

Dear friends of the Foundation House of Encouragement

Some of the children in the center say that they have a sense of security and a stable home in our large family, which they do not know otherwise. As orphans, they are usually taken care of by a grandmother, aunt or neighbor in an environment that can often change rapidly. While it is certainly true that most foster mothers care for the children with a lot of love and support, for various reasons, children sometimes may experience drastic changes repeatedly. They are passed from one place to another and have to cope in new surroundings and come to terms with the situations that are offered to them.

This is also what happened to Khumo and Sana M., who were taken in by their grandmother in Soshanguve as the youngest of four siblings after the loss of their parents. It took them some time to adjust to the new situation and to our center. After only one year however, an uncle took them to live with him in Limpopo (some 150km away), so they had to leave Soshanguve and our center again. Unfortunately, Khumo and Sana were not really accepted by their uncle's wife, which was felt by the children. They focused strongly on their uncle, who gave them a lot of attention and support. But then the uncle died unexpectedly, and they found themselves in an extremely difficult situation. Fortunately, their grandmother was now able to bring them back to Soshanguve. In the meanwhile 9-member household it has become very crowded, but the grandmother still has a big heart for the two. At the center, Khumo and Sana were again warmly welcomed by all the children and caregivers. They immediately felt at home again in the familiar surroundings.



Khumo (12) and Sana (10) are very happy to be back with their granny again.



Maria and Elizabeth are excited to have to two back at the center after two years.



1)



2)



3)

1) Doctor (first name) Mabasa, one of three graduates from our centre of the first vocational training course financed by us, proudly shows his diploma at the graduation ceremony in February 2023. Doctor has done various repair jobs in our care centre during this year. Besides continuously looking for a job, he now regularly works as a general repairer in various places. He is not yet able to make a full living, but his goal is to build a future as a self-employed handyman.

2) From the second course, Kearabetswe and Peter have a real win-win situation at their internship location. They are in a small start-up company that is growing rapidly. The founder - winner of a Social Innovation Award for a recycling product - is very happy to have practical help in the hectic time of the start-up. At the same time, the interns learn a lot of new things. They are enthusiastic and motivated to work on the further development of the young business. During our last visit, the owner welcomed us with the words "I want to keep these two guys, they are great".

3) The third training course started at the beginning of October 2023. On the introduction day, the young participants were amazed at the fully equipped training workshops for the different vocational areas at Tshwane North College, Mamelodi Campus. They will travel by taxi from Soshanguve to Mamelodi every day for the next 3 months.

Supporting young people after they have finished school is a targeted and sustainable help for these young people. However, without our basic work in the Lesedi-Potlana care centre with the orphans during their years at School, this would probably hardly be part of our activities in Soshanguve. The care, support and encouragement of the children remains our core task and will always be our first priority.

Warm regards

Walter und Estelle Bosshard

Wetzikon/Soshanguve, 23 October, 2023