

Dear friends of the foundation House of Encouragement

The competent and dedicated care and support of the 60 - 70 children between the ages of 5 and 18 by the five-member team (including the center director) always deserves our full appreciation. Not only feeding the children and helping them with their homework, but also keeping everyone busy with a program every weekday, while at the same time keeping an open ear for the many individual questions and concerns, is a challenge. As a result, we see the solidarity of the children in the big family. On the playground of the Primary School Lesedi-Potlana, the children of our center stand up for each other. Individual teenagers who have moved to another part of Soshanguve (sometimes more than 10 kilometres away), they put in a lot of effort to still come to our center as often as possible.

We are always very happy to work with all of them again face to face. We learned from our team that the teenagers had expressed a need to discuss the various challenges they face. The fact that the suicide rate among teenagers was rising strongly in the township was of great concern to the older children. The openness and freedom that the teens showed in the discussions were obviously also an expression of the solid basis of trust in our large center family.

We were somewhat surprised when we learned what the young people thought the reason was for this development. In the first place, it was not the lack of perspectives or the great poverty, but - as is also the case in Switzerland - the bullying, also in the social media, and the peer pressure. The topic prepared from our side on questions of identity and values therefore fitted very well. The input of "Ma Estelle" stirred something in many teenagers, so that they subsequently sought individual discussions with the caregivers.



To take some of the workload off the team, we did various "hands-on" projects. It was all about cooking and baking as well as practical craftwork for personal use. If one would assume that cooking and needlework would be of interest mainly to girls, the boys from our center proved that this is not the case. On Saturdays, girls and boys enthusiastically participated in these voluntary activities.

Knitting Scarves

The Teenage Boys really got into knitting their own scarves with the wool of their choice. The simple way of knitting convinced them all and within three days they presented their own creations. Pajero knitted himself a beanie.



Make your own bags

The older girls were able to choose the fabric for their personal bags and make their own convenient and fashionable shoulder bags under supervision. Cutting out the material and sewing a significant part by hand was a job that required perseverance but was done with great fun.

Joy for the little ones

It is often the case that the projects are too demanding for the youngest children in our center. But what they always appreciate are colouring books and new colour pencils. But they also enjoy doing various other crafts.



The children thank you, dear donors, for making such projects possible. It gives them that special feeling of belonging to a group of friends and a home. For many years we have been able to see that together we can make a decisive difference in the lives of these children and young people.

We do need your help so that we can continue to provide comprehensive care and support for these amazing children.

Many thanks and kind regards

Walter und Estelle Bosshard

Bubikon/Soshanguve, 10 July 2023