

Dear friends of the Foundation House of Encouragement

It was one of the few end of year celebrations without our personal presence at the centre and we were only able to send our Christmas and New Year wishes via Skype communication. However, the team of caregivers put a lot of love and dedication into preparing for this celebration and made the day a memorable experience for the children.



The whole staff team (including the maths teacher on the far left and the kitchen assistant 2nd from left) worked very well together. The decoration and the provision of a small gift for each child as well as a rich buffet was a great thing for the children and made them forget that no swimming trip was possible this December for financial reasons.



On the last day, there was dancing, singing and a time of reflection about Christmas ahead. There was also a bouncy castle outside for the little ones to enjoy.

Working with the orphans' legal guardians (foster mothers) and the school is very important to our team to provide individual, targeted care for the children. On several occasions, we have been able to ensure that one or more children have been placed with another family due to an increased risk to their physical and mental health. The extent to which our suggestions and recommendations for the child's welfare are listened to and accepted depends on the level of trust between the foster mothers and our caregivers. Regular discussions are also held with the teachers in order to work together to achieve the best for the children.



Sometimes it takes time for counselling to lead to a decision. In the case of the youngest girl at the centre, Nomalanga M. (pictured left), it took a year. Nomalanga's parents had died of AIDS. It was never established whether the five-year-old girl was also HIV-positive. At times, the grandmother seemed overwhelmed by the care and for a long time could not make up her mind to have the child tested. Our team was able to convince her that this important issue needed to be addressed. We are now all very happy and grateful to know that Nomalanga is completely healthy.

The decision to send Bongani to the special school for children with mental and learning difficulties has also proved to be the right one. He is doing well and his twin brother Syabonga has also got used to going to Lesedi-Potlana without his brother. He is happy at our centre.

We are pleased and grateful that we were able to close 2023 with a positive financial result after several difficult years. We thank you for your contribution and your continued support that enables us to care for and promote these precious orphans in the township of Soshanguve.

Best wishes and all the best for 2024.

Handwritten signature of Walter und Estelle Bosshard.

Walter und Estelle Bosshard

Bubikon/Soshanguve 15 January 2024