

Dear Friends of the Foundation House of Encouragement,

Following our second stay this year in South Africa, we are pleased to inform you all about the state of affairs in the township of Soshanguve and our orphan care center Lesedi-Potlana.

Two days before our return to Switzerland at the end of June, the mask requirement was officially lifted after more than 25 months. Although this was welcomed by people all over the country, it could not take away from the real problems that a large part of the population is confronted with every day. The economic struggle has further increased unemployment, and extreme inflation is causing even more people in the township to worry about how they will put bread on the table. As is often the case, those who didn't have much before are hit the hardest. We are therefore very grateful for your donations which ensure that we can continue to provide appropriate and targeted aid and care for the approximately 70 children. It never seems to have been more important than now.

We are very happy to report that no child, no foster mother and no one from our caregiver team got ill with Covid, although the infection rate was very high in the township. Nevertheless, we did have a difficult time as a team because the 52 year old husband of our staff member Motha, unfortunately passed away unexpectedly two months ago. However, it was nice to see how the team members had taken care of Motha and stood by her during this difficult time. She knows that she now has to carry alone the parental responsibility for five children, but she has the assurance that the team strengthens her for it. In addition, the three oldest children are being supported by House of Encouragement in various support programs.

The joy and gratitude that all the children at the center show is something we can experience every time we visit them on site. So it was a great and happy time when "Ma Estelle" did a creative project with all of them, the painting of T-shirts. After a somewhat hesitant start, great creations came about and were accomplished. Each child, from 5-year-old Nomalanga to 20-year-old Tshegofatso, proudly presented his or her very unique T-shirt.



On the last day before our return trip, the girls from the middle school baked cakes for the first time. They were instructed how to make the dough themselves from the beginning and how to perfectly decorate the pastry with chocolate and coconut at the end. The smallest ones were very surprised how good it tasted what the barely bigger friends had succeeded doing. It was a small dessert for all the children and at the same time a festive farewell.



In closing, we would like to make a **preliminary announcement**. We from the Foundation House of Encouragement will participate in a market at the Garden-Center Meier, Dürnten, on **September 23 and 24**. There will be about 40 stalls at this autumn market. Our goal is to generate income for the foundation in the sense of a fundraiser event as well as to present our work to a broader public. A personal visit from you would make us very happy. We will offer various handmade products from South Africa: Tin and wire figures, leather handbags, jewellery, ceramic vases and much more.



Walter und Estelle Bosshard

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Bubikon/Soshanguve, 6 Juli 2022