

THE BEAT

DECEMBER 2016

www.gumboots.org.za

Gumboots



Wishing all our donors, supporters and volunteers a happy festive season and safe travelling. Thank you for all your continued support and generosity – the children, their families and the project leaders are very grateful for the difference that Gumboots makes to their lives. Call Jenny Prangley on 082 928 8806 if you would like any information or go to www.gumboots.org.za.

Leratong Pre-school



Sheer joy!

SANTA SHOEBOX

It is always an exciting day when the Santa Shoebox Team come to present their boxes to the kids ... not only exciting for the kids, but for the Gumboots Team too! They deliver 100 000 boxes in total around South Africa, 130 of which went to the 3–6 year olds at Leratong. The photos speak for themselves.



Little Princess!



Making the most of the heatwave



Rose and works of art

TEACHER ROSE

Dedicated Rose Khalo has been with Leratong for 5 years, teaching 20 of the 6-year-old age group. They are busy with a Spring Theme at the moment and learning pre-writing skills. From the latter Rose will ascertain who is school-ready and who will stay on with her next year. Amongst the play and fun times, she teaches them values such as respect, cleanliness, taking care of resources, and how to love one another.

Rose finds that one of the most challenging parts of the teaching is that: *"The kids are all from different family backgrounds, cultures and languages. This can make it difficult with communication. So I use English as the main medium, as well as Sesotho."*



Sigiya Sonke



The new group of young dancers

SANTA SHOEBOX

Fifty children from the Dance Group were treated to their own individual Santa Shoeboxes, containing clothing, toys and toiletries. Jack and Beauty held the event at their home. Once the boxes were handed out, the countdown began ... and screams of delight and excitement echoed around. They were then treated to a Christmas party organised by Jack and Beauty, who had decorated their yard with balloons, streamers and plenty of food. The achievements of the new dancers was also celebrated with certificates. A big thank you to the donors who made this all possible.



Happy recipients of 2016 Dance Certificates!

REUNITING PAST AND PRESENT DANCERS

Many of the young dancers between the ages of 8 and 18 gather on a regular basis to rehearse and socialise at the dance school. Once they leave school, many of them move on and stop dancing. Gumboots decided to have a reunion, bringing together past and present dancers as a celebration of the project and its impact on so many young lives. As well as an impromptu performance by the "alumni", there were heartfelt speeches and tales of past mischief and achievements.

There are many success stories, in part thanks to Jack and Beauty for their care, encouragement and support, as well as the ongoing financial support from our donors.

What are some of the alumni doing now?

Mzhi is studying Hospitality & Tourism at Boston City Campus in his 3rd year.

Matebogo is wanting to study psychology next year and we are currently exploring options.

Nomsa is studying to be a paramedic and has just passed her advanced ambulance course.

Deli is flying high and working at the Maslow Hotel at reception.

Zinhle has submitted her honours thesis in entertainment technology.

Fifi has completed 1st year Electrical Engineering at Wits and is hoping for further funding.



Nomsa, Matebogo and Thato at the reunion

THEMBISA CAMP

In October, Jack took 18 of the young 14-year-olds to a camp in Thembisa for 5 days. For some it was the first time they had been away from home. The camp included a dance competition and, in spite of the fact that our kids won no awards, they gained a lot, learnt new dances, and enjoyed cultural exchanges and experiences.

Two of the dancers: Madoda (Jack and Beauty's grandson) and Nola





Ratang Bana

Michael in the veggie garden



DADS IN THE GARDEN

Ingrid is aware that there are many men who also need support ... those who have lost their wives, have no jobs, and have children or grandchildren to support. She is encouraging them to work in the food garden and in exchange, they get vegetables, other food supplies and sometimes clothes. Michael is one such dad who came from Limpopo and lived in a squatter camp with his wife and children until she died. He now has an RDP house with his son, and has been working at Ratang Bana for the past 4 years.

VISIT TO SPCA FOR THE LEADERSHIP CLASS

Recently the Leadership Saturday Class had an outing to the Sandton SPCA where they learnt to face their fear of dogs and cats. This was a great opportunity for animal education as the volunteers promoted empathy, kindness, respect and responsibility towards all creatures. The kids were taken on a tour of the centre and got involved with the day-to-day workings of the organisation.

Learning to look after animals



Each winter the Highveld shock hits the townships hard. Kate Goetz knitted hundreds of squares and donated them to a few grannies to sew together for blankets.



Volunteer students from USA



VISITING VOLUNTEERS

Once again a group of visiting students from CalPoly San Luis Obispo, USA, spent a day volunteering at Ratang Bana Centre. They painted the containers and added a tree silhouette that will become a naming tree, recognising all the past and present donors and supporters of this wonderful project. We are so grateful to CalPoly and Kidslink for their continued support.



Phetoho Education

A large fine work of art!



ZINHLE KOLLE

Zinhle (an ex-Sigiya Sonke dancer) worked for two years on her thesis "Large-scale portrait murals in urban settings" when her laptop was stolen (and not backed up)! She was overjoyed to get another one from Gumboots and has now redone her thesis and is waiting for the results. She is extraordinarily talented, painting 2x3-metre murals (see photo). She has also started her own registered business doing portrait painting and next year hopes to work in the entertainment industry (TV/theatre) so that she can earn enough to send her 2 little sisters to a better school – their present school in Alex has 70 kids in the class and often there is no teacher.

"God always has a plan and a purpose. He helps you to get where you want to be and he brings the right people at the right time – like the Gumboots Foundation. They have been a blessing to me. I am so grateful for the opportunity and I haven't wasted any of it. One day I want to join Gumboots to be able to help others."

She certainly hasn't wasted any of her opportunities. Thank you, especially to Margz Green, for being there to support her.



Zinhle with new laptop

ST MARY'S OUTREACH

This year Gumboots has had six young girls attending the Saturday Outreach School hosted by St Mary's.

The prizegiving ceremony was a moving and enthusiastic affair, starting off with the National Anthem and singing and dancing. Three of our girls received certificates of excellence and one a trophy. Congratulations to them.

Attending every Saturday is an ongoing challenge and requires great commitment and hard work. Unfortunately two of our girls have not made the grade – this then opens up the opportunity to fund others who are more dedicated.



Pamela Tshuma and Thato Makgotla with their spoils!

Tutor Busi



TUTORING

Busi Mtya is an ex-outreach student from St Mary's living in Alex and studying at Wits. She has offered her services to tutor students and, thanks to Gumboots, we are able to pay her for this. For the past few months, she has been tutoring Wongeka, one of the St Mary's students. And thanks to her dedication and to Wongeka's hard work, she received a certificate for Excellence in Maths! We would like to be able to extend this tutoring service to more students.