

Dear friends of the Foundation House of Encouragement

The new year has barely begun, and another month has passed. We hope that you have all started 2023 healthy and successful. The young people of the pilot project for a vocational apprenticeship have told us that for them, too, it feels as if they had just started their training in college and now the last exams were already behind them. On the 27<sup>th</sup> February, the apprentices will receive their certificates in a small ceremony. On this occasion, the graduates will be handed a filled toolbox, with which they can do customer work independently from now on. Of course, all of them are now looking for a job and are motivated to apply what they have learned professionally.

Those in responsibility from NBI and House of Encouragement were able to gain and implement valuable lessons for the second group of 30 young people who started their education last November at Tshwane North College, Mamelodi Campus. Fortunately, 15 of them can be supported by our foundation and 15 by NBI. This course is held in the township of Mamelodi, 60 Kilometers away, where our partner NBI (National Business Initiative) has refurbished training rooms and practical workplaces. Modern machines have been invested for each vocational area. The experienced teachers are highly motivated and guarantee that the program can be qualitatively improved in theory and practice. The college is currently in the process of being accredited as a school for 3-year vocational apprenticeships in the crafts sector. This could make our original goal of training opportunities for our center's school leavers a reality in the future.





Thanks to the commitment for dedicated donations and a separate fund, we will be able to continue offering these training opportunities over the next three years. This program will give young people from an extremely difficult environment a real chance in life.

The work at the Lesedi-Potlana Center has again started very well in the new year. We sincerely thank all donors for their support in 2022, some of whom we have been able to count on since the beginning of our foundation's work in the township of Soshanguve.

However, contrary to the above-mentioned situation with the education program, even after almost 16 years of successful activity in the care of orphans, we are not in such a comfortable position financially and cannot plan ahead for a long time. The need of the people, especially in the area where our center is located, is still great. The local inflation is rapid and causes great concern to the foster mothers. Of course, this also increases the operating costs for our center. However, we trust that with your help we will be able to secure and continue the work in the day care center in the future.

Perhaps you are one of the readers who already generously support us. Perhaps you are among those who might consider helping us with a monthly donation. Already with CHF 50.00 per month you make a significant contribution to the continuity of the valuable work for the approximately 70 orphans in Soshanguve.

With sincere thanks and kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Walter und Estelle Bosshard". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Walter und Estelle Bosshard

Bubikon/Soshanguve, 7 February 2023