

Dear friends of House of Encouragement,

For the first time since our return to Switzerland, we were able to go to South Africa for six weeks at the beginning of April. It was a great pleasure for everyone after we had only seen each other via Skype for months. Our team and the children, who incidentally can still only come to the center staggered, surprised us with a great reception. Of course, the precautions and restrictions due to the pandemic did not allow us to hug the children, but it was nevertheless a warm and happy reunion.

The weekly, virtual meetings cannot replace the feeling of family belonging, but we are always up to date with what is happening at the center and with the children. For each month, the caregiver team creates a program. During our stay, we were part of it when new software programs were installed on the tablets of the high school children. The learners are already skilled in researching and finding comprehensive information on school topics. We also hope that the different levels of English programs will help all children to improve their language skills.

Furthermore, a first part of the GBV (Gender based violence) programme was carried out in age-appropriate groups. GBV is unfortunately a big issue in the township, to which even the young children are exposed. The goal is that the children recognise signs of such violence and learn how to behave in a possible situation. The children know that they can talk about it confidentially with a caregiver at any time.

It is important for our team that playtime and fun are not neglected despite Corona. The long period of restrictions puts the children to a challenging test of patience. Therefore, the quarterly birthday party is a welcome Highlight.



Lebogang Hopane completed her university studies as a primary school teacher at the end of 2019 and has been working in a temporary position ever since.

Because of the pandemic, she had to wait a very long time for the graduation party. In May of this year, the university made up for this.

In the meantime, Lebogang has already taken another step in her education. At the beginning of this year, she received the academic degree with distinction (Honour's degree), which allows her to participate in a master's degree program.

In May, she started her master's degree studies part-time. We are proud of Lebogang and thank the organization, which - with its dedicated donations - has made the intellectual furtherance of orphans possible for years.



It's finally real! For many years it has been of great concern to us how we could support the young people to make their own living. In June, the first group of youth from our center as well as from the region of the township of Soshanguve will start their one-year artisanal training.



Here are 13 of 15 from House of Encouragement supported students with the center manager Charles (left). Because of Corona, the 15 learners who will be financed by our partner, NBI National Business Initiative, will only be able to start in two or three months.

As unemployed youth, all are amazed at the unexpected chance in life. They are fully motivated to make the most of this great opportunity with commitment and gratitude.

We will report more on this later. The start of this programme is proof that persistence pays off, but also that your donation will change people's lives in sustainable projects.

With kind regards,

House of Encouragement South Africa NPC

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Walter und Estelle Bosshard".

Walter und Estelle Bosshard

Wetzikon/Soshanguve, 9th June 2021