

Dear friends of the House of Encouragement foundation

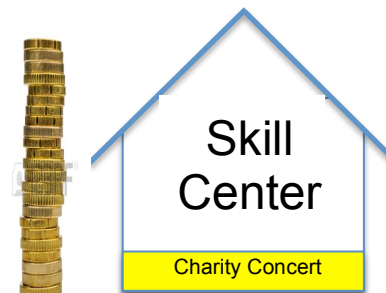
„Mom, isn't it great that - with my given talent - I can help children less privileged in South Africa.“

The 9 year old Leia Zhu listened attentively when we explained her mother the purpose of our foundation and the caring work invested among the underprivileged children in Soshanguve. Leia is a highly gifted violinist, who at the age of 6 years was accepted as the youngest member of the National Children's Orchestra of Great Britain. Although she already tours with famous orchestras, Leia visits a public school in England as her parents seek to raise her in a healthy environment, suitable for a girl her age.



Leia Zhu with the Master, Prof. Zakhar Bron and the Bron Chamber Orchestra

The Charity Concert was a great success. The Bron Chamber Orchestra with the six young talents as soloists were an impressive and wonderful experience. The organizer and sponsor of this unique event, Mr. Rolf Frischknecht, deserves our heartiest thanks. We also appreciated all the guests who attended the concert and thank everybody for supporting us with small and large donations since the start of our work or maybe as new sponsors identifying with our foundation. We are delighted to expand the activities in the Orphan Care Center continually and of course now are encouraged to realize the Skill Center project. The initial funding for the first phase of construction is now available.



As the Charity Concert was fully financed by the initiator a substantial financial basis for the realization of the Skill Center was laid with this event.

The organizational structure of our foundation will be adapted to the new dimension of a Skill Center. We therefore will also have to create a new website within the next half a year. The financial resources necessary for the operation of a professional training center are significantly larger than for the orphan care center. Our fundraising will be divided in three areas: 1. Care Center, 2. Individual furtherance, 3. Skill Center.

Even though the orphans in our center don't have such extraordinary talents as the young musicians, it is clear that all children have their own gifts and talents. To discover these and to develop them to their individual capabilities is part of our work with the children. In the planned Skill Center young people can be trained professionally in different areas. This will not only enable them to make a living but that it will sustainably change their lives and positively impact the community in the township.

Who knows whether among the children who came to our center at the beginning of the year are possible future young entrepreneurs.



At this point in time however, these children are in great need of comfort and care after having lost the 2nd parent and become full orphans. Our caregivers help them through this phase of life with special needed attention every day.



This is the 5 year old Tshegofatso, who is part of our „Family“ since 9th February. As an infant she was placed at the doorstep of her biological father by her mother. Despite of an intensive search, the mother was never found again. An aunt of the little girl took care of her and raised her with only very little support. After the father died recently the aunt eventually became the legal guardian of Tshegofatso.

As with all children in the center, each one of the new orphans have their own story and background. The spectrum of traumatic experiences is wide and accordingly high the variation of the individual support measures. Most of the children are taken up by a grandparent or an aunt. One of the new girls, together with 3 younger siblings, lives with an older sister who at the age of only 15 manages the family in the household with a seriously ill grandfather.

Together with our competent staff, we plan everyday life for the children as abwechslungsreich as possible and complement the programmes with new ideas. The teenagers recently had great fun painting old chairs. The idea was to add some bright colour to the center. Although a champion was elected by all the children and the caregivers it was a contest in which there were only winners. They get to take the chairs home later.



In addition to homework and sports as well as personality- and skill-enhancing activities and projects, we make sure that we also have times of fun and joy in our center family.

As of 2015 the center is open all year round and we only close for 3 weeks at the end of the year. During the holiday of the first quarter we had all the children coming every day on a voluntary basis in consultation with the legal guardians. They enjoyed the holiday programme thoroughly. As a special start into this holiday time, we organized lots of games and enjoyed a wonderful day with the kids.



The Ice cream machine hired for this event was the attraction of the day. Never before were the children able to eat as much ice cream as they wanted. And did they make use of the opportunity!





Challenged by their life circumstances they very much appreciate uplifting and positive moments. We encourage them to never give up hope in everything they experience and do.

„May your choices in life reflect your hope and not your fear“ is a well-known quote from Nelson Mandela. Fortunately, we can see this very often in the center Lesedi-Potlana and we wish the same to all who in any form support the work of our foundation.

Greetings from Soshanguve

Walter & Estelle Bosshard

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