

# THE BEAT

Gumboots Newsletter

• August 2012 •

Gumboots  
www.gumboots.org.za



**THANK YOU** to all our donors who have so generously given support and funds to help improve the lives of the Alex children. To receive our newsletter or become a donor, email [john@gumboots.org.za](mailto:john@gumboots.org.za) or visit our website [www.gumboots.org.uk](http://www.gumboots.org.uk).

**SA WEBSITE APPEAL!** We are still urgently seeking help in updating and refreshing our website. If there is anyone out there who has the time, skills and desire to help, we would be most appreciative.

## Education Fund

As we are all aware, the standard of education in many of our state schools is abysmal, and in our own small way, Gumboots has resolved to focus much of our effort and support to our projects of Alexandra on education. In addition to Leratong Pre-School, over the last few years we have provided assistance to eight children from Sigiya Sonke, and our intention is to expand this initiative into a stand-alone project wherein we increase and continue to grow the number of children we support.

*To date the following has been achieved:*

- A sub-committee has been set up to include specialists in education: responsible for the criteria for selection of children and schools, determining extent of funding and allocation of funds.
- Through generous donations, sufficient funds have been raised to send a minimum of 5 children to private or fee-paying state schools considered to be of a high standard – commencing January 2013.



Puseletsa, Tsholofelo, Mateboga, Mzee - at the end of the UCS day

*Current and previous initiatives:*

- United Church School (UCS) – fees, books, transport and uniforms – 3 children have matriculated during the last two years, and 3 are in Grade 11.
- The Foundation School Melville – fees, books, transport and uniform – the school caters for children with special needs and we currently provide support to one child.
- Tswane University of Technology (TUT) – accommodation, transport & pocket money – through the generous support of one of our donors, accommodation has been provided for one student studying entertainment technology in drama & theatre.



Zinhle is doing well at TUT and is very grateful for the support.

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Winnie cooking up a storm.

## HEALTHY NUTRITION

Children need good nutrition to work and for some of the children the food they receive at Leratong is the only meal of substance they eat that day. Winnie Ntuli has been with the school for six years – preparing healthy meals for approximately 200 children and staff each day. Thanks to the Gumboots' donors, we are able to provide them with breakfast, lunch and tea during their 8-hour (and sometimes longer) day. Stirring the massive pot of samp, Winnie said: *"I'm satisfied in my job – I really like cooking and cleaning. And everything I do is for the children."*

## LERATONG

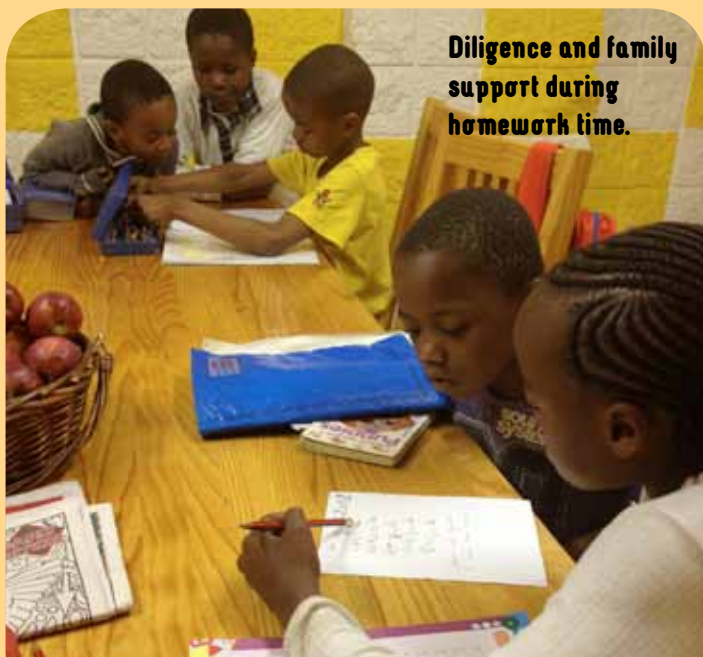


Peggy in her office alongside her portrait.

## LERATONG'S LEADER

The Leratong children and the community are fortunate to have Peggy Chauke as the head of the school. She is an example to all and her wise counsel and fair guidance to the children, parents and staff has helped many a difficult and challenging situation.

**THANK YOU PEGGY!**



Diligence and family support during homework time.

## HOMework FOR THE KADEY KIDS

If you visit the Kadey Home at Leratong, you will find the nine children playing noisily together – but this was the first time I had been there at homework time. Sylvia, their house mother, quietly told them that it was time to settle down, and without a word they gathered around the dining-room table with school cases and books. What touched me was that they spontaneously helped each other with work they were struggling with. A real little family.



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## RATANG BANA

*Thanks to the enthusiasm of the tireless Ingrid and her team of volunteers and grannies, the momentum of the community space is continuing...*

### THE FOOD GARDEN

In spite of frost, no rain and an abundance of rats, the garden is doing well and the grannies and their children continue to harvest fresh veggies. Lymon, the caretaker, is hardworking, diligent, and spends hours on end in the garden, weeding and watering. We are really lucky to have a dedicated somebody like him. And to have the back-up of all the grannies too.

### THE BUILDINGS

It's not only the garden that is growing – the buildings are too. In June the new prefabricated structure was delivered comprising three fully panelled rooms and quickly took shape as Ingrid allocated activities... office, storeroom, meeting room, doctor and health worker area to check the children. We have also built two new fully plumbed toilets with basins. The next job on the agenda is to connect all the buildings with a pergola and paving – and to plant trees and flowers – making it a really beautiful space.



Lymon tending the garden.



The container was so huge it had to be dropped in place with a crane.

### RECYCLING FOR AFRICA

Ingrid has recently initiated a recycling programme where, in return for receiving food parcels, the community has been asked to collect bottles, cans and plastic. By arrangement with Nampak Recycling, bins are to be delivered shortly.



**STOP PRESS**

**No. 1**

**Congratulations to Ingrid's soccer team for being TOP of the ANLFA Under 20s League!**



The Ngubane family of ten.

### WINTER BLANKET DRIVE

The Highveld winter is as harsh as usual and we are grateful to Gwen Abbott, not only for her feeding scheme, but for helping the children with her blanket drive. She was able to get hundreds of blankets donated – two per child – and biscuits and sweets to boot. These were all delivered to the centre and the happy smiles in the photo speak words.

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## SIGIYA SONKE

### WHAT'S UP AT THE WAREHOUSE?

The space is getting a good spring clean... Jack and his team took the initiative recently to upgrade the spacious old factory area downstairs. They painted, polished and moved the dance floor and all the trappings down in preparation for an event for the parents. Beauty was so impressed – the children willingly worked for days on end, *"as long as they had bread and jam and juice"*, and they even nagged to come again. The result was amazing and the show went ahead enthusiastically with some new dances choreographed and participation by new young dancers (including Jack and Beauty's grandson).

They plan to do further training and aerobics in this space. We have also erected fencing and new gates so the building feels more secure and safe.



Eagerly awaiting the performance.

### TSHWANE DANCE THEATRE

Zenzele, Beauty and Jack's son, is nearing the end of year one with the Tshwane Dance Theatre (TDT) and his skills and confidence have grown hugely. He is currently playing Peter in the production "Peter and the Wolf" and Esther, the director, is really proud of him. TDT has offered to train some of Jack's dancers in contemporary dance so that they can grow in confidence and technical skills. It is hoped that TDT will also help to prepare them for performances both at the Warehouse and with the TDT company.

**Zenzele will manage the new programme with the TDT studio.**



Phumlani, Jack's right hand, relaxing in the Warehouse with young dancers.