

Dear friends of the House of Encouragement foundation,

2011:

- Included, apart from countless small feelings of success with individual orphans, a real highlight with the dedication and commissioning of the new Orphan Care Centre Lesedi-Potlana. Everybody, orphans, care givers, school body, donors and the responsible people operating the centre are excited. The kids (around 80) feel very happy and comfortable and blossom out in the secure environment and loving care at the centre.
- Our partners A2C formed a legal entity "Go Amagelo" (English: To embrace) as a super ordinate management organisation for all the Orphan Care Centres. With this, the comprehensive work in Soshanguve has been brought to a next level of professionalism. A board consisting of all relevant parties guarantees the fulfilment of the entire regulatory framework required by the government in connection with the care taking of orphans.
- The feedback given by almost 30 people from various countries showed and confirmed that the „House of Encouragement“ suits a social need and fully complies with the intended purpose. After the time at „The Hills“ all guests went back to their challenging responsibilities in favour of the needy courageously and with a new vision.
- Brought a clear distinction between the two purposes of the foundation "Orphan Care Centres" and "House of Encouragement" (see homepage). As of January 2012, the sole purpose of the foundation is to support and care for orphans in South African townships. The second activity - the house of encouragement in Pretoria - has been deleted from the articles of association and is continued only on a private basis. Thus all donations to the foundation will be used exclusively for the work with and for the orphans.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH INDEED on behalf of the orphans at Lesedi-Potlana



Review

After the commissioning of the centre Lesedi-Potlana everyday responsibilities were assigned to the volunteers in all the centres. Under the supervision of Willem Basson, the daily operational tasks are now taken over by a team of two in each centre. While the one person focuses primarily on the administrative and technical management of the centre, the second person pays attention to the care of the orphans and their individual needs. Several volunteers help the team leaders in the versatile work with great commitment. In order to support the new team leaders in their gaining experience Willem Basson daily spends several hours at the centres. In addition the team leaders attend a comprehensive training during several months and also the other volunteers complete the seminar "It Take Courage" (given by our American partners), a most valuable training for their work with the children. The necessary and sustaining involvement of local people has been enhanced significantly in our work during 2011. The team consists of 17 local volunteers in the three centres.



Willem Basson, Chief Operation Officer of the centres, with the volunteers.

After the official inauguration of the new centre Lesedi-Potlana in May, we decided to conduct a small ceremony with the children and their foster mothers later in the year. It was important for all of us, that this event was for the children and that they should take centre stage in this event. So the few short speeches were directed exclusively to the orphans and the afternoon programme well adapted for the kids.



The unveiling of the Plaque with the specific function of the house and the honouring of the sponsors



Patiently the children listen to the adults, although they already were looking forward to the meal and the fun part of the celebration



The children enjoyed a bread roll filled with chips and meat as well as ice-cream for desert. The lollipops and the small „Swiss chocolate“ were saved and taken home by most of the children.



The invited guests (mostly foster mothers and a few official visitors) were served a traditional meal cooked at the centre.



Our Swiss visitors were impressed and touched. Here in discussion with the leader of Doxa Deo Church, which supports the running of the centres regularly.



The Rhythm-gifted children dancing, singing and playing. This Saturday afternoon was an exciting experience the orphans will remember.

An initiative of our partner organisation Acts2Change last July aimed to obtain official recognition of our Orphan Care Centres by the Department of Social Work. This department presented some requests which A2C had to fulfil regarding the management and the facilities of the centre. A reporting system and inspection process was defined. For each centre, a steering committee comprising representatives from the local population will be formed. As a consequence it made sense to start the new organisation Go Amagelo. At the end of the year the recognition of the Centre Pulamadibogo was confirmed. After the official registration of Go Amagelo we can now apply for a financial contribution towards the compensation of the volunteers (not for the operation of the centre or the care and support of the orphans). If such cost sharing is approved, we are happy to pay the very talented and dedicated volunteers a slightly higher compensation after more than three years of outstanding work. Ultimately, this will be important for the continuity of care taking work at the centres.

The worldwide economic situation has had an impact on our budget respectively the rendered services this year. Several planned activities and support measures could not take place for financial reasons. Yes, we were faced with great challenges as for example to ensure the daily meals for the kids. However, the orphans know nothing of economic crisis or recession. They are simply hungry, vulnerable and in need of our care and support. Literally, for many of them - without the support at the day care centre - the struggle for daily food is a hard reality. We therefore would like to call on you to consider a "child sponsorship" to secure the sustainable work for and with the children. Many thanks!

Further information about what happened in Soshanguve during the past half year you find on our homepage.

Outlook

For the year 2012, we hope that we will be able to support and further highly talented and willing to learn orphans in the High School. As some of the children mentioned towards us they don't believe to ever have the opportunity for a systematic training or higher education in their situation. Nevertheless, they work hard at school and strive for the goal to one day make a significant difference in their own society. This is precisely the goal of our foundation. We cannot change the world, but we can change the life of individual children in need. In addition to the consolidation of daily operational provision, we therefore wish to grant targeted support for children eager to learn with your donations. In a meeting with the school principals some gifted students were noticed, who could develop their potential through such furtherance. With your help training goals can be achieved and dreams can become true!



These children are worth that we invest in them. We look forward to the possibilities that will be opened to us thanks to your help in 2012 and thank you very much in advance on behalf of the orphans of Pulamadibogo, St.Francis and Lesedi-Potlana.



We are often asked how come that our foundation is involved and has committed itself to the work in the township Soshanguve. The enormity of the need in every continent is overwhelming. Although we are very close to those in need in South Africa through family connections the geographical area is not decisive. We want to engage ourselves where we can directly help children. It is crucial for us that we can make a difference and that we can look into children's eyes as in the picture opposite. Eyes, which until recently were full of grief over the loss of the parents and with no hope. Boikanyo Mmekwa has given expression to his joy and his hope with a picture and the Bible verse 1 Peter. 5, 7: "Casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you" This confidence nobody can take away from Boikanyo.

With sincere thanks and kind regards,

For the charitable trust House of Encouragement

Handwritten signature of Walter und Estelle Bosshard.

Walter und Estelle Bosshard