



THE BEAT

DECEMBER 2023

Gumboots
www.gumboots.org.za

Gumboots Foundation is grateful for the continued support and generous donations without which we would not be able to make a difference to the community we support. We continue to fund four projects in Alexandra Township

(their updates follow): Sigiya Sonke Dance Group, Phetoho Education, Leratong Pre-school and Ratang Bana Child Support. For more information, please call Jenny Prangley 082 928 8806 or go to www.gumboots.org.za.

Phetoho Education

It is thanks to all the Gumboots donors and supporters that the following students have been able to further their studies, both secondary and tertiary:

Fifi Moyo – is completing his 4th and final year of his BSc Electrical Engineering degree at Wits University. We salute him for his dedication to his studies – it has been a challenging few years!



Fifi presenting his final electrical engineering project at Wits open day.



Thato, Matebogo and Nomsa (and her daughter)

Matebogo Nxumalo – has completed her 2nd year BA teaching degree at Unisa (**with 5 distinctions**). She is also continuing teaching at Sacred Heart College as a Reggio-Emilio practitioner and is making great strides in the transformation and diversity department.

Thatohatsi Makgotla – is in her 3rd year of her BA in Administration and Human Resource Settlement Management at Unisa. While doing so she is successfully working for an accounting firm.

Nomsa Mugwai – has a higher certificate in emergency care and is busy studying for her diploma at Steve Biko Hospital, Pretoria. She will then be converting this into a degree.

United Church School – we have three learners at UCS who are continuing their studies successfully: Lindokuhle Khumalo (who is also a dancer in the Sigiya Sonke project), Mbali Khumalo and Alwabo Dwele.



Leratong Pre-school



WHAT'S UP AT LERATONG?

Dimakatso Aphane, the senior teacher, continues to provide a vital, loving and supportive environment while educating the young children. The five Leratong teachers provide them with a secure and

constant base, giving them the building blocks necessary for growth and development, with many of them coming from dysfunctional homes and dire circumstances.

Dimakatso spoke of her continued efforts to *"try my level best to give the children a good education; to encourage parents to be involved and to come to meetings to share their ideas; and to create a good working relationship all round"*.

RING TIME!



Sleeptime..

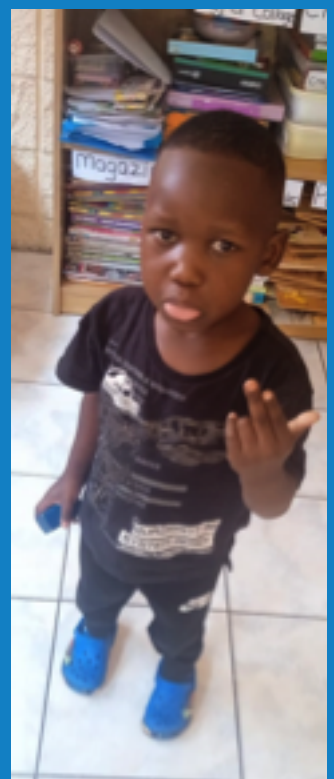


Five of the children who have graduated to school with Dimakatso behind them.



LITTLE MPHÓ

One of the Leratong children is a 3-year-old boy called Mpho who lives with his father and grandmother. He has a disability and can only walk on his toes, but despite this, he is full of joy and doesn't consider himself any different from the other children. **But it would be wonderful if somebody could donate to buy him comfortable shoes.**





Ratang Bana Child Support

IMPRESSIVE GROWTH

Ratang Bana continues to expand its space to accommodate 74 staff members supporting a network of some **10 000 children** – this number includes 500 children who are vulnerable and live within child-headed households. All of this is enabled through Gumboots and other donors, but further funding continues to be a challenge in maintaining the sustainability of this amazing project.



Against great odds, Ingrid Moloi manages this enormous task with dedication, impressive organisational skills and great positivity.

Ingrid is always buoyant with a positive attitude.



WHAT DOES THE CENTRE PROVIDE?

- Educational support by way of school uniforms, stationery and transport.
- A hot midday meal for many of the children in the immediate surrounds, with food being sourced from the prolific vegetable gardens.
- Medical support, including HIV counselling and medication.
- Social services support by way of home visits and follow-up.
- A safe space in which to play and relax.



Ratang Bana has an incredible system of keeping track of the hundreds of children in the organisation.



A hot, nutritious meal for the lucky ones.

THE SAFE HOUSE

Presently there are six vulnerable children housed in the Safe Home, situated in the heart of Alex. There is limited capacity, but the doors have too often to be opened to children in desperate situations.

Rental costs are very high – Ingrid is hoping for funding to help them buy a property.



Sigiya Sonke Dance Group

Many years have passed since Sigiya Sonke was first established in an abandoned warehouse in the mid-1990s, with Jack Letsoela and his students training daily. Over the last 5 years, Gumboots has made great strides to secure a better home for the dance group ... a site was purchased with donations from Gumboots SA & UK which contributed to funding the new Performing Arts Centre, which now falls under the umbrella of the Sakhimfundo Youth Programme. The group now has a safe and secure place to gather and rehearse.

The Youth Programme comprises both the Performing Arts Centre and an After-school Learning Centre, which was completed in April this year. The dancers are now able to rehearse and to receive educational support, focusing primarily on reading and maths. This spacious new location continues to change the lives of these talented children.



A plaque reads: "Founded as YST by Jack Letsoela in 1993; Funded by the Kadey Family Charitable Corp; Supported by the Gumboots Foundation."



EDUCATION: BOTH PHYSICAL AND MENTAL



The kids love the action after their studies are over



Four bright, spacious classes are conducive to learning

The children arrive at Sakhimfundo at 3pm at the end of their school day where a hot, wholesome meal awaits them ... you cannot study on an empty tummy! Classes commence in the new Learning Centre with online lessons supervised by 11 tutors, and it transforms into a quiet space, enabling them to supplement and uplift their academic performance. Once lessons are over, the centre again becomes a

vibrant, thrumming, dancing hive of activity under the tutorship of Jack and his talented son Zenzele.

Sakhimfundo is now a centre of excellence, providing a stable balance of mental stimulation, physical activity, healthy meals and emotional support ... all in safe and beautiful surroundings of lawns, trees and vegetable gardens.

A WINDOW INTO THE LIFE OF ONE OF THE TALENTED CHILDREN

Lindokuhle Khumalo is one of the group's shining stars (see photo below). She is benefitting from a sponsor's generosity and is attending a once-a-week private dance studio that is really helping her to reach new heights. Lindokuhle attends the United Church School through Gumboots' Phetoho project.





News from our support groups

US Kidlinks World

Kidlinks assists and provides funding for an exchange programme between our projects in Alex and the Kidlinks Small Farm Incubator (KSFI) in the Eastern Cape. This supports our joint regenerative agriculture and food security initiatives. Working with Gumboots youth, KSFI offers them a respite from life in Alex by enabling them to experience life on a working farm.



Students from the youth exchange programme conducting soil tests



Moving the chicken tractor

THE CAITLIN FUND

The Moleko sisters, Mbali and Thandi, continue to live in the Safe House in Alex supported by Ingrid at Ratang Bana. The Caitlin Fund will continue to support both girls while funds last. From October onwards, the fund will also be supporting a young woman, Siyamamkela Vayeka (Siya) who lives in the Eastern Cape. Siya has no parental support and is close to finishing school. The fund will support her for the remainder of this year and for her final matriculation year. She is doing well at school, and we welcome this opportunity to help her complete her studies.



Siya is grateful for the support from the Caitlin Fund.

Gumboots UK

Once again, we're preparing for our annual Christmas Craft Fair. Encouraged by a very successful event last year, we are expanding the event to two days. Combined with the Big Give Christmas Challenge in early December, we hope to raise the funds for another youth exchange project with Kidlinks Small Farm Incubator (KSFI) in the Eastern Cape.

This year's youth exchange group made the most of their month on the farm and returned to Johannesburg all fired up. They have converted a derelict piece of land on the edges of Alex and are now turning it into an organic vegetable garden. With your support we can inspire another group of young people to do the same next year.



... and
DURING...
the new Alex initiative on its way to being a successful organic garden. Watch this space!