

THE BEAT

NOVEMBER 2014

Gumboots

www.gumboots.org.za



2014 has been a fulfilling year and Gumboots would like to thank all our donors and volunteers for their generous support. To receive our newsletter or become a donor, email jenny@gumboots.org.za or phone 082 928 8806. From the new year you will be able to visit our new website design: www.gumboots.org.za.

LERATONG



THE SOUTHAFRISTANS VISIT LERATONG

One of the rally drivers, JP Hunt, entertains the children.

Four generous fundraisers set off from London to outer Mongolia in July to raise money for Gumboots Foundation. They took part in the infamous Mongol Rally, covering 15 000 kilometres in their vehicle Stan, the SouthAfrican. Before embarking on this monumental journey, they visited Leratong and got to know some of their little beneficiaries. It's hard to know who got the most fun out of the visit!



Thank you, Sister, for lending a helping hand.

MARYVALE CONVENT'S ASSISTANCE

Help comes from wonderful sources – Leratong has a new assistant teacher, Sister Pikolwethu Kwenxe, a nun from the Missionary

MANDELA DAY 67 MINUTES

Mandela Day this year was hectic at Leratong and visitors came from all around Joburg – private organisations, business and government institutions, and SITA (the State Information Technology Agency). Huge bags were delivered of groceries, clothing, etc. The children were treated to delicious food, while the directors and CEOs cleaned, painted and did all kinds of dirty work for their 67 minutes... and more. Tata's legacy lives on and is celebrated by all South Africans. Thank you, Madiba.



One of the happy classrooms on Mandela Day

Sisters of the Assumption. The Maryvale Catholic Church has agreed to partner with Leratong with a view to helping the children get basic knowledge in human values and lifeskills. Pikolwethu has a very good background of early childhood development and is assisting the four-year-olds. Peggy says: *"We are blessed and very much grateful to have Sister Pikolwethu with us."*



RATANG BANA



Mending swings and making little lives happier

THE PLAYGROUND

The students from the California Polytechnic State University (Cal Poly) have been back again! It is so inspiring to have students who are prepared to travel across the world to help people and projects that they have never seen. Last year a wonderful playground was built for the children of Ratang Bana. This year a different team came over to do, amongst other things, some repair work to the playground after its happy and much-used year of wear and tear. Thank you once again to Liza, Dave and your team for the wonderful work that you do for Ingrid and her Ratang Bana Centre.

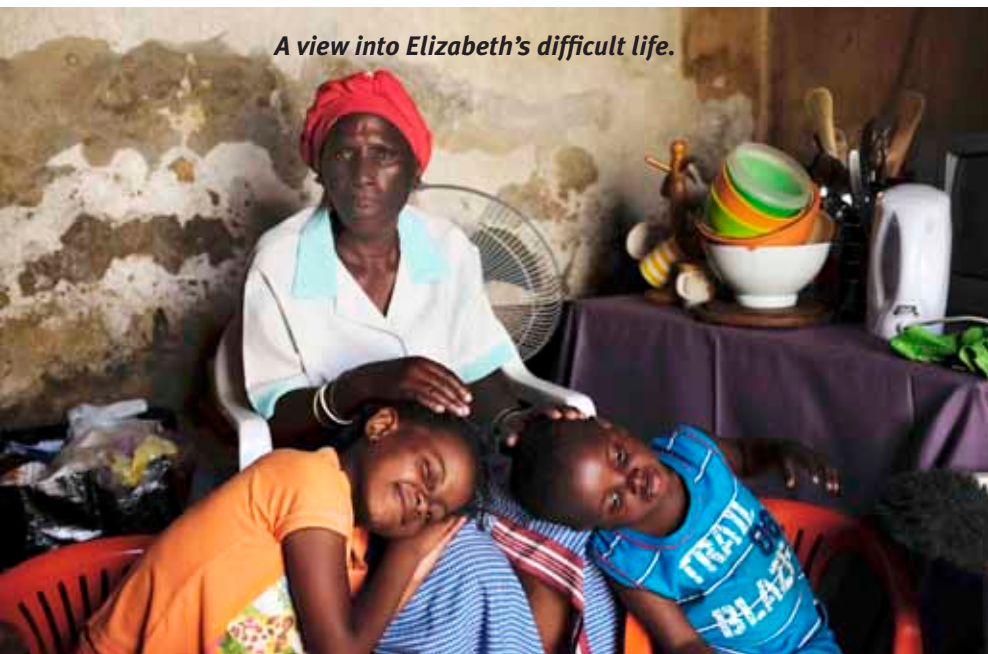
ELIZABETH'S STORY

In a one-roomed house a granny is heading the family and caring for her grandchildren ... in Elizabeth's words: *"My first-born daughter passed on and she has left her children with me. At the clinic they asked me how did this child of mine die? I told them my daughter was sick and died of AIDS. Then they told me that this AIDS is now in me."*

Elizabeth became terminally ill, but thanks to the help from Ingrid, she is now healthy – she is taking her ARVs, she gets bags of food and fresh vegetables, the children play at the Centre and Elizabeth is able to talk to and share her problems with the other gogos there.

Ingrid says: *"We are humbled by the generosity of those who are helping us because they are saving the life of this grandmother and her children. If it was not for the people who are donating to our organisation, it would be very difficult for all of us. So really we are honoured."*

A view into Elizabeth's difficult life.



Ingrid helps to make hundreds of children's lives happier.

Thanks to a generous donor, Lurwayi Brighton, the young boy who was featured in the last newsletter, has got the necessary funding for transport to the college he attends. On behalf of Gumboots and Lurwayi, thank you Moira for making it easier for him to further his education.



PHETOHO EDUCATION

ST MARY'S OUTREACH



Lunchtime in the St Mary's beautiful grounds

St Mary's School, Johannesburg, has for the last 25 years recruited children from Alex schools as part of an Outreach Programme. Each year 250 children from Grades 9 to 12 spend Saturday morning at the school. Teachers and volunteers give up their time to coach the children in all subjects, but particularly Maths, Science and Accountancy. When the school term ends, they continue with holiday programmes and motivational talks by past students.

From 2015 Gumboots is on board with this worthwhile project. We have funding to send a few of our children from the different projects to join the programme. We have just recruited five young girls who have satisfied the criteria: a supportive environment at home; food and electricity for studying; a strong commitment; and a high educational standard, especially in Maths. We are very grateful to the Big Give UK Challenge that has made it possible to sponsor these students.

LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME

The Young Entrepreneur & Leadership Initiative is continuing under the mentorship of three young women from Deloitte. One of the girls who attends the Saturday sessions in the Learning Centre at Ratang Bana is Angel Tshongwe. She is also one of the group of five who will be attending the St Mary's School Outreach Programme next year.

On hearing that she was accepted, Angel said: *"This makes me happy and sad. I am happy to be joining and learning a lot – and I won't let you down. But I am sad as I will have to leave the Leadership Group as they also meet on a Saturday and I love this programme and its teachers."*

THE CHALLENGE OF EDUCATION

For some children in Alex it is hard to cope with the demands of school and the lack of family support. Itumeleng Selulu is a bright and lively 8 year old with better prospects having been selected to go the United Church School at the beginning of last year. However, his home situation is a continual challenge. A red flag was raised a few months ago with his falling marks and behaviour, and Beauty, the Sigiya Sonke "parent" looked into it. Itumeleng has now had a comprehensive educational and psychological assessment and it appears as if he needs to go to a remedial school. We are following up on this situation.



Thanks to Gumboots, Itumeleng's future is being supported.

The other four Phetoho children at the school are all doing well. Two of them are having extra lessons and are benefitting from that ... as well as the interest and care they get from Jack, who is not only their patient dance teacher, but also their taxi driver.

Angel – up and away.





SIGIYA SONKE



Tug-o-war on a Highveld winter's day

WINTER PICNIC

There is limited budget for outings, but on one of Joburg's warm winter's days, the Dance Group and the Kadey Home kids gathered at Delta Park for games and a braai. They played on the swings and adventure playground, as well as enjoyed football and other ball games. But the highlight of the day was the Tug-o-War – not to mention the boerewors rolls and toasted marshmallows that went down a treat too.



Zimvo Njaju is one of the students that Gumboots supports with school fees. He has a difficult time at home, living in a small shack with his two siblings and finds it hard to study. We are waiting to see what his report indicates to see what help we can give. Zimvo is a huge help to Jack and is taking on the responsible role of coaching the 6-12 year old kids. *"I am very much happy to help Jack and gain experience. We are rehearsing for the end-of-year performance at the moment."*



SCHOOL HOLIDAY CAMP

Dancing builds health and camaraderie.

Jack decided to use the holiday time to help coach the new kids in the group – as well as to keep them all off the streets and away from the temptation of alcohol and drugs. So he set aside two weeks where the children came from 10 – 3pm to the Warehouse. The 9 to 11-year-old dancers were coached by himself, his daughter Deli and Zimvo. Not only did they dance, but they had fun using the fire-hose to

clean out the winter dusty warehouse.

The kids loved their "holiday camp", the finale of which was a performance at the Alex Old Age Home on Mandela Day. They did their 67 minutes with gusto – and one of the old granny's asked where they were from... *"From Alex?? I am so happy to see that young children are dancing again like we used to when we were young."*



NEWSLINKS ABROAD

USA KIDLINKS AND THE CAL POLY STUDENTS

In August Kidlinks, our American partner, was once more responsible for bringing the Cal Poly students of landscape architecture to visit Ratang Bana. They have been coming on an annual basis and helping to build and maintain the food garden, as well as design and build an amazing playground there. This year they spent time fixing and repairing the playground equipment.

It has been recently announced that these students won the National Students Award of Excellence for this project. This is the highest award offered to students of Landscape Architecture in the USA. Kidlinks has been mentioned as a project partner and this will bring national awareness to their work. They were featured in *Landscape Architecture* magazine, and in addition, one of the pieces will be constructed and exhibited at the Museum of Modern Art in New York. This is a huge honour for the students – congratulations to all.



A well-earned break for the Cal Poly students

UK SOUTHAFRISTANS



Stan, the SouthAfrican.



Four intrepid travellers with a passion for extreme challenges participated in the Mongol Rally to raise money for the Gumboots Foundation.

The SouthAfristans set off in July from Joburg to London, bound for Ulaanbataar, Mongolia ... 15 000 kilometres, 21 countries and 33 days later they completed their journey. Congratulations!

Gumboots SA is overwhelmed with their success – an astounding R100 000 was raised. Their innovation and awareness is commendable – as well as their message of Ubuntu: *“The belief in a universal bond of sharing that connects all humanity”*.