

Dear friends of the Foundation House of Encouragement

The township of Soshanguve has long formed a huge agglomeration with the township of Mabopane, and Soshanguve is still growing rapidly. In the southern parts, new residential areas are being established, mainly solid houses for the middle-class families, while in the north, a few kilometres from our centre, thousands of shacks have become the new homes for the impoverished community in the last few years. This is also the area where some of our children come from.

Four months ago, we were asked by the school if we would take in the twelve-year-old twins Simphiwe (girl) and Sphiwe (boy) at the centre. They moved to this new neighbourhood nine months ago with their blind mother and had great difficulty integrating at the school. They hardly spoke and isolated themselves from the other children during breaks. Two of our caregivers visited the mother and assessed the situation. We decided to take the children in because they really needed help. "I often had to send Sphiwe to the rubbish dump to look for something to eat," the mother said. "I couldn't work for a long time due to the deterioration of my eyesight."



This is the shack where the family moved in.



Sphiwe and Simphiwe have developed positively.

In the past months, the twins have developed positively in all areas. Sphiwe is interested in many things and is asking a lot of questions. He has also started to talk about school and the situation at home and is becoming more self-confident. The growing self-confidence is also evident in Simphiwe, who has discovered her joy in dancing. Positive feedback from the school confirmed that we did the right thing by taking in these half-orphans.

In July, the grandfather passed away and, in this situation, it was helpful that the two children had already found a relationship of trust with our centre manager and the caregivers. Due to this death, the grandmother received insurance benefits that enabled her to build a new shack for her daughter and grandchildren, which has windows and offers a little more space.

There are still various things lacking at the new home - Sphiwe still sleeps on the floor or must share a bed with his sister. But the grandmother is helping them with food for the time being.

Thanks to the food at the centre and the grandmother's help, the children at least no longer go hungry.



The new shack



The bedroom

Like this family, there are still several children and foster mothers who are in need of support. But except for the quarterly distribution of food hampers, we can only help in a few individual cases. First, we have to make sure that we secure the financial continuation and the daily operation of the centre.

We would like to remind you once again of our participation in

"Meiers Herbstmärt" at the garden centre Meier in Dürnten
on Friday, 23.9., 10.00h - 18.00h and Saturday, 24.9., 10.00h - 16.00h.

We hope that you will find something of interest to you and look forward to your visit. The products can be paid for in cash or with TWINT.

Thank you very much for your support.



Walter und Estelle Bosshard

Bubikon/Soshanguve, 5 September 2022