

Dear friends of the Foundation House of Encouragement

The new year only really began for the children when they returned to the centre and were able to see their many friends again. Although they also had to go back to school at the same time, the orphans were really looking forward to this reunion. Fortunately, they all returned healthy. They had lots to tell each other and the team of caregivers. Their smiles and joy in the family community are an example of how we can begin the new year.



For Prince, who was at our centre a few years ago, it is not yet clear what the new year will bring. At the end of last year, following a one-year vocational training programme, he made it out of 1970 applicants to the final selection of 40 candidates who are now attending a 3-month preparation camp. After this camp, 30 apprentices will be selected to complete a 3-year apprenticeship as a plumber as of April. It's hard for young people in Switzerland to imagine how difficult it is for the youth in South Africa to get vocational training. We are keeping our fingers crossed for Prince.

For Tshegofatso and Kagomelo, however, it is already a reality. They had their first day at Prestige College, Hammanskraal, on 6 January. It will take some time for the two very talented scholars to get used to boarding school life. But they are both happy and very motivated to do their best.

A new chapter has also begun in Dimakatso's life. After successfully completing school, she started a 2-year training programme at a police academy this month.

Last October, five unemployed young people started in the fourth cohort of the vocational training programme. We visited them during the work preparation course near Johannesburg. The number of learners has been reduced compared to the previous classes because we also want to support Prince in a 3-year vocational training programme.



*Walter Bosshard addresses the class*



*Amo proudly shows her first work.*



*Round table for open questions*

We are excited to see what will be happening and what will be possible in our centre this year. The team will propose plans for activities in various areas and realise them with great commitment. The focus will be on social skills, self-confidence and the joy and confidence of the school children.

We are able to continue this work with and for the children because of your faithful support. We would like to thank in advance all those who share our heart for the needy and make financial contributions.

Warm regards,

Walter und Estelle Bosshard

Bubikon/Soshanguve, 23 January 2025