

Dear friends of the Foundation House of Encouragement

The fourth year of our charitable trust was eventful, challenging and satisfactory at the same time. During 2010 we spent over 50% of the time in South Africa, enabling us to spontaneously and personally support various project with the orphans we take care of. Furthermore, we could provide food hampers and on the spur of the moment advice for the people from the local community who take up full-orphans in their homes in spite of experiencing serious lack themselves.

We would like to inform you about some of the special occurrences and distinctive experience in Soshanguve and express our heartiest thanks to all who supported our work 2010 by some way or other.

At the beginning of the year we were able to decisively complement our team in Soshanguve. With the employment of Willem Basson, a project manager with broad experience working among the communities of townships, in our partner organization Acts2Change, and with the integration of in total five local voluntary trainees, we could allocate responsibilities and tasks to more people, thus consolidating consistency and adding to the completion of the role model in the day-care-center.

Our partner organization Kerus Global Education from the US have held further teachings for the Headmasters and teachers from the Soshanguve Schools in April with their program "It takes Courage!". By now already 37 Schools influencing approx. 7000 kids have been exposed to this dynamic live-schooling. A group of 8 PhD Research-Students of the university Northern Colorado (USA) have examined the result of these trainings as part of their doctorate thesis. They came to the conclusion that participants recognized positive changes in their personal character, which in turn changed their professional character and behavior. Participants also perceived changes in their school environments, including the actions and beliefs of their colleagues, learners, and community members. This positive impact is also beneficial for hundreds of orphan children and supports our work in the day-care-centers.

As already communicated we were able to bring some of the worldcup-fiever to the primary schools we closely work together in Soshanguve. The footballs and the sport bags as well as the team dresses were received with great excitement and are in use every day, of course primarily by the boys.

With the teenage girls we organized creative projects rather than sports. The girls designed gorgeous pictures to the theme the father heart of God with the provided material. The small kids were thoroughly enjoying themselves with creating colorful pictures with their hands.



The garden project „Keka Bophelo!“ (*It's about life!*) – was launched with the establishment of a vegetable garden at our Orphan Care Center. The purpose being to provide fresh vegetables and to transfer the necessary skills for households to grow their own veggies and thus address the serious issue of food-insecurity. The orphans and partly the foster mothers are actively involved in the garden – the planting, caring and also the harvesting – and they have been encouraged to do the same at home. During August – in the middle of the frustrating country-wide civil servant strike – we celebrated the first fruits ... we harvested 7Kg spinach!

Before the long summer holiday we were able to hand out presents for all the orphans at the Lesedi-Potlana Primary School and their foster mothers thanks to a generous donation of a cellular phone operator.



*Presents for the full-orphans*



*Curious waiting, wondering glaze*



*When I'm big one day ....*



*Is this going to be alright across the field?*



*Happy and thankful about the gift giving*

Lesedi-Potlana Primary School is the location where we are going to realize our project of a further day-care-center. However, the bureaucracy in the authorities and the mentality and culture very special to us make the process for the new building project highly complicated. Nevertheless, we will be able to officially put in operation the new orphan care center in just a few months time. Fortunately, the feeding scheme is functioning already since last September in an interim solution.

Already officially dedicated in October 2010 was the „House of Encouragement“ in Pretoria with a celebration together with many people who were standing behind the project all the way. Several people from leading positions in primarily non-profit-organizations from South Africa and the USA could be accommodated until today. Even if their timeout was only for a short period, the visitors could recuperate very well what actually reflects the purpose of the house. In order to reach self-supporting status the house in a farm like environment is also open to guests with touristic destinations.

Our „family“ has grown considerably in the year under review. Currently, we count close to 200 full-orphans from the Primary-Schools „Pulamadibogo“, „Lesedi-Potlana“ and „St.Francis“. It was a very emotional experience to see the expressions on the little faces as they arrived on the first day ... so insecure and shy ... but by week 2 or 3 the happy sounds of kids at play was abundant and they had settled in. The caretakers and especially the young volunteers create a climate of trust at the center.



*It's all about these kids! With great devotion the caretakers organized a Christmas party for the 194 Full-orphans of the three schools at the end of the term. The kids had a ball! There was plenty of food and lots of games and activities .. for many the first experience of this nature.*

With your donations we can continue with our work. We use every Franc donated for Soshanguve for:

- CHF 85.-- 1 month food and care for one orphan (incl. operating expenses of the day-care-center)
- CHF 25.-- 1 monthly food hamper for the „Gogos“ who take up orphans
- CHF 145.-- 1 monthly compensation for a trainee or a care taker or cook in the center
- CHF 725.-- 1 day meals and care taking for all the orphans at the 3 locations (full cost)
- CHF 1020.-- (monthly 85.--) for a sponsorship for one year for one child
- Furthermore we need finances for the purchase of carpets, curtains, chairs, tables, kitchen appliances, play ground etc. for the new center Lesedi-Potlana.

„We cannot change the world, but the world of an individual!“

With sincere thanks and kind regards,

For the charitable trust House of Encouragement

Walter und Estelle Bosshard

*P.S. End of March 2011 a new homepage will be available!*