

Dear friends of the Foundation House of Encouragement

So nice to be back with the extended family. It's always a joyful reunion with the children (picture with the youngest of the family) and the team.



We can see that the foundation on which we began our work almost 18 years ago is still the basis for the care and support of children in need. Our team continues to work responsibly, with heart and soul, in the style we have established.

On her own initiative and because she loves her work and the children, our caregiver Elizabeth Tlhabadira, for example, spends several Saturdays a year with the teenage girls at the centre. Each time she cooks something very special with the girls and discusses a current or chosen topic that particularly affects the young women. This creates an open relationship and a strong basis of trust with everyone, which enables her to support the young people whenever they have problems.



Our centre manager, Charles Mokwena, recently invited the boys to his home for an entire weekend. It was important to him that the boys could experience both physical and spiritual exercise at the same time. On Saturday, he organised a 10km hike with visits to caves and river crossings. In addition to cooking breakfast and dinner together, he taught the young men on various topics, such as how to become righteous young men who can withstand the challenges and temptations of teenage life. We have spoken with three of the young adults about their experience.





When asked what he remembers most about his weekend with Charles, **Kensani** spontaneously replied that the trek taught him never to give up. At first he was afraid to cross the river on a rope, as new and unknown things are always a challenge for him. But now he would know that he can also do such things successfully. At the end of the walk, he was very tired, but also proud of what he had achieved. From the lessons Charles had taught them, he had learned how to be a good person and act responsibly. He wants to be a role model and provide for a family one day.



Koketso began by saying that he had learnt a lot from Charles' lessons over the weekend. He found the guidelines on how to behave when faced with challenges and how to solve the problems associated with them very valuable. He learned to trust God in every situation. The great fellowship and fun of cooking and playing was also very enjoyable. Koketso went on to say that he had already been able to put what he had learned into practice. He was able to talk to a 17-year-old girl who had stopped going home, was hanging around the streets and was in negative company. He was able to motivate her to break away from this circle of friends. The girl's mother is very grateful for it.



Unfortunately, **Michael** was unable to attend the weekend. Therefore, we asked him what it means to him to have been able to come to the Centre for the last 7 years. "When I'm at the centre I'm just happy", Michael answered. "I feel at home and Charles is like a father to me. I can't remember exactly when my parents died. I live with my sister, my grandfather and an uncle and his wife. Since I was very young, I experienced inner anger because my parents had died. In the beginning I used to quarrel a lot here at the centre. But I have learnt to fight this anger and to behave in a friendly and decent way. Now I have courage for my future. I want to become a cook because I love to cook. A dream that will probably never come true is to have my own property and farm. Therefore, I would also love to do an agricultural training programme."

All three will start their final year of school in January 2025. Our aim is to support as many of the school graduates as possible as a first step towards establishing their own livelihoods. We hope and trust that also with your donation, this will be possible for these boys as well.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Walter und Estelle Bosshard".

Walter und Estelle Bosshard

Bubikon/Soshanguve, 7 November 2024