

# THE BEAT

JUNE 2016

www.gumboots.org.za

# Gumboots



As the winter chills begin, and we change our first-world summer duvets for our winter ones, think about those less fortunate. Winter is a tough time for those in shacks and shelters. If you would like to donate funds or your time, please email [jenny@gumboots.org.za](mailto:jenny@gumboots.org.za), phone 082 928 8806 or visit [www.gumboots.org.za](http://www.gumboots.org.za).

## Leratong Pre-school



**Amogalang today**

### AMOGALANG MATHIBELA

Last year a German couple who visited Leratong were totally captivated by a "little brown-eyed girl" – Amogalang – and they donated a very generous amount to her family. On following up on her this year, a desperate story emerged. Her mother, Susan, lives with her three daughters in a tiny house; she cannot get work; and her husband died 7 years ago. Amogalang, now in Grade R, is the youngest of the three; the middle sister of 11 was hit by a car a few years ago and is now retarded and cannot get into a remedial school as the Department of Education won't hear her story. Susan receives a state grant of R1 000/month – and that's her total income. How can she survive on this? "Life in

*Alex is no life without a job. I pray that when I wake God will open a door."*



**Captivated by the "playground"**

PLAY AFRICA

### IMAGINATION PLAYGROUND

Play Africa launched their new "playground" at Leratong at the beginning of the year. This great innovation will spark creativity and imagination through play for children of all ages. And the pre-school children proved this to be true. Thank you Play Africa for giving them this wonderful experience! For more on how Play Africa is inspiring children and transforming communities, go to [playafrica.org.za](http://playafrica.org.za).

### ONE OF THE KADEY HOME'S OLDER SISTERS

Matsie Hatana (17) is one of the older siblings of the 15 young people at the Moss Kadey Family Trust residence. She's been living there for four years, having had a troubled start to life. Both her parents died when she was young and her granny moved to Lesotho, leaving her living alone with no siblings at the age of 13. She was found by social workers and Peggy, and since then her life has looked up. "This is the best place to be, it doesn't feel like a home. I love all my sisters and everything is good."

Matsie is in matric at an Alex school and is finding many challenges. She is struggling with Maths even though she attends the St Mary's Saturday School. Her ambition is to be an air-traffic controller or a chef.



**Matsie in the girl's dorm**





## Sigiya Sonke



*Zimvo takes the lead*

### THE DANCE GOES ON

The Warehouse has closed its doors for the present but the dancing rehearsals continue at a temporary venue at the Apostolic Strangers Church in Alex. This was Beauty's family place of worship and she and Jack were married there in 2001. Since the Warehouse was first restored by Gumboots in 2008, there have been squatters living in small rooms at the back. Over the last year the situation has become untenable – in spite of an eviction order being granted. Beauty and Jack are working with the owner and the

police to make a plan, but until such time as the rooms are vacated, the dancers are happily practising their skills in a safer space. The class was taken by Zimvo, Jack's right hand and a dancer of note. There were 24 children there, from a tiny 4-year-old upwards, all full of enthusiasm, culminating in the famous Mango Groove's *Special Star*.



*Energised at the end of the day*



*All smiles in spite of it all*

### ONGOING SUPPORT

Gumboots's mission is to assist underprivileged children, particularly with education. Over a number of years we have been sponsoring and supporting children to gain an improved education through attending better schools with good results in the main. But the challenge is that once they leave school, life is very tough: there is fierce competition for tertiary education; our funding is limited; and jobs are scarce (63% of youth aged 15-24 are unemployed). One of the talented ex-dancers, Matebogo Nxumalo (20), was sponsored by Gumboots to attend UCS school where she matriculated in 2013. Since then she has had a few small jobs but is currently unemployed. She is seriously depressed, frustrated, and feels unsupported. Having been alerted to this, Gumboots is helping her with counselling and finding a course that will enable her to do something worthwhile with her life.





## Ratang Bana



*A creative and happy environment*

### CRAFT WORKSHOP AT THE CENTRE

Two of Gumboots UK trustees, Angela Dyer and Karen Beard, spent time earlier in the year at Ratang Bana organising a craft workshop for children. They were hugely enthusiastic and responded well to guidance, but once they were confident, they came up with some great original ideas for crafts made from re-purposed waste materials. It is evident that there is huge potential within these children for growth and change but what is needed is a commitment by those with skills and experience outside of Alex to make an input. Engaging the wider Johannesburg community in this process of change remains one of the most difficult goals to achieve for our projects.

### BEFORE AND AFTER!



*Before ...*

The first clearing of the site and the removal of rubble and refuse took place in 2012 at the Centre and Ingrid's dream of a food garden began to be realised. Now four years later it is a thriving productive space, tended by four gardeners under the guidance of Lymon and Michael, with the help of the grannies and sometimes the children. Ingrid is hoping to sell the produce to the public this year. Thank you to all those who have helped to create this haven in Alex ... Kidlinks, donors, volunteers, gardeners!



*... and after (with Lymon)*



### THE BAKKIE ARRIVES!

The Kidlinks bakkie is here! Along with all their loyal supporters, Kidlinks raised almost \$10 000 that was able to buy this great model. It will be able to pick up and deliver food parcels, transport compost and garden supplies, deliver the sick to clinics and hospitals and provide transport as needed. An enormous thanks to all the donors. For more detail, see under USA/UK links at end of the newsletter.

*The bakkie with Ingrid, Koos and Angela, one of the UK trustees*





## Phetoho Education

### ST MARYS SCHOOL OUTREACH

This year 230 students from Alex registered for the outreach programme at St Marys. Of those Gumboots is sponsoring six young girls. At the welcome address by Linda Giurich who runs the programme, she said that 2015 had been their best year ever for matric results in the 15 years since it began. There was a 100% pass rate with 42 distinctions. One young man, Zipho, got 6 distinctions and 99% for Maths; another, Siphon, got 6 distinctions and 99% for accounting; two others got 4 distinctions and bursaries to Wits Law School. A great indicator of the success of the programme. Thank you to those who are sponsoring our six girls.



Students in the St Mary's Quad



### GRATITUDE FROM A STUDENT

All our girls at St Mary's are finding their marks improving and are enjoying the experience. One of them got 18/20 for her class Maths test. Thank you to Anna and Steve Tilsley for sponsoring Angel Shongwe for the programme, as well as all the other donors who are giving these students the chance of a brighter future. In Angel's words:

Angel Shongwe (17)

*"First I would like to thank you all for the hard work you have done for me to be in this school. The school is very good and I am very happy to be there. My favourite subject is life sciences and English. My favourite period is music and after music my heart feels with joy because I love music. The school is very helpful to me and I am very grateful to you. May God bless you all. When I finish school I would like to be an actress and a teacher."*

### LEADERSHIP SCHOOL

Many children at the Saturday monthly leadership school are benefiting from the help of the volunteers. A great group of youngsters tackle different topics and skills each month such as:

- Waste Management and how we can recycle and look after our immediate environment.
- The Water Crisis in our country and how critical water is in our lives.
- Debates and the research of relevant topics.

Thank you from Gumboots to all the volunteers involved.



There's always something innovative to learn

Waste Management • Our Water Crisis  
• Debates • Research •





## Newslinks Abroad

**UK**

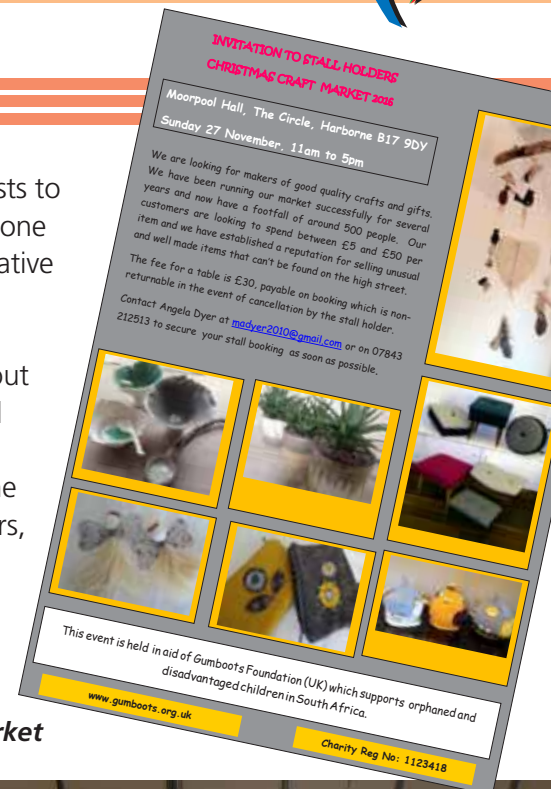
**G**umboots has received a very generous donation ... Ruth Stokes, a good friend of one of our UK trustees Graham Allibone, bequeathed a legacy of £10K to Gumboots when she passed on a few months ago at the age of 90. This is largely due to Graham's kindness as he helped her manage her affairs. Many thanks to Graham in memory of Ruth.

Gumboots UK is meeting this month to discuss this year's Big Give Online Christmas Challenge. The recipients of the Big Give will more than likely be the St Mary's Outreach Saturday School Programme in view of its success in helping with education.

Gumboots UK have also booked the hall again for this year's Christmas Craft Market and are currently

advertising for artists to take a stall. This is one of the many innovative ways they have of creating funds for our projects, without which there would be no Gumboots. Thank you to all the trustees, fundraisers, volunteers and donors.

**Invitation to stallholders for the Christmas Market**



*The Africa Alive Benefit for Kidlinks: Dress-up competition winners*



**USA**

**R**aising money has become increasingly difficult over the years. Since Kidlinks was founded, loyal donors have consistently supported them through plant sales, garage sales, fundraising events, auctions and live benefit concerts. As an alternative, they turned to crowd-funding or internet-based fundraising through social media when they decided to raise the final \$5K in funds to buy a bakkie for Ratang Bana. They used the website 'Go Fund Me' with great success and reached their goal. Now Ratang Bana is the proud owner of a functional bakkie. An enormous thanks to all the donors, many of whom gave more than once. Kidlinks could not have done it without their support.

Kidlinks is a diverse and altruistic organisation: they are raising funds to build five water tanks for a small community near Elliot in the Eastern Cape that will capture rain water so the community can reduce the need to use contaminated springs for their drinking water; they are raising funds to develop a children's outdoor learning campground and play space in the Baviaanskloof in the Western Cape; and they are also a proud supporter of Play Africa – a future Children's Museum to be developed in Johannesburg. Gumboots SA is hugely grateful to Kidlinks and all their supporters.

