

Dear friends of the Foundation House of Encouragement

Our team at Lesedi-Potlana centre is constantly looking out for the wellbeing of each child. They help all of them to develop a healthy sense of self-confidence and remind the children not to be deterred by circumstances and difficulties they face. They continually encourage them to pursue their personal goals with commitment and confidence.

The example of Ofentse Manage shows us once again what can be achieved with perseverance and persistence. She lost her parents when she was nine years old. Her four siblings were split up and she was brought up by her aunt and her aunt's two children. Ofentse was one of the first children to arrive at our orphan care centre in 2011.

A dedicated donation enabled us to sponsor children at a private school. Ofentse was the second child we were able to send to a boarding school in Pretoria. Things have not always gone smoothly for Ofentse in the ten years that she has been in our sponsorship programme. But she was benefiting from the fact that she had been used to daily challenges from an early age. She overcame various setbacks and worked hard to achieve her goal.

With success! On 19 March 2024, we were proud to attend the graduation ceremony at the University of Johannesburg, where Ofentse received her Bachelor's degree in Human Resource Management.



Most of the graduates from the University of Johannesburg - over 90% of the 130 in Human Resource Management - were still looking for work at the time of the graduation ceremony. Ofentse was therefore delighted when she was able to secure a position (a one-year internship) in a law firm. She has started very well in her first job after University.

Another success story is that of Tlabego, currently the only university student in our sponsorship programme. He is in his fourth year of medical study and continues to excel. Last year, Tlabego achieved distinction in four out of six subjects.

Unfortunately, we are only able to support one child at a private school at the moment, as we are no longer receiving enough dedicated donations for individual intellectual furtherance. We hope to be able to send two talented and hard working children from our centre in 2025.

The children at our centre are all orphans. We made an exception in 2016 at the request of the school. At that time there were two girls in the primary school who were in a critical situation at home. Their single mother was an alcoholic and it happened regularly that the mother would disappear for several days, leaving the children, later including a few months old boy, alone. The eldest girl, Sinah, aged 14, had to look after her siblings and the baby. We took the three of them into our centre and worked with a local social worker to find a solution. Eventually, we were able to place the two girls and the little boy in an orphanage in Pretoria. Sinah stayed at home with her mother and attended another school in Soshanguve.



Photo from left: Sinah, Mashadi, caregiver Maria, caregiver Motha, centre manager Charles, Tshepiso, caregiver Kenilwe with little Goitseman during a visit to Desmond Tutu's orphanage.

Later we were able to place the 2 girls with a foster mother we knew, and the boy was looked after by the eldest sister Sinah.



In January, Goitseman, now 6 years old, joined the 1st grade class at Lesedi-Potlana.



Goitseman has never been to preschool, but he is a very bright boy and feels at home with us. All the children have taken the little fighter to their hearts.

Thank you for helping us to also support Goitseman in his development.

Warm regards,

Walter und Estelle Bosshard

Bubikon/Soshanguve 3 June 2024