

Dear friends of the House of Encouragement foundation

When we established the Foundation House of Encouragement five years ago, we could not imagine how things will develop. Based on a vision we went into this work, a dream which only was possible to be implemented with your kind help. This little anniversary we do not take as a cause to celebrate, but to give thanks and express our deep appreciation to everybody who has supported us until now. In addition to the contributions to cover the financial needs, we could always receive personal encouragement. This identification with the foundation's work has been and continues to be the drive for all those voluntarily involved in these projects.

Over the five years we received more than CHF 350'000.– as trust-driven contributions for our work (including in 2010 a donation of over CHF 80'000.– for the erection of a new centre at Lesedi-Potlana). With the exception of refunding travel expenses to the project staff members, the money has exclusively been used for the running of the day care centres in Soshanguve. By working together with an American and a South African Foundation we fortunately always reached the budget to operate the three centres and only had to cut down on some projects and furthering measures.

We cannot describe the tremendous impact on the orphans and the change in their lives your help has brought to them over the past five years. We have seen highs and lows at the centres, laughter and tears of the children and continue to be amazed at how the smaller and bigger kids develop in this environment. Many of them now have clear goals and, despite their difficult situation, are willing and confident to shape and master their own future. The School principals tell us that the care giving at the centres has had a very positive impact on children and their learning behaviour. So together with the dedicated caregivers we can experience every day that it is worth every effort as we can achieve a real difference with lasting effects in the individual lives. On behalf of all children, we thank you very much.



Thank you very much for your kind help!

This comes from the children's' heart and goes to:

- Children, who made and sold various things
- School classes, who collected toys and money
- Adults, who asked for charitable contributions on birthdays but also funerals
- The many people who have faithfully supported financially and ensured continuity of care giving
- All athletes, who with their great sponsors races proved their identification with the work
- Associations, clubs and companies who have expressed their social commitment with their donations.

Every Franc helped to care for these orphaned children in the three centres in Soshanguve!



The success our humanitarian assistance from Switzerland would hardly be permanent - if at all possible - without the involvement of members of the local community. There would be too many to be mentioned individually but besides the dedicated people from both partner organizations we hereby would like to thank the volunteers, school principals, delegated teachers, church leaders and members of the relevant authorities for their support. Together we are able to provide help to help themselves for the less privileged people in need.

On behalf of all the above categories, we would like to introduce Anna Kgomo to you, a socially committed woman. She is a teacher of pre-school (nursery school), acts as delegates from the primary school Lesedi Potlana for the day care centre to work with our project managers and she is also a mother herself of three grown children and multiple grandmother.

Over decades she has taken care of many orphans. Currently, there are four orphans living with her and her husband and six more come every night to her for a meal. We sincerely thank Anna for this extraordinary commitment in favour of the needy. She shared a bit of her life with us. Here is an extract from our conversation:



Anna ... with some orphans from Lesedi-Potlana with her husband and the youngest ... with the management team of the centre at and oldest orphan child living with them Lesedi-Potlana

Question: Anna, what can you tell us about your childhood?

Answer: I grew up with my grandmother because my mother worked far away as Domestic Servant. The small pension from the grandmother was the only income and did not take us far. I often went with "Granni" to collect old coals, so that we could cook something. I liked going to school and remember, how I felt at that time I had once overslept and arrived late at school. At an early stage I looked after the children of my older sister. In our yard there were always a lot of kids from the neighbourhood to play and my grandmother always had time for us.

Question: You have more than one orphaned child in your home. How did they come to you?

Answer: There's a story behind every child. In the case of Georgina Kgomo / Mlambo, now in the 2nd class, it was very tragic. Her mother died when Georgina was 2 months old. Her father brought her to our house and said he had to prepare for the funeral and could not take care of the baby. Later, it turned out that the death of her mother was a family drama. All family members and relatives left the child and I had to take care of the baby.

Question: Why did you become a preschool-teacher?

Answer: After I had completed Grade 11, I worked as a private teacher at home. I did further studies on a correspondence basis (at the moment I am about to write the "National Diploma in Teaching") and in parallel ran an "after care centre." I love working with the preschool children. Particularly, my heart goes out to the children with learning deficiencies. I can help to identify them at an early age and get appropriate help.

Question: Why do you and how you can help the orphans?

Answer: Orphaned children need special love and support, even in school. My primary goal is to help these children to develop good character and to build up self-confidence. When they get older, they will often be confronted with difficult decisions. The children should learn that courage is not the absence of fear but an action despite fear. Orphans should also have the heart(courage) to identify their dreams and goals for their lives. To do that they need wings and I can give them these so that they can reach their goals.

Question: You are delegated as coordinator from school to our centre. How do you experience it there?

Answer: The centre is a blessing to the school because we have so many orphans in our primary school. We can eventually help and do something for these poor kids. In addition to food and affection we also give them the opportunity to build healthy relationships in live. It is necessary that the children learn to say and do the right thing at the right time in the right way. Our school principal highly identifies with this work and is a great support to all of us. Fortunately, there are excellent care givers volunteering for the work at this centre. We are grateful that above the daily meals also clothes are distributed from time to time, which of course is wonderful, especially in winter. The centre wants to be kept and maintained nicely. Already now cracks should be fixed in the flooring and I personally would wish that the security for doors and windows could be upgraded.

Question: Where do you see the limits of the support for the orphans at the centre?

Answer: Unfortunately, there are still orphans who can sleep somewhere but don't have adequate supervision and care for various reasons. It is not possible for us to check at these places regularly, because some of them stay quite far away from school. However, I feel that the most difficult situation is where children need specific, professional help. We are not always able to provide this help at the centre, even though it would be necessary on a daily basis. Most of the orphans, resp. their foster mothers don't receive state compensation, which they would be entitled to by law. At this point in time we have only little capacity to help in this process.

Several women who are close our South African partner foundation have started a needlework project in order to enable nursing mothers from children of Block Y to generate a little income. They provide the material and have crochet or embroider accessories made, which are used for various products such as handbags and fashion jewellery. The products are sold in different markets in Pretoria. The craft talented women work in the centre and are getting a share of the sale profit achieved. The orphans also benefit indirectly from this opportunity.



After a short time one could to see who is willing and has the right skills to become part of this team. That the "Gogos" dress up for the occasion is self-evident to them. They appreciate both the change of daily routine and of course the income. They work perfectly, concentrated and with great joy. Of course it is also an opportunity to visit and laugh together. Many of them know the "working place" as their church on Sunday.

But not only are the grandmothers creative and greatly gifted. Already in the pre-school classes, the children love craft work and show their talents. The problem is that the school has no money which could be used for such projects. We have brought crepe paper in all colours from Switzerland and spent a great time in the crèche at Pulamadibogo. The pre-school teacher and the children were excited about the project and listened very attentively to the instruction of how to use this special paper. The paper flowers were used for various decoration purposes.



Today, we are happy to look at an established and consolidated work in the three day-care centres. Dedicated care givers fulfil the daily work reliably and competently. Nevertheless, we are still not where we want to position ourselves. We strive for more targeted support and furtherance of individual children. On the one hand, we want to increase the provision for children in high school age and on the other hand, we hope to support children with high learning potential even after they leave school. We want to support performance and self-learning students identified by the school management and teachers. The goal is that these children can complete further studies or complete a technical vocational training. With a solid professional basis they will have a chance in life which will make a real difference for their future.

With sincere thanks and kind regards,

For the charitable trust House of Encouragement

Handwritten signature of Walter und Estelle Bosshard.

Walter und Estelle Bosshard