

Dear friends of the House of Encouragement foundation

End of June we had a special visit at our center. The Ambassador of Switzerland for Southern Africa showed vivid interest in our work in Soshanguve. He honored us with a half-day visit. Of course this was a special event for the orphans and the care givers as well as for the Primary School Lesedi-Potlana. The preparation for the day took up a lot of time which the children actually enjoyed besides the end of term exams.



Mr. E. Ngomane, Principal of the Primary School Lesedi-Potlana welcomes the Swiss Ambassador, Mr. Ch. Meuwly, at the center.

The organizing committee had set up a comprehensive programme to everybody's surprise. Besides our children, many teachers and officials were involved. The Ambassador valued the center and the efficient collaboration between the foundation and the Management team of the center as a good example and practical implementation of mutual understanding across nations. Even though Ambassador Meuwly has attended many similar events and social projects, he was personally touched by the visit of our center. It was an entertaining and cheerful afternoon, which will be remembered by all.



Some were singing ...



... and others dancing



fun for the young ...



... and for the elderly.



Several speeches were held ...



... with an attentive audience.

One could see that those performing had fun doing so and the children were proud to perform in front of the visitors. They were able to demonstrate their gifts and talents in singing and dancing with impressive contributions. A few children recited poems which were written by Charles, one of our orphan care giver. We would like to share one with you:

I am somebody

I may be poor
but I am somebody
I may be young
I may be an orphan
I may be small
I may be a mistake
My clothes may be different
My face and my hair
I am black, brown or white
I speak a different language
But I am protected and never rejected
I am God's child
I am somebody



The Ambassador gratefully accepts a gift from the children

The Ambassador was very interested in our vision of a "Skill Center" (furtherance center). This project idea developed more and more to a focus topic because next year the first children of our center will complete School and thus will leave the center.

The question of what will happen to these young lives in an environment where 90% of those leaving School are unemployed, is a concern. It is extremely difficult to even find temporary work and a fixed employment is usually out of reach. They can only dream of a systematic training which would improve their chances. Therefore, we would like to offer an opportunity of a focused and systematic training, primarily for our orphans but also for young people from the local community. We think of the professions in the building industry and plan a practical training as an allrounder. We would also like to convey basic know-how in computer science and develop expertise in cooking / catering / decorating and sewing. For all areas we plan a basic education in management and will teach various themes from a life skill training programme. A Skill Center will support the young people to find a job as qualified workers. Moreover, we trust that many individuals will be motivated to start their own business as young entrepreneurs.

Currently, we are working on a detailed concept together with competent professionals from South Africa. The Swiss Ambassador opened new doors for us to key people and organizations where we trust to find support for this project.



Viewing the draft drawings of a skill center ...



... and finally the photo as in duty bound

Advance notice: 6 December 2014 there will be a special sponsor event. Of course we hope to see you there as well. Besides informing about the activities of the trust, we will have a „Christmas Sale“ in favour of the work for and with the orphans. More details about this event and the products for sale will be communicated at a later stage.

Greetings from Soshanguve

Foundation House of Encouragement

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