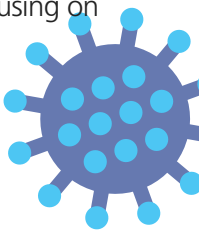
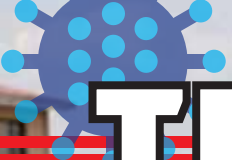


THE BEAT

JUNE 2020

www.gumboots.org.za

Gumboots



... today's new world ... food shortages, school closures and loss of jobs

As with everywhere else in today's new world, the enormous upheaval brought about by the Covid-19 crisis is being acutely felt in Alex, particularly with food shortages, school closures and loss of jobs. While times are tough and uncertain, Gumboots and its partners are providing leadership to a community doing its best under very difficult circumstances.

As a result of the pandemic, the normal activities of the projects that Gumboots supports have now largely been curtailed. This, however, has not prevented our resourceful and energetic project leaders from redirecting their efforts to helping alleviate some of the hardship. Together we've been hard at work communicating, adapting and learning in these challenging times.

This newsletter has therefore been adapted around the Covid-19 response, rather than by the usual project-by-project news. Gumboots and its three projects, Ratang Bana, Leratong and Sigiya Sonke, have been focusing on the following:

- ✱ Mask-making initiative
- ✱ Suburb to township
- ✱ Help for the hungry
- ✱ Inter-project cooperation
- ✱ Feedback from project leaders on the ground
- ✱ Education in the time of Covid-19
- ✱ Procuring support both locally and abroad

Power of Partnership

Through all of these initiatives, we believe we're making a meaningful impact, illustrating the **power of partnership**. The trust and relationships we've built over the many years are enabling the Gumboots Foundation to play its part during this Covid-19 period.

On behalf of Gumboots, our project leaders and the Alex community, we are very grateful for your continued support and generous donations that are helping to make a difference. For any information, call Jenny Prangley on 082 928 8806 or visit our website www.gumboots.org.za



Mask-making initiative



Masks are essential especially where social distancing is difficult ... The Gumboots Foundation has partnered with Carrie Pratt and the Makers Valley Partnership, and together they have fundraised R50 000 that has gone to unemployed seamstresses and tailors who have lost their income during the Lockdown. To date over 2 000 high-quality masks have been made – a win-win – as they earn an income for their families while others benefit from the donated

masks ... 1 000 went to the Inner City and 1 000 to Alex for essential workers and the community. This initiative has encouraged others to join and hundreds more masks are currently being made. Many thanks to all those who generously donated, especially Carrie Pratt's friends.

The photo above shows the 30 volunteers at Ratang Bana masked up and at the ready.

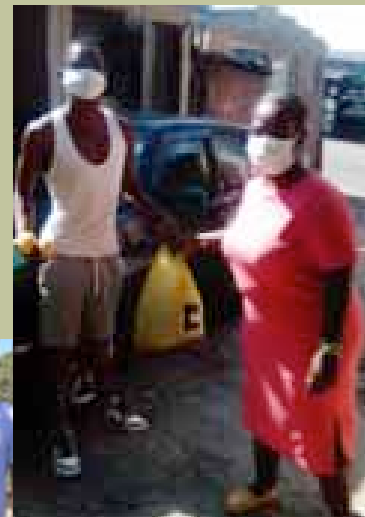
Details on the mask-making project can be found here:

<https://www.backabuddy.co.za/champion/project/support-for-mask-makers>

Suburb to township

From neighbours in the suburbs to neighbours in the township ... Another Gumboots initiative is working well, where residents in the Craighall area are making sandwiches and donating food, blankets and clothing on a weekly basis. This is then transported to a meeting place where Beauty and Jack from Sigija Sonke collect it to take into Alex. Beauty repackages the food into large bags and allocates them to the neediest families – usually 20 families receive a generous amount to keep them going for the week. They are full of gratitude for this ongoing support.

A message from one of the recipients: *"When I say thank you it'll be selfish but let I take this opportunity and say we as parents thank you and bhuti jack from the bottom of our hearts for helping us the grocery. It helps a lot. Sibonge."*





Help for the hungry



An ongoing need to help the hungry

... Gumboots and partners have done benchmarking to ascertain where the greatest needs are in the communities around our Alex projects. We are very grateful to a few generous donors who have enabled us to support the following food voucher initiative ... one of the leading supermarkets provides a service through which we send vouchers and the project leaders then use these for buying essential food. In the photos above, Ingrid and her team from Ratang Bana work tirelessly to distribute this food by preparing food parcels for the neediest residents.



The Kadey Home supports those who gather at their gate every day ... On the left, portions of food waiting for collection that Peggy and her team lay out. On the right, a grateful family after delivery of one of the Gumboots food parcels.



Inter-project cooperation



Gumboots project leaders supporting each other ... In a separate initiative, Ingrid from Ratang Bana is using donated funds to buy food which she and her team cook in the kitchen at the Centre. Over the two-month Lockdown period, she has distributed 16 000 meals, some of which she shares with the Sigiya Sonke project. In the photos above and below, Beauty hands out the meals to the children from the dance school.



Before Covid-19 and the Lockdown ... Ratang Bana and Sigiya Sonke dance group supported one another in a time of celebration. In March the Wild Rumpus Circus from Madison, Wisconsin, USA visited Ratang Bana. They spent two afternoons performing and running an energetic workshop in which 100 or more children participated with great enthusiasm. The dancers were also involved in the workshop and later entertained the large audience with their latest repertoire.





Feedback from project leaders on the ground

Ingrid from Ratang Bana: *“There is lots of confusion in the township with so many challenges. We are receiving cooked meals, vouchers for buying food parcels and we also cook our own meals for hundreds of starving people ... the earth and the people are crying. We had people queuing at the gate for food but the police and army said that was too dangerous – so now we have to deliver to the shacks. Thank you Gumboots for all the support – I salute the power of partnership.”*

Beauty from Sigiya Sonke: *“The situation in Alex is devastating, many people are very ignorant about masks and distancing. The people are starving but at least what we can give is something. Piece jobs are closed, they have no money, and are battling and need support. I am very grateful to Gumboots for the support that helps us to cope and feed some of the families.”*


Peggy from Leratong and Kadey Home: *“We are tired of the Lockdown, with no progress, no information. South Africa is in a serious situation, the people are hungry, desperate, frustrated. The pre-school is closed so the children don't get their meals. Here at the Kadey Home we are fine but we try to help the people who queue at the gate every day wanting food. We give what we can, like buckets of mealie meal and tinned food.”*

Education in the time of Covid-19

While schools and universities are closed for the Lockdown, there is a great effort to continue online education. This is difficult for many of the government schools, particularly in the townships. Home-schooling is encouraged, where possible, but this is not easy for families in overcrowded homes. There is an added challenge as the children are no longer receiving their daily lunch at school through the government school-feeding schemes but grants and food parcels are reaching many of the families.

A few private education initiatives have been a great success where audio books are relayed to the principals of the township primary schools who then Whatsapp them to the families at home. In this way the children are kept entertained while continuing to learn.

The universities are operating online and Gumboots' three tertiary students (Fifi Moyo, Matebogo Nxumalo and Thato Makgotla) are doing their June exams online now. They are all recipients of the Gumboots Phetoho Education project with financial and emotional support through fees, transport and other assistance. Our best wishes to them for their continued success during this challenging time.



Together we can make a difference

While we hear that there are people who are not obeying the Lockdown rules, we also hear that many are playing their part to flatten the Covid curve. Gumboots Foundation is grateful for these strong leaders who serve their community selflessly.



Self-wellness is essential ... masked and implementing social distancing, Fifi runs every morning in Delta Park in the 3-hour exercise window. With generous support, he now has temporary accommodation in a cottage in Parkhurst, where he studies diligently for the rest of the day for his 3rd-year engineering degree.



Procuring support locally & abroad

UK

Thinking creatively

The annual **Christmas Craft Fair** and the Big Give Christmas Challenge are our two main fundraising events each year, but sadly this year will likely be different. It is hard to plan anything now with certainty. This popular pre-Christmas craft fair usually attracts a good crowd both for the novel gift shopping and the tasty homemade snacks in the café. With the need to keep people two metres apart, it will be impossible to operate as we normally do. However, despite all these constraints, we are still planning to go ahead on a scaled-down basis providing it is safe to do so. We have booked our regular venue and enlisted 16 paid-up, enthusiastic stallholders, and we'll be monitoring the situation and posting regular updates on our UK website and social media.



Harborne Christmas Craft Market 2019

As the **Big Give Christmas Challenge** all takes place online, we'll be submitting an application this year. The success of the scheme relies on donors initially pledging money. Gumboots then has to raise double the pledge total online in early December. If we achieve this, a "Big Give charity champion" then matches the pledge total. Last year was our best ever and we raised over £10,000 towards the new Alex Youth Centre. As the pandemic has seriously increased the hardship and hunger of those living in Alex, we will be talking to the project leaders and Gumboots SA for their views on what is most needed before we submit our 2020 Christmas Challenge application.

USA

Online success



Over the years Kidlinks has built up quite a large donor base, and during these difficult times our supporters have been incredible in their response to our plea for funding. We have just completed our first **online plant sale** in Madison, Wisconsin, which was a great success. It took multiple Zoom online meetings to work out the kinks in our system, but in the end we couldn't be happier. Between donations and sales of plants, we raised \$3 077 (R55 380) ... and still counting as sales continue to trickle in.

This has been the year for home gardeners. Reports are that garden centre sales have climbed dramatically worldwide, which only goes to prove that teaching families to grow their own food is timely and important – **and this is a big part of the mission of Kidlinks.**

Where to from here?

What has become clear in recent months is that the pandemic and its effects will be felt for some time to come. For this reason, we are again appealing to our generous supporters for financial assistance to enable us to continue supplying Food Parcels and PPEs to some of the most vulnerable of our fellow South Africans. Any assistance will be gratefully accepted. Banking details as follows:

The Gumboots Foundation NPC
First National Bank
Account No. 62249589815