

Dear friends of House of Encouragement,

We are still only allowed to operate the orphan care center with a reduced number of people. Nevertheless, the second home for our children continues to be the place where they experience security, love and belonging. We strictly follow the rules of school attendance. Therefore, some children come to the center once a week, while others are there three times. Working in small groups enables the caregivers to devote more time and attention to each child. However, the children miss the gathering as a big family and meeting all their friends.

In order to maintain close relationships with all the children, we have introduced what we call “feel-good-packages”. The goal is that every single child feels individually noticed, regardless of whether they can come to the center once or three times.



The feel-good-package not only contains some sweets, every time it also includes a personal written note. These are words of encouragement or individual recognition. In addition, a small task - often in the creative area - is given, which the children then do at home. In a one-on-one conversation the work is discussed at the center during their next visit.



The children receive the feel-good-package following a discussion on a specific topic in their groups. Last time the topic was kindness. The task for the children was to think about when and how they experienced kindness or were kind to others. Some stories of the feedback were very touching. A 9-year-old boy said that a friend of his had injured himself while playing soccer and that he ran to the nearest shop to buy a plaster with his only one Rand coin he had. A 19-year-old young man said that he realized that it was important to think about what kindness one experiences means for oneself. For him, the kindness of other people helped that he could learn to control his anger and that he consciously avoided certain situations that would be harmful to him.

Although the pandemic is also rampant in the township of Soshanguve, we can still confirm that to this day nobody of our “big family”, that means of the children, their foster families, our team of caregivers and their families, has been infected by Corona. This is a great blessing for us and we are grateful that the work can continue in a secure manner. The help for the foster mothers continues with the regular delivery of food hampers.

Further children have joined the center this year. Before they come to our center for the first time, a delegation of our team visits the foster mothers of these children. Obviously, we need to obtain official approval that the orphans can be taken care of by House of Encouragement. They inform what the work in the center comprises of, how the mutual communication should be and what kind of obligations the foster mothers enter into from their side. It is also important that we find out whether the child has or causes any kind of problems in the foster family and what the specific circumstances are where the child lives. With the small children, we experience that they lose their shyness within just a few days and feel very comfortable.

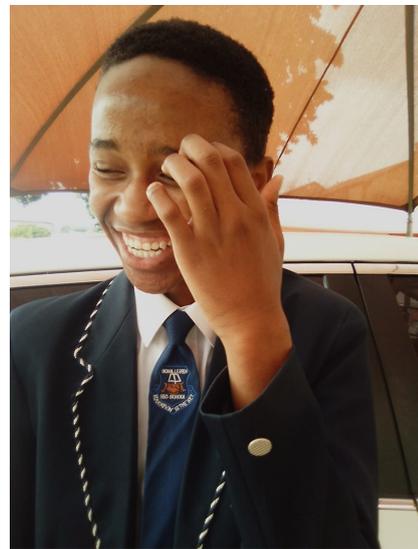
We see that a relationship of trust with individual caregivers is soon established. The older children usually are quick in finding contact with peers at the center and the caregiver team gets to know them step by step while working with them in the various groups. We are always amazed at how well everyone integrates and how well all the children behave and respect each other. Our caregiver team does a great job all year around to guarantee this.



*Pictures showing the life in small groups before the pandemic.
We hope that we will be able to move back to this freedom again soon.*

Tabego Moswatupa is a boy from our center that we were able to send to a private school for a couple of years. Now he has completed his twelfth year of school with an excellent matric exam. As the best in his class and among the top three in his school, he was honored in the local newspaper for his graduation with awards in all seven examination subjects and with an outstanding average of over 92%.

Tabego has been accepted at the Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University in Ga-Rankuwa (not far from Soshanguve) and started studying medicine this month. House of Encouragement is now able to support him financially during his studies, thanks to the special donation dedicated to the intellectual furtherance of youth. Another good example that the investment in the underprivileged children is worthwhile.



Tabego is overjoyed and fully motivated for his studies.

Once again, we would like to thank you for supporting our foundation work. Without your contributions, these children could never be offered such attention, care and support. Many of them would have no self-confidence and would be without hope. Nobody would be there to really help them through the everyday challenges as children and young people in the township. Together we can make all the difference for these children and their future.

With kind regards,
House of Encouragement

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Walter und Estelle Bosshard". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Walter und Estelle Bosshard

Wetzikon/Soshanguve, 26 March 2021