

# Gumboots Foundation UK



Three generations of Gumboots colleagues and beneficiaries! Centre front is Beauty, co-project leader of Sigye Sonke. Alongside her are (L to R) Nomsa with her young son, Matebogo, Zinhle and Puseletso. Back row (L to R) are Zenzele, Mzee and Fanele. We feel very proud and privileged to have been invited to play a part in their lives

Annual  
Report 2017  
(1st March 2016 to 28th  
February 2017)

Helping to  
educate and  
empower some  
of South Africa's  
poorest children

# Our mission and goals

The Gumboots Foundation's mission is to address poverty and AIDS related issues in South Africa by improving education, nutrition, employment and wellbeing.

Our goals are:

1. To empower children through education, both formal and informal, whilst also ensuring that their basic needs are met by providing food, shelter, healthcare and recreation.
2. To strengthen and support local home grown projects with local leadership and to secure a sustainable long term solution.
3. To help strengthen local communities both through financial assistance and by fostering a mutual understanding.
4. To provide individuals with an opportunity to be directly involved financially and personally in community development projects.
5. To provide honest and informative feedback on the progress of the projects and transparency on the use of donor money.
6. To seek partnership rather than dependency, with the focus being to uplift all involved through building relationships between donors, Gumboots and beneficiaries.



Broken down infra-structure, poor housing and over-crowded conditions add up to a challenging start on life for our young Alex beneficiaries

# Our funding criteria and our projects

This year Gumboots UK provided £61,440 in project support, the primary criteria for selection being that projects are:

- Home grown
- Self-sustaining in the long term
- Community based & locally lead

We currently support four projects, which are based in the Alexandra District of Johannesburg, South Africa:

- Sigiya Sonke Youth Dance Group
- Ratang Bana Community Centre and Family Support Network
- Leratong Pre-school
- Phetoho Education Project

We also work with The Caitlin Fund which helps young women, who come from both the Alexandra District and Pietermaritzburg, to achieve their educational goals.

All of the Gumboots projects in different ways work to meet our primary objective which is to bring about change in individuals' lives by improving their chances of obtaining employment through supporting them in gaining access to quality education and training. We also seek to promote well-being by improving access to healthcare, welfare services and affordable fresh food.

Interested readers will find further information about our work, including inspiring personal stories about some of our beneficiaries, on our website (at [www.gumboots.org.uk](http://www.gumboots.org.uk)) and within the twice yearly newsletter produced by Gumboots SA, copies of which can be found on our website.

# Governance of our Charity

The *Gumboots Foundation Trust Document/Charity Commission Application* is the Foundation's governing document.

Methods for the recruitment and appointment of new trustees are as outlined in the *Essential Trustee document CC3 regulations* from the UK Charity Commission.

Decision making is via *Trustee Board Meetings* which are held quarterly.

*Fundraising Committee meetings* are held when needed.

UK *Gumboots Foundation Trustees* at the date this report was approved are:

*Angela Dyer, Vivien Hunt, Mark Escolme, Karen Beard and Graham Allibone.*

Their roles and Responsibilities are as follows:

Secretary: *Angela Dyer*

Finance: *Graham Allibone*

Communications: *Vivien Hunt and Karen Beard*

Fundraising: *Karen Beard, Angela Dyer, Vivien Hunt and Graham Allibone*

Volunteers: *David and Janie Lightfoot, Margz Green, Kathy Carter, Nicki Marshall, Alison Beverage, Steve and Anna Tilsley, Anna Parkes, Jenni Bradbury, Sarah and Nathan Wright and Mike Dyer*

## History and context

The Gumboots Foundation UK is now 15 years old and continues to be run entirely by a small group of volunteers committed to making a difference to children and young people's lives in South Africa.

Registered in 2008 as a UK charity, Gumboots UK is regulated by the UK Charity Commission and complies with UK charity law.

Gumboots UK is the primary fundraising body for four South African projects, most of which are based in the Alexandra District of Johannesburg. Residents of Alexandra District, (also called Alexandra Township), are amongst the poorest and most disadvantaged citizens in South Africa. These local projects are supported by our partner organisation, Gumboots South Africa.

Whilst Gumboots UK and Gumboots SA are independent organisations, we work closely together to raise funds, create awareness of project needs and build relationships between donors and those benefiting from financial support.

Our partner organisation in South Africa applies for grants to Gumboots UK on an annual basis. Each project application is approved or rejected by the board of UK Trustees, who decide how funds raised in the UK are to be spent.

In South Africa, Gumboots SA works alongside each project in Alexandra Township, to provide community, personal and financial support. Special acknowledgement is due to John Lightfoot and Jenny Prangley, directors of Gumboots SA and also Adrienne Lightfoot, volunteer, without whose tireless efforts the continued work of the projects would be much more difficult. Gumboots SA accounts to Gumboots UK for the grants provided and keeps us informed about the progress of each project. It also produces a lively twice yearly newsletter, 'The Beat', which is distributed to Gumboots' donors and supporters worldwide.

## History and Context continued

Kidlinks World is our sister organisation in the USA which also supports the Alexandra projects, (in addition to other selected projects), whilst the Kadey Family Charitable Corporation in Canada supports the Kadey House Orphanage which is based at the same site as Leratong Preschool.

Typical shack dwelling in Alexandra District, Johannesburg, South Africa



# Leratong Pre-School Project

110 children  
supported through  
early years education

£29,020  
aid  
granted

Leratong Pre-School continues to receive the majority of its annual funding from supporters of Gumboots Foundation, in particular Brita Water Filters UK.

This year we provided £24,000 for the teachers' salaries and an additional £5,020 to cover the teachers' medical care and retirement fund, children's food, outings and other provisions, building maintenance and internet costs.

The project is managed by Peggy Chauke, a highly respected community leader. Peggy is supported in her work by 5 teachers and support workers. Early years learning and play is a vitally important foundation for future learning for any child but especially in Alex, an environment where low standards in the state sector are preventing children and young people from achieving their potential. Most of the children registered at Leratong are orphaned because their parents have died from HIV/AIDS related medical conditions. Many living parents are absent from their children's lives for other reasons. In most cases children are cared for by an elderly grand-mother or older siblings. Life is extremely challenging for most Alexandra Township residents and the resource provided by Leratong offers an educational and pastoral life-line to these very vulnerable young children.

Most of the very dedicated team of teachers have been with Leratong for a long time. Teacher Rose Khalo has been with Leratong for 5 years, teaching 20 of the 6-year-old age group. Rose is keen to ensure that the children receive quality pre-school preparation. An assessment process takes place and if Rose thinks that any



## Leratong Pre-school Project continued



Children explore the equipment provided by Play Africa

child needs further help then they can stay on at Leratong for another year. In addition to preparing children academically, Rose seeks to encourage and nurture sound value systems. Rose finds that one of the most challenging aspects of her job arises from the fact that the children are drawn from very diverse family backgrounds, cultures and languages. Obviously this can lead to communication problems so Rose uses English as her main language together with Sesotho. It takes a very special kind of person to provide these children with an educational experience that is fun, life-affirming, emotionally secure and stimulating and teacher Rose is one such example.

Leratong played an important part in launching a new approach to learning through play in South Africa. "Play Africa" demonstrated their new play experience at Leratong at the beginning of 2016. This innovative approach aims to ignite creativity and imagination through play for children of all ages and from various cultural backgrounds. "Play Africa" is inspiring children and transforming communities throughout South Africa. Leratong pre-school children were able to experience this first hand and it proved to be a happy and productive experience.

The Santa Shoebox Team again came to present their boxes to 130 Leratong children aged between 3 and 6 years old. It was, as ever, a very exciting event for the children. The project delivers 100,000 boxes in total around South Africa to children who might otherwise receive very little by way of gifts at Christmas.



# Sigiya Sonke Youth Project

50 young people tutored and encouraged to engage in dance and the performing arts and to turn aside from risky behaviour

£5,220  
aid  
granted

In 1993 Jack Letsoela, a resident of Alexandra Township, identified a need for a space where young people could gather and keep off the streets. He started a dance school and in the last 22 years he has had hundreds of young people cross his dance floor.

Now called Sigiya Sonke (meaning "Youth Stands Together"), they have met most days of the week to be taught diverse dance skills and to socialise, study and relax. Together with Beauty, Jack's wife, the couple have provided far more than just dance tuition. Often offering emergency accommodation in their own home, they have been friends, mentors and parents to many young people whose lives would have fallen apart but for their dedication and compassion. Gumboots UK is proud to be able to continue to partner with this truly worthwhile example of a grass-roots, home-grown local initiative. This year Jack and Beauty have been assisted in their work by four other teachers, most of whom are young people who were Sigiya Sonke learners themselves.

This year the group has met with an exceptional challenge in that the issue of permanent premises has still not been resolved. The group's previous premises for many years, a disused factory which had been partially renovated with the support of donations from Gumboots, has become the subject of legal proceedings to evict illegal squatters. This was a necessary precursor to the purchase of the property, with the help of Gumboots SA donors, which would have provided the group with a permanent and secure base. Gumboots UK also had plans to invest funds in the property in order to convert it for multi-purpose community use. The legal process has been painfully protracted and is still on-going so a twin track approach has been adopted of persevering with the legal solution to see if the old premises can be secured whilst also searching for alternate premises. As at the end of this reporting year a suitable site has been located and is being considered.

The group have required slightly less grant aid from us this year because they don't have the same level of premises running costs but the group has continued to meet at a local church hall and we have funded rental costs.

## Sigiya Sonke Youth Project continued

When they are part of the Sigiya Sonke group, youngsters aged 8 to 18 years old 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 so this year Gumboots, in collaboration with Jack, decided to arrange 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.

This is what some of them are doing now:

Mzee is studying Hospitality & Tourism at Boston City Campus in Johannesburg and is in his final year.

Some of the current Sigiya Sonke dancers with their teacher Zimvo, an ex-dancer who has been taught and nurtured by Jack and is now an important member of the teaching team



## Sigiya Sonke Youth Project continued

After experiencing some very traumatic personal difficulties, Matebogo is exploring a number of options before deciding on her permanent career path with the support of Gumboots donors. She is doing exceptionally well

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

Deli is flying high and working at the prestigious Maslow Hotel in Sandton, Johannesburg as part of their reception team

Zinhle has submitted her honours thesis in entertainment technology.

Fanele (aka Fifi) has completed his first year in Electrical Engineering at the University of Witswatersrand, Johannesburg and is hoping for further funding.

Another new venture took place in October 2016 when Jack took 18 of the young 14-year-olds to a camp in Tembisa, another district in Gauteng province, 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 group won no awards, they gained a great deal, learnt new dances, and enjoyed cultural exchanges and experiences.

Ex Sigiya Sonke dancers Nomsa, Matebogo and Thato



# Phetoho Education Projects

At least 12 children and young people helped to maximise their educational opportunities

£12,990 aid granted

This year, of the total of £12,990 granted for education support, £10,964 was used to support children through schooling (payment of fees and/or help with paying for uniforms, transport and tuck) and £2,026 was paid for children to attend St Mary's School outreach project.

Phetoho, meaning "change", is Gumboot's programme for helping individual children improve their educational achievements. Over the past year we have continued to do this in four ways:

- Funding children to attend the United Church School, a fee paying school
- Funding for children to attend St. Mary's School outreach project
- Support with paying for uniforms, transport and refreshments for families who are struggling to find the resources so that their children can attend state schools. We also funded the transport and refreshment costs of two children to attend the Foundation School - a fee paying school for children with special needs.
- Funding young women to pursue their tertiary education and vocational training (see Caitlin project report for details)

## United Church School (UCS)

For a number of years now Gumboots has been funding children from Alexandra to attend this Christian-based school in Yeoville, Johannesburg. The township state schools are failing young people and in a country where youth unemployment is over 50% a good education is often the only route out of poverty for children born in the townships and other informal settlements in South Africa.

The first group of young people we funded to attend UCS were in the last few years of their schooling. It soon became clear that a lack of a good early years education had left them lacking in many basic skills and knowledge. With this in mind, when we selected the second

## Phetoho Education Projects continued

group in 2014, we chose to target children at a much younger age. Now three years on two of the five children - Lindokuhle and Lehlogonolo, are doing well though Lehlogonolo more recently is battling since her mother has become ill. Pinky in Grade 8 and Paballo in Grade 10 are having to repeat their grades and we hope with better marks second time round. Gumboots UK's donation not only covers their school fees but their uniforms, transport and daily tuck.

Sadly the fifth child, Itumeleng had real difficulties coping and following a series of assessments was moved to the Foundation school catering for special educational needs. He is now doing well with Gumboots SA paying his school fees and Gumboots UK his transport and tuck.

### **St. Mary's Outreach Project and Saturday School**

Based at St. Mary's, a private girl's school in Johannesburg, this project was established over 25 years ago to supplement the educational needs of promising children from Alexandra. It provides high quality teaching in all subjects with a focus on Maths, English and Science.

### Young learners arriving at St Mary's



## Phetoho Education Projects continued

Transport is provided between Alexandra and the school and pupils are given a midday snack. The programme also offers career and employment advice, using its links with business and industry to invite speakers to talk to young people about training and job opportunities.

Gumboots UK funded six young girls over the last year to attend this supplementary schooling project - Angel, Thatohatsi, Carla, Wongeka, Pamela and Nyeleti. At the end-of-year prize-giving ceremony, Thatohatsi, Pamela and Wongeka received certificates of excellence and one of them a trophy. An ex-St. Mary's outreach student, Busi, who still lives in Alex and now studies at Wits University, also provided some additional Maths tutoring for Wongeka. This extra support helped her receive a certificate of excellence in Maths.

Maintaining attendance every Saturday and also in the school holidays is an ongoing challenge for many young people whose home lives are very difficult. Sadly for various reasons two of the Gumboots funded girls with very poor attendance were unable to keep up with the work. This meant they had to be dropped from the

Secondary school age learners attend the Leadership Skills course held monthly in the Learning Centre at Ratang Bana



## Phetoho Education Projects continued

programme at the end of the school year. This is always disappointing and a hard decision for us to make but, with our limited resources and the overwhelming educational needs of Alex children, we must target our support at those most able to make best use of it.

### **Ongoing support for young people who have completed their education**

As trustees we have debated whether it is the best use of our limited funds to pay for individual children's schooling given the long-term nature of such a commitment, or whether the money is better spread more widely. Our experience over the last eight years tells us that our approach of concentrating resources on a smaller number of children is making a real difference.

We saw further evidence of this at a meeting in February this year where we met with eight ex-Sigiya Sonke dance group members - Matebogo, Zenzele, Nomsa, Malwande (Mzee), Puseletso, Fenele (Fifi), Zinhle and Matseleng.

Hosted by Peggy Chauke at the Kadey Children's Home in Alex, it was an opportunity for Gumboots Trustees and Margz Green, (founder of the Caitlin Fund), to catch up with the lives of these young people. We wanted to understand their aspirations, the difficulties they face and how we might help them.

All of them in different ways have faced real hardship in their growing up years - an absence of parental support, death of one or both parents, extreme poverty, the stigma of HIV infection, poor living conditions and the day-to-day risks and dangers of living in Alex. Despite these extremely testing challenges they have all grown into warm, confident, articulate young people with a strong desire to put something back into their community and to help the younger generation. They all cited their involvement in the Sigiya Sonke dance project and the support given by Jack and Beauty Letsoela and Gumboots Foundation as hugely significant and a source of inspiration. Five of the eight had, with Gumboot's support, attended the United Church School.

Now, having matriculated and with their school days behind them, they still face challenges - some old and some new, for instance a lack of finance for further education, difficulty in finding employment, lack of access to the internet and other essential technology, a need for career advice and, for some, continued difficulties in their personal lives.

## Phetoho Education Projects continued

It has become clear that in many cases it is not enough to just support children through their schooling. If they are to make the best use of this early investment they will also need help with the second stage of their education and training for employment. In partnership with Gumboots SA and the Caitlin Fund we will continue to help these young people, either financially or by working with them to seek out bursaries, educational loans, careers advice and mentoring. We will also continue to meet with them when UK trustees are in South Africa in order to follow their progress.

(L to R) Nomsa, Matseleng and Fenele (Fifi) meet with Gumboots Trustees and supporters





# The Caitlin Fund

Three young women helped through higher education

£6,580 aid granted

Two further young women helped to further their careers

Seven years since the tragic death of Caitlin Green, the fund set up in her memory by her mother Margz, continues to help to improve the lives of young women in South Africa.

2016/17 has been a momentous year for The Caitlin Fund. We have our first graduate, one setback and a new and promising start for another of our recipients. In addition we have made some one-off payments that have dramatically changed the lives of two other young women.

Vuyelwa has graduated from Rhodes University and is now doing postgraduate studies to further her skill set. As a post grad student she is not entitled to financial support from the government and although she has a loan from the university for fees, this year the fund has had to help her with accommodation costs as well as her monthly allowance and fares to and from home. This has placed great pressure on the fund and will necessitate a fund-raising drive during 2017/18.



Nomsa (left) showing off her paramedic diploma and Kamvelihle (below)



## The Caitlin Fund continued

Vuyelwa has had a really brilliant year which has resulted in a BA (Journalism). She was also captain of the Rhodes soccer team, played hockey for the university and took place in cross country and other athletic events. She has written about being a recipient of The Caitlin Fund and what it has meant to her (see appendix to the report. Please read it - it is a powerful insight into the struggle faced by so many young black South Africans).

Zinhle has not had an easy year. Firstly the accommodation that was provided through a Gumboots supporter came to an end and she had to find her way to classes and tutorials by bus and taxi from Alex to her university in Pretoria - a distance of 50 km each way. Due to a number of unfortunate circumstances she was not able to graduate this year. Her laptop was stolen, which contained her dissertation, and a mural she had painted as one of her exam pieces was painted over before it could be marked. She was in the process of converting her diploma to a degree and in her final year. With help from Gumboots supporters, who liaised with the university on her behalf, she was finally accepted back to repeat her degree year in 2017/18 and hopefully she will receive funding for the fees. Gumboots and the Caitlin Fund will help with fares and other daily living expenses. She is a bright and committed young woman and a seriously talented artist. She has been asked to do some work in Johannesburg, under the guidance of a professional artist, painting sets and scenes for another project. We are confident that with further support she will flourish.

Kamvelihle has finally decided to study agriculture at the Mangosuthu University of Technology. She had her heart set on doing some form of engineering but unfortunately her maths and science marks were not good enough. The Caitlin Fund paid for her to study at a college to improve her marks but they did not improve enough for her to be accepted to do engineering. Her change of course has been a positive step for her and we feel that something practical like agriculture will stand her in good stead in the future. Her financial demands on the Fund are not great as she has received financial support for her course and residence from other sources. The Caitlin Fund pays for her food, travel and miscellaneous expenses.

Apart from funding the academic study fees of the above three young women, The Caitlin Fund this year also made one-off payments to two further young women living in Alex. Matebogo has had a difficult life and has been hampered by illness and mental health issues. At the start of this reporting year she was very withdrawn,

## The Caitlin Fund continued

feeling depressed and was having great difficulty in making decisions about her future. We paid for some counselling and career guidance sessions which have opened up new worlds to her. She is volunteering, writing and recording her own music, helping out on other projects and exploring all kinds of career options including working with young children on an innovative early-years learning to read project. Gumboots "hand-up", together with Matebogo's own strong will to succeed, has brought about a remarkable transformation and she has now become a force to be reckoned with! We have high hopes that she will start studying next year.

Nomsa, with help from Gumboots and The Caitlin Fund, has trained and qualified as a paramedic. At the time of writing she now has her driving licence and is able to apply for jobs. Her journey has been full of ups and downs but she has shown that with help and support numerous difficulties can be overcome. An orphan brought up by her grandmother in Alexandra Township she started studying with help from the Fund. When she unexpectedly became pregnant about four years ago it was difficult to imagine that her life would be very different from the numerous single young mums living in Alex and just surviving on benefit. However she is now not only the main carer for her young son, younger brother and elderly grand-mother, but a young woman with a good career path ahead of her. Nomsa has shown all of us at Gumboots that determination, ambition and hard work can, with a "hand-up" from us, pave the way to a fulfilling future.

We are really honoured to have all these young women in our lives. They are all very worthy and fitting tributes to Caitlin's valuable legacy.



Matebogo and Zinhle lead the craft workshop at Ratang Bans

# Ratang Bana Family Support Project

471 children and  
160 adults  
participated and  
benefitted from  
multiple initiatives

£7,630 aid  
granted

Ingrid Moloi, a social worker, runs this project with the help of 18 volunteers. Ingrid established the project several years ago in response to the social, welfare and health needs of some of the most disadvantaged children and families in Alexandra Township, many of whom are affected by HIV/AIDS, orphaned or living in

child-headed households or with one elderly carer, usually a grand-mother. Ratang Bana is a project which continues to thrive and develop thanks to the energy and innovative ideas of Ingrid. Funding comes from a variety of sources; local organisations such as churches and businesses; Kidlinks USA and ourselves.

Local father and beneficiary tends the highly  
productive vegetable gardens



# Ratang Bana Family Support Project

## continued

One of Ratang Bana's primary aims is to improve the health and welfare of local children and families. The economic status of most Alex residents means that their diet is very impoverished. Recognising the part that diet plays in health and well-being, the project aims to provide fresh vegetables, grown in the project's gardens, to the local community. The first clearing of the site, initially by the removal of an immense amount of rubble and refuse, took place in 2012 and Ingrid's vision of a community food garden began to be realised. Now five years later it is a thriving, productive space, tended by volunteer gardeners (care-givers and children) under the guidance of two local fathers. Ingrid has started to sell the produce to the public this year, making a little profit which is used to purchase new seedling plants.

Whilst for many years Ratang Bana has focussed on helping female heads of households, (mainly grand-mothers), Ingrid has become increasingly aware that there are many men who also need support - those who have lost their wives, have no jobs, and have children or grand-children to support. She is encouraging them to work in the food garden and in exchange they get free vegetables, other food supplies and sometimes clothes. Michael is one such father who came to Alex from Limpopo and



lived in a squatter camp with his wife and children until she died. He now lives in a government built house with his son, and spends much of his time tending the project's gardens and helping to co-ordinate volunteers.

This year there have been several new and welcome developments at Ratang Bana.

With the help of their loyal supporters, Kidlinks USA raised almost \$10 000 in order to buy a pick-up truck with a large passenger cab. It has been put to great use to collect donated food and then to

Shade cover is essential to protect young plants from the sun in the food garden

# Ratang Bana Family Support Project

## continued

deliver food parcels to families; to service the food garden; to transport the sick to clinics and hospitals and generally to provide transport as needed. It is a long-needed, essential resource to the project.

The Leadership Skills Saturday Class continues to meet and the participants enjoyed an outing to the Sandton Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals where they learnt to face their fear of dogs and cats. This was a great opportunity for the learners to begin to appreciate the need for empathy, kindness, respect and responsibility towards animals. They were taken on a tour of the centre and got involved with the day-to-day workings of the organisation.

Once again this year a group of visiting students from CalPoly San Luis Obispo USA spent a day volunteering at Ratang Bana Centre. They painted the admin and learning units (adapted cargo containers) and added a tree mural that will become a naming tree, recognising all of Ratang Bana's past and present donors and supporters.

This year Ingrid has introduced a new programme called the Dreams Programme - a girl's only project aimed at reducing the rate of HIV/AIDS infection amongst young girls and adolescent women. The programme, delivered by a team of trained and skilled mentors under the guidance and supervision of qualified social workers, has reached 250 participants at Ratang Bana this year.



The pleasant and shady outside learning and meetings spaces at Ratang Bana

# Ratang Bana Family Support Project

## continued

As in the previous year, the year ended on a high note for two of our trustees, Angela Dyer and Karen Beard, who were able to spend some time at Ratang Bana in February 2017 organising a craft workshop for children. This time they were assisted by Matebogo and Zinhle, both long-standing beneficiaries of Gumboots who are keen to "put something back".

The children listened attentively and produced work that was both well crafted and drew on their innate sense of creativity. We are constantly impressed by the level of skill, energy and enthusiasm that Alex children demonstrate and if only they can be challenged positively we know that they are capable of achieving great things both for themselves and their community. Matebogo and Zinhle are living proof - they were able to bring the leadership and communication skills they have learned to the session and we were highly impressed.

The craft workshop held at Ratang Bana. The children made decorative jars, using collage techniques, and jewellery



# Financial Report

## The Gumboots Foundation UK

### Receipts and Payments Account - Period from 1st March 2016 to 28th February 2017

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £
<b>INCOME</b>			
<b>Personal and Corporate Income</b>			
Unrestricted Corporate funds	1556	0	1556
Unrestricted Personal inc Gift Aid	16181	0	16181
Restricted Big Give 2016 Sisiya Sonke	0	4426	4426
Restricted Leadership course	0	0	0
Restricted Caitlin Fund inc Gift Aid	0	3038	3038
Restricted Corporate Leratona	0	24000	24000
<b>Total Personal and Corporate</b>	<b>£17,737</b>	<b>£31,464</b>	<b>£49,201</b>
<b>Events Income</b>			
Restricted St Mary's School	0	190	190
Unrestricted fundraising events	9007	0	9007
<b>Total Events Income</b>	<b>9007</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>9197</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>26744</b>	<b>31654</b>	<b>58398</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>			
Administration costs	-216	0	-216
Event Expenses	-136	0	-136
Paid UK invoice for restricted events	0	0	0
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>-352</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-352</b>
<b>Net amount available for Distribution</b>	<b>26392</b>	<b>31654</b>	<b>58046</b>
Grants distributed	-28834	-32606	-61440
Transfers unrestricted to restricted	0	0	0
Transfers from restricted to unrestricted	0	0	0
<b>Net Cash Movement</b>	<b>-2442</b>	<b>-952</b>	<b>-3394</b>
Cash funds at 1st March 2016	21329	20655	41984
<b>Cash funds at 28<sup>th</sup> February 2017</b>	<b>18887</b>	<b>19703</b>	<b>38590</b>



# Financial Report continued

## Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 28<sup>th</sup> February 2017

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total £
General Fund	16,887		16,887
Caitlin Fund		5,560	5,560
Restricted Leratona		0.00	0.00
Fundraising reserve	2,000		2,000
Phetoho Leadership Course	0.00		0.00
St Marys School		9,717	9,717
Big Give 2016 Sigiya Sonke		4,426	4,426
<b>Total Cash Funds as at 28<sup>th</sup> February 2017</b>	<b>18,887</b>	<b>19,703</b>	<b>38,590</b>

The Gumboots UK Financial Year covers the period 1<sup>st</sup> March 2016 to 28<sup>th</sup> February 2017.

Gumboots UK was again in a good position at the end of February 2017, to cover commitments for the following year assuming current levels of fundraising continue.

**Receipts and Payments Account 2016/17.** The Gumboots Foundation UK (Gumboots) raised £58,398 and distributed £61,440 as grants to projects. Admin expenses were £216 and event expenses, £136. The opening balance at the beginning of the period was £41,984. The closing bank balance was £38,590 at 28<sup>th</sup> February 2017. These numbers are detailed in the Receipts and Payments Account 2016/17.

**Unrestricted funds.** Money received to unrestricted funds from personal giving was £16,181, from fundraising events £9,007, and corporate receipts were £1,556, making a total to unrestricted funds of £26,744 including Gift Aid.

**Restricted funds.** £24,000 in Corporate Sponsorship was received from Brita Waters UK, to pay teachers' salaries at Leratong. Income of £3,038 including Gift Aid was restricted to support individuals identified by the Caitlin Fund. £4,426 was received through the Big Give Christmas challenge.

### Distribution of surplus

At year end total cash funds were £38,590, where unrestricted funds totalled £18,887 and restricted funds £19,703.

The unrestricted funds are allocated in their entirety towards the General Fund, which at 28<sup>th</sup> February 2017 was yet to be allocated between projects, costs of processing receipts and fundraising activities. The restricted funds were already allocated towards specific projects for the amounts of £9717 (Phetoho), £5,560 in the Caitlin Fund and £4426 for Sigiya Sonke.

# Fundraising

We are grateful to Brita Filters UK for their continued support of the Leratong Project. They donate £24,000 each year which pays the teacher's salaries. Each year we also receive grants from the Limoges Trust. This year they gave us £1,750. We also received a donation of £56.13 from hotels.com.

Donations from individuals, whether regular, occasional or one-off, amount to roughly half of our income. Their continued loyal support is vital to us and we've listed them at the end of the report by way of thanks. Sometimes these individuals mount events or take part in challenges and donate the proceeds; for example Craft Markets (see overleaf for more details) or the Kilrunners event, Friends of Martin Aicher honoured his wish that after his death money raised by the United Kilrunners should be donated to Gumboots and we received £4202! The United Kilrunners are a bunch of crazy German guys who - believe it or not - run in kilts! What can we say other than thanks so much!



This year we also received funds in memory of Peter Martin, a close friend of Gumboots UK Trustee Graham Allibone, whose family asked for donations to the charity instead of floral tributes. Our condolences and thanks go to the Martin family for this thoughtful gesture at a time of great personal sadness, which raised £580. Another former friend of Graham's, Ruth Stokes, left us £10,000 in her will.

## Fundraising continued

Gumboots trustees Karen Beard and Angela Dyer, together with lots of much valued support from our Birmingham contingent of volunteers, organised two Christmas Craft Markets in Birmingham and donated the proceeds of £4,225. This event is the culmination of much hard work by our volunteer crafters, artists, cooks and bakers who all worked hard to put together an exceptional display of tempting goods. This year we were also joined by members of a local choir, Moseley Voices, who serenaded the shoppers with a repertoire of fabulous South African songs, finishing with an uplifting rendition of Nkosi Sikileli Africa! Quite a treat on a cold, English winter's day!

We were again successful in our application to take part in the Big Give Christmas Challenge 2016. Funds came from on-line donations made between 29<sup>th</sup> November and 1<sup>st</sup> December 2016 where supporters must bid for matched funds from a limited pot. It's a first come, first served process and again our supporters rose to the challenge and we raised £6,001 of which £4425 was received this financial year.. Our chosen project this year was to raise funds to enable Sigiya Sonke to replace costumes and musical instruments which had been damaged by illegal squatters during the dispute over the occupancy of the project's former premises. This has been allocated to Sigiya Sonke's aid budget for 2017/18.



Scenes from the Christmas  
Craft Market

# Our Plans for 2016/17

The Trustees of Gumboots Foundation UK have agreed to provide funds amounting to a total of £56,543 for the year 1<sup>st</sup> March 2017 to 28<sup>th</sup> February 2018 to support the following projects run by our partner organisation, Gumboots SA.

The breakdown of those funds is as follows:

## Leratong Pre-School

We have committed to provide £30,427 to be spent on staff salaries; staff medical care and retirement fund; food, provisions and maintenance; school outings and internet service.

## Sigiya Sonke Youth Project

We have committed to provide £9,360 to cover stipends of three project workers; rental of temporary premises; events and outings; internet services and purchase of new costumes and musical instruments.

## Phetoho Education project

We have committed to provide £10,147 to fund fees, uniforms, transport and stationery for pupils attending the United Church School; fees for children attending St Mary's School outreach project; Saturday tuition sessions to be held at Ratang Bana and two small support grants to help two young people pursue their vocational choices.

## The Caitlin Fund

We have committed to provide £3,649 which will help two young women, Kamvelihle and Vuyelwa, to complete their studies at University.

## Ratang Bana Family Support Project

We have committed to provide £2,960 to be spent on staff stipends and maintenance of the food garden.

## Our Plans for 2016/17 continued

Trustees Angela Dyer and Karen Beard plan to make and sell crafts during the year, and donate the proceeds to Gumboots, at craft markets held during the summer months and near Christmas.

We will be making an application to the Big Give to again join in with the Christmas 2017 Challenge.

In the current harsh economic climate we are experiencing a drop off in the level of regular personal donations and so this year we plan to focus on raising money from applications to Trusts and Foundations.

A young group of Sigiya Sonke dancers receive their achievement certificates in December 2016. The award ceremony took place following a Christmas party organised by Jack and Beauty Letsoela at their home. All fifty of the dancers also received Santa's Shoe Boxes!



# Appendix. Vuyelwa's Story - in her own words

## ALL HOPE ISN'T LOST

Sounds of the school intercom. "Happiness Mtolo 10A to Mrs. Mathfield's office. Happiness Mtolo 10A to Mrs. Mathfield's offices. "What did you do to be called into the Deputy Principal's office?" my drama teacher asked. My heart raced, my mouth went dry, and I didn't know how to respond, so I kept quiet and stood still. Sounds of the school intercom again. "Happiness Mtolo 10A to Mrs. Mathfield's office now please. Happiness Mtolo 10A to Mrs. Mathfield's offices now please."

I stood up, fixed my skirt and jersey, making sure it was not sloppy and made my way out the drama class. My mind was racing, "What have I done? I never do anything wrong though". Tears were burning the inside of my eyelids, everything went fuzzy. I took a deep breath and kept walking. Wind blew dead dry leaves onto my shoes. "Oh my word! My shoes are not polished", I thought to myself. I started rubbing my shoes against my long grey socks to get rid of the dust, exchanging feet quickly. As I stood there rubbing my shoes, a brown spider was hanging on its web from the nut tree a few metres away from me. My heart was racing, my mind filled with thoughts I could not even understand. "Mrs Mathfield's calling you...", my grade 9 technology teacher was saying, though I only caught his last few words. "Hurry up!". Distracting my focus from the small brown spider that was slowly disappearing into a hole in the tree, I started walking hoping I had not done anything wrong. I knocked softly on Mrs Mathfield's office door, 'tap tap tap'. "Come in". I poke my head through the door, "You called for me Mrs Mathfield?". "Yes come in Happiness. Here she is at last!"

I slowly went in, terror written all over my face. "Don't worry you're not in trouble," Mrs Mathfield giggled. "You look so terrified." Turning to face someone across from her she said, "Happiness has never been called to my office before, she's probably wondering what she has done. Take a seat, there's someone I want you to meet." That was the day my life changed for the better. That was the day I met Margz Green and Lorenza Cowling.

My name is Vuyelwa Happiness Mtolo. I am from the rural area of Willowfontein in Pietermaritzburg, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. I grew up in a single parent home, my mom being the bread winner. My father is still alive, but like many other family structures, he's always been absent.

I never had the best childhood, but I had a very good childhood compared to what other children endure; I made the best of what was offered to me. My mother was a domestic worker. Having worked 12 years for peanuts, she still made sure my siblings and I were fed and clothed (even if it meant only once a year). My entire life I've always lived in mud house structures, most of it in a rented one room. Although the above sounds like my childhood really 'sucked', it's what has led me to be the person I am today. I was fortunate to receive the best education possible for someone living in a rural area of South Africa. My mother's employer, ('madam' as she would call her), would register me in what is called a 'Model C' school in South Africa; a fancy term for 'once an all-white school'. Even though she only paid for the first few months of school, leaving my mother to pay the rest of my fees, my mother's boss really helped me in a way. I attended Bisley Park Primary School, then I attended Alexandra High School in my years before tertiary school.

## Appendix . Vuyelwa's Story - in her own words (continued)

I met Lorenza Cowling and Margz Green in 2010. The day I was called into the Deputy Principal's office, was the day I met the people who took a burden off my shoulders and the people who would help me to carry my load in years to come. Having been troubled and worried about my future at Alex High, my saviours came in at the perfect time to rescue me. My mom had lost her job in 2009 when I was grade 9, and was later diagnosed with tuberculosis. The nurses told her she would not make it to see the 2010 FIFA World Cup. She had no job, and I would beg teachers crying, for bus fare money. We had exhausted all means of trying to find help, from applying for grants which were never successful, to asking family members to help who said blatantly that my mother must take me out of Alex and put me in nearby schools where I wouldn't need to take transport, just like all children in my family.

And then a miracle happened. I met Lorenza Cowling and Margz Green. From then onwards, a burden was lifted off my shoulders and my mother's shoulders. In December of 2010, I wrote Margz a text message explaining my situation at home. That was the day I first opened up to someone I barely knew, about my living circumstances. Margz and Lorenza took me in and sheltered me in the best ways possible. From the day I was introduced to Margz and Lorenza, I never went a day hungry, and whenever I needed something for school, I got it. My mom passed away in February 2011 when I was in grade 11.

The Caitlin Fund has, since 2010, provided my bus fare money for school and sporting activities during weekends, and is now currently assisting me with bus fare money to and from Rhodes University in Pietermaritzburg, and a monthly allowance. The Caitlin Fund assistance however goes above and beyond providing for my academic life. Margz and Lorenza have since each been contributing for groceries every time I return home during university break and now I write as the owner of a 2-room brick-laid house, thanks to Margz and Lorenza who were able to raise funds for it to be possible.

I have since received high school colours for cross-country and athletics, braid for leadership, hockey and soccer, and a certificate for community engagement and service to the school. At university I had been employed as a sub-warden for two years in a row, became a mentor for grade 12 learners at an underprivileged high school in Grahamstown, became a soccer captain for the Rhodes women's first team, played for the Rhodes 2<sup>nd</sup> hockey team and became a member of the Golden Key Honours Society for being in the top 30 percent in the Humanities Faculty, academically.

Seven years later, I laugh and cringe at the emails I used to send Margz and Lorenza. The Caitlin Fund has been my provider. Even though it came about when Margz Green lost her daughter, it has helped me in ways I cannot express. I cannot be thankful enough. I am a Rhodes University Graduate and I am currently doing my Postgraduate studies in Media Management. Without the aid and assistance from the Fund, I do not know which path my life would've taken or where I would be right now. I'm forever grateful for the opportunity to become somebody one day, I'm forever grateful for the opportunity to one day take my family, my children and their children out of poverty and I'm forever grateful and indebted to the angel that led Margz and Lorenza, and everybody associated with the Fund, to my path. May the Lord bless you forever.