

Dear friends of House of Encouragement

We are pleased to report to you once again and to let you know how things are at our orphan care center Lesedi-Potlana. Thanks to the loyalty of donors and together with our team we were able to continually invest into the children and support them in their everyday life. We were confronted with a number of real challenges but jointly found good solutions in the interest of the children. Sadly, some of the kids have left our center since they had to move to other relatives who lived in a different region. At the same time new kids have come to us after Lesedi-Potlana Primary School had been allocated more than one hundred new small children at the beginning of the year. There was so much going on and the time has passed extremely quickly. We apologise for the delay with our newsletter and also that the website could only be updated now.

A dedicated donation allowed us to organise a trip to the Zoo of Pretoria during the school holidays in late March. Early in the morning the bus left the township with 60 enthusiastic travellers and took the children to the Zoo. Strengthened by a small morning snack we started the exciting tour through the huge Zoo. It was amazing to see how disciplined and without signs of tiredness all children walked for six hours around the beautiful gardens and marvelled at the variety of animals. Of course there was a break for a picnic-lunch, which we brought along and an "ice cream stop" before the bus took them back again.







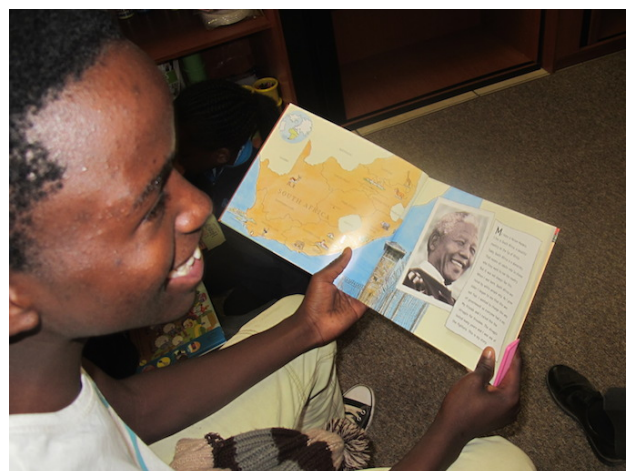
Visits in the center are always a welcome change for the children. Among others we enjoyed visits of sponsors from Switzerland who have been supporting House of Encouragement for many years. One of our children, Lebogang, was funded during three years by a Swiss foundation in a private school. Since the beginning of 2016 she studies at the University of Pretoria as a teacher. During the holidays, she made many different games with the little ones at the center. She had to document these activities as compulsory work for the university.





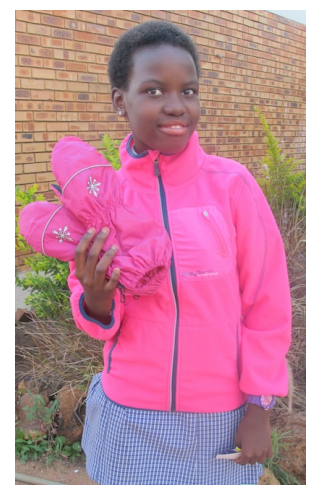
In recent months, two loyal sponsors have decided on the occasion of their "round" birthdays to ask the people invited to the party to rather donate something in favour of our foundation work than to bring along a birthday gift. Out of these actions resulted a very nice amount, which we used for the creation of a reading corner and a small library at the center. We could make a good start and are currently busy selecting educational books, entertaining stories and encyclopaedic books in English and Sepedi (language at the school) to complement the new library.

The children of all age groups love this library and show great interest to read and learn about various topics. Although many of the little ones are still struggling with English, they surely will improve their language and reading skills.





Furthermore, after a visit at our centre, somebody organised a collection of winter clothes at a church in Switzerland. It was just at the time when the cold winter weather started that we could hand out warm jackets and gloves etc. to each of the children. Many thanks to the donors.



It is wonderful that thanks to various personal initiatives of our sponsors we are able to undertake all these activities. The children highly appreciate it and are extremely grateful for everything. We continue to receive thanks and appreciation also from the foster parents as well as from the local community with which representatives we regularly maintain contact.

Nevertheless, we are in need of ongoing support and help that we can ensure the continuity of the everyday operation of the center. Dedicated donations for the care center and for the Skill Center project are recorded in our books separately and only used as the sponsors purpose it.

Greetings from Soshanguve

House of Encouragement

*Walter und Estelle Bosshard*

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