMX Track' on the project's website [www.songo.info](http://www.songo.info)

Meyer said: "We have partnered with Songo.info to ensure this track becomes a reality. We will also make sure the track is sustained and maintained so that it will become an integral part of children's lives in this community for years to come."

The Songo.info Project was named after community leader Songo Fipaza, an enthusiastic runner and cyclist who worked with the JAG Foundation to implement the running programmes in Kayamandi last year. Fipaza also runs computer literacy classes for adults and children and coordinates support groups for the unemployed as well as crèches to assist working parents.

Sauser passionately believes sport is the best way to develop children's social skills. "Children learn about health, friendship, pride and confidence through sport." he said.

“Together with our partner, the JAG Foundation, we aim to develop this BMX project in Kayamandi. I’m proud and excited to support a project in Stellenbosch, where I can see the benefit it brings to the community. I look forward to riding with the kids, and taking part in their development.”

According to the Songo.info Project, very few children in Kayamandi own bicycles, and there are no safe areas for them to cycle or play. Sauser said: “Both Robbie Hunter (stage winner Tour de France) and Greg Minnaar (2001 World Cup Champion, 2002 World Downhill Champion) come from a BMX background. We hope that this BMX track will inspire and equip more South Africans to follow in their footsteps to victory,” he said.

To contribute towards the Kayamandi BMX track please log onto [www.songo.info](http://www.songo.info)

