

THE BEAT

DECEMBER 2019

www.gumboots.org.za

Gumboots



For more information, call Jenny Prangley on 082 928 8806 or visit our website www.gumboots.org.za.

Leratong Pre-school



This Gift Aid activity outing was to the community-connected children's museum at Constitution Hill promoting children's rights and pioneering exceptional learning experiences that inspire young kids to create, discover and connect. And the children from Leratong did just that.

THE LERATONG KIDS VISIT PLAY AFRICA



SMALL WORLD PRESCHOOL

Once again at the end of the year, Small World Preschool hosted the older group at Leratong to a "Friendship Tea Party". One of the lovely activities was "kindness stones painting" where each child painted a stone and gave it to a new friend from the other school. Thank you Small World for a wonderfully warm and caring morning.

A MAGNATILE EXPERIENCE

In lieu of an activity outing as such, we decided it would be a worthwhile exercise to give the school a lasting gift ... so we've purchased five boxes of MagnaTiles – durable, magnetic building shapes that spark creativity in children of all ages and help to develop fine motor skills while engaging in imaginative play.

The day that the MagnaTiles were presented happened to be part of South Africa's Heritage week and many of the children were dressed in their colourful and traditional outfits. It proved to be a magical

event with the kids (and teachers) loving every moment. Thank you to Amie Fletcher for lugging the mega load of boxes back from the UK so that we could benefit from no expensive transport costs!



What a success!



Happy Heritage Day



Sigiya Sonke



Expressing great artistry

THE COLOR CAFÉ

An outlet for creativity and expression was the aim for this Gift Aid activity outing for the dance group through painting ceramic mugs in a colourful environment. The children really got into the painting, sharing ideas and choosing fun designs and colours.



Future lawyers, bailiff and judge

SIGIYA SONKE VISITS PLAY AFRICA

The younger members of the group visited this centre that provides interactive, hands-on exhibits, programming and play. One of the activities centred around a mini court room, helping children to understand their rights and protection laws. Their visit coincided with a movie being made by a legal firm and a few were chosen to play the lead roles. The rest of the group was absorbed by the diverse stations of play: the Imagination Playground, Lego corner, MagnaTiles, Printing workshop, Rig-a-ma-gig, and much more.

CONSTITUTION HILL

This activity outing to South Africa's Constitution Court and museum helped the children to learn about their history and politics. Their eyes and minds were opened to a critical part of South Africa's history and they seemed to absorb a huge amount – when asked initially if they'd heard of apartheid, surprisingly none responded. By the end of the tour they were much more informed.



An informative exhibit

A COLLABORATIVE EVENT AT THE UNITED CHURCH SCHOOL

This event was chosen to coincide with Heritage Day at the school where some of the children supported by Gumboots attend. Many of the school kids were in traditional dress and were highly entertained by the different dances performed. One of the current dancers, Lindokuhle, who attends the school now, surpassed herself by dancing in most of the acts. She is a star both at school and on stage.

Talented Lindokuhle



Future engineer, building this all on his own!



Ratang Bana

THE SAFE HOUSE IS ON THE MOVE

The numbers in the two "Safe Houses" on the Ratang Bana site fluctuate depending on the severity of the circumstances of the children that Ingrid meets during her interaction with the 450 young people "under her care".

Unfortunately, it has been brought to Ingrid's attention that government regulations state that Ratang Bana is categorised as a day support centre and therefore cannot house any orphaned children on the premises. This means that the six children who are currently living there will need to move to accommodation elsewhere. Ingrid, with her usual drive and enthusiasm, has very quickly found a small house to rent. Situated in an adjacent suburb, the house meets all the requirements and the little family will be moving there with Ingrid as their house mother in December.



"The Family": Back row – Mbali, Sisanda, Johnny. Front row – Thandi, Precious, Siphe



Precious, the new addition

THE LITTLE "FAMILY"

The six children consist of the Ndlovu sisters, Mbali and Thandi who were the first to need shelter when they were abandoned; Johnny came next – as the only boy, he lives in the wooden cabin; Sisanda and her sister Siphe have also joined as their mother is in Hospice (Ingrid recently spent the day in court where she hopes to be granted legal fostership of the two girls); and the most recent arrival is Precious, a 9-year-old little girl who was living with her father and four other men, all sharing one room, and sometimes her father wasn't there. Ingrid, hearing of this poor little girl's unacceptable situation, got the father to agree to her being moved to the Safe House.



Gumboots Foundation and all the supporters of Ratang Bana wish Ingrid and Koos a wonderful life together following their glorious traditional wedding in Bethlehem in November.

Mbali – happy, confident and successful



REPORTING HAPPY PROGRESS

Mbali Ndlovu has come a long way since she and her little sister Thandi first arrived at Ingrid's door orphaned and destitute a couple of years ago. They are happily settled in the Safe House and Mbali is making great progress as school. She was earmarked by her teacher as being one of the brightest children in the class and the Alexandra Education Committee have tested her to potentially be sponsored for higher education at a better school out of Alex. We are waiting to hear the results of the tests.

Mbali and Thandi are supported by the Caitlin Fund (see page 5) and Ingrid is very grateful for this continued help.



Phetoho Education



*Mzee,
always
positive*

THE DANCE GROUP ALUMNI ... WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Mzee Njaju

After graduating in Hotel Management, Mzee has been struggling to find a job in that industry. Fortunately he has been able to find work with a publishing company printing books for schools across the country, working in a clerical capacity and helping to dispatch the books. But he hopes to find employment where his heart lies: in hospitality. Mzee still lives in Alex with his young brother, also an ex-dancer who passed his matric in 2017, but is sadly unemployed. According to the latest shocking statistics, 70% of young people between the ages of 15 and 25 are unemployed! We have a country of contradictions – energised and talented on the one hand; socially broken on the other.

Nomsa Mugwai



Nomsa practising her paramedic skills

Nomsa's life journey has been difficult, but with the support of Gumboots, particularly one of our trustees, she has been able to rise above her circumstances and has shown incredible drive and initiative. She is currently a paramedic and now furthering her studies.

"The universe has been delivering all that I was attracting in my life. I made it into the higher certificate course in emergency care at the University in Pretoria,

funded by my employer. Our modules are equivalent to the medical students, so I am acquiring knowledge about patient care, pathologies and treatments. We have completed our practical lessons and are now busy working in different hospitals and ambulances as part of community service. I fell in love with the theatre setting and all the medical procedures performed there – saving lives is one of the best feelings! I can't wait for the moment I put on that graduation gown and have my certificate in my hand. Gumboots Foundation has really played a huge part of my success story and I will always be grateful and thank you for always believing in me."



New baby and new car

Talented siblings

Two of Jack and Beauty Letsoela's talented children are Deliseli and Zenzele. **Deliseli** continues to do well in her hospitality industry ... she has recently been promoted to Groups and Events Coordinator of the Maslow Hotel where she has been employed for the last four years. **Zenzele**, a dancer with great talent, is presently in the Christmas Pantomime "Jack and the Beanstalk" at the Joburg Theatre.

Zenzele rehearsing





Newslinks Abroad

USA



Reum Currie, Kidlinks garden champion, off to the food pantry with one week's produce!

It's been an amazing summer for Kidlinks. Our Madison food garden has produced over 500 kg (1 150 lbs) of food for families in need, proving that this model project is working really well. We have also graduated over 190 youth from our programme so far. Our next goal is to find ways to connect Madison youth with the kids we work with in South Africa through video and personal stories.

We have raised approximately R155 000 to pay for the first phase of the Alex Youth Programme from our plant sale fundraiser and our annual Kidlinks harvest fundraiser. Thanks to a very generous donor, we were donated a car to sell to raise funds which generated R29 000 towards the funds.

THE CAITLIN FUND

The Caitlin Fund has seen more success this year. **Kamvelihle Mkize**, who has been with the fund since she was in 11th grade at school in Pietermaritzburg, has just graduated and is working as an intern in her chosen field of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry. Hopefully this will

lead to a permanent job in the near future. The instigator of the fund, **Margz Green**, has additional funds to help other young women through school and potentially on to university. She is in discussions with an NGO in Pietermaritzburg, Siyabonga, who feed and run after-school classes for large numbers of orphans in

the township. They work with a German NGO who supply all the capital funding but are looking for sponsors to work with young individuals as they progress through school and into further education. The fund also supports **Mbali and Thandi**, two little sisters living in the Safe House at Ratang Bana (see page 3).

UK

It's been a busy time for Gumboots UK, preparing for our annual Christmas Craft Market. This event has established a reputation and this year we had 20 other stallholders joining us. The theme for our stall was recycling and the upside-down milk cartons made unusual Christmas presents. This event couldn't happen without the help of our amazing volunteer team ... not only did they provide delicious homemade food for the café, but they helped prepare the hall, run stalls and clean up at the end of the day.

Combined with the Big Give Christmas Challenge, our focus next year is to raise enough to fund a refurbished shipping container with showers and toilets for the Alex Youth Programme. Supporters around the world can donate online through the Big Give <https://www.thebiggive.org.uk> any time between 12pm (UK time) on Tuesday 3 December and 12pm Tuesday 12 December. Donations will be matched, and we are aiming to raise £5 000.

It's really easy to donate - just use this link **HERE which will go live at 12pm GMT on the 3rd December.**



2019 Harborne Christmas Craft Market
Sunday 24th November 10 am-4pm

