

Dear friends of House of Encouragement

Together with all the orphan children and caregivers at the center Lesedi-Potlana we convey

BEST WISHES FOR A PEACEFUL, BLESSED 2016.



This picture of Mary and the angels shows some of the small actors shortly before their appearance in the Christmas play, which the children had performed in front of about 60 spectators. On the day before the summer holidays started the "foster parents" of the children, mostly grandmothers, aunts or neighbours, were invited to the center. The visitors marvelled at the skilful and cheerful performance of children and admired the self-made costumes.

Weeks before the performance took place Maria Manganye, one of our caregivers, wrote the Christmas play. She decided who is playing which character and as far as possible took into account the wishes of the children. Many hours went into making the costumes and in the preparation of the stage. The manuscript was written so that the children had to recite not too much. Charles Kapa, the team leader, read the Christmas story in Sepedi in stages. Together with this, the play scenes were played and framed with Christmas carols and dancing. All actors contributed with great enthusiasm.





The next day the stable was filled again.



In the last two years, we organized an outing to African Island before the big summer holiday. Although this was great fun for the kids to swim and play, we wanted to celebrate the end of the school year and the end 2015 a little different.

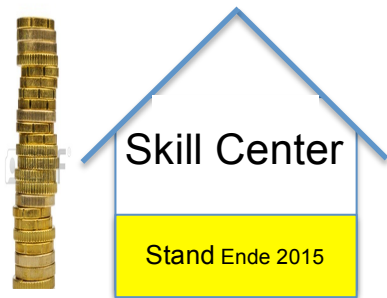
We knew that many, even older children had never received a beautifully wrapped and personally addressed Christmas gift. The caregivers collected ideas of possible gifts over a period of time, listening to the children what their individual dreams were, if they could wish for something. We were able to fulfil most of the wishes, which were a great surprise for the kids.

During 2015 one of the focus of our work with the children of all ages was that they were able to strengthen their self-worth. Every individual child should learn that it is unique and that it can grow based on this knowledge. It was with great pleasure that we could see so many children enhance in their development and personality. So it suited this year very well, that there was an individual, personal gift for each and every single child. Indescribable were the reactions of small and big children, as the presents were unpacked. Moments that cannot be repeated but will be memorised by all that were present. It was almost impossible to understand one word for a few minutes because of the shouts and squeals of happy children that filled the room. A special thanks goes to the donors who made this possible.



A major goal for 2016 is the Skill Center. We decided to take the route of a gradual approach and will start with the use of containers.

We have identified several properties that would be suitable as a location for the Skill Center. We give clear preference to two places, which are not far from our orphan care center. However, this land must first be rezoned to accommodate a project like this. For this process, we now have the support of the local "Councillors". In February, the procedure with the authorities will continue.



There is also progress on the side of financing the project. Since the great start-up capital resulting from the Charity Concert we received further dedicated donations. Although we have still quite a way ahead of us, we are confident that we will be able to realize this unique project in the township of Soshanguve. The donations for the building project are allocated to a separate fund of the Foundation House of Encouragement.

Many thanks in advance for your continuous support of the work at the orphan care center and your dedicated help for the project Skill Center also in 2016.

House of Encouragement

Walter und Estelle Bosshard