

THE BEAT

Gumboots Newsletter

• December 2013 •

Gumboots
www.gumboots.org.za



It's that hectic time of year again when we try to tie up the end-of-year loose ends before the fun and festivities kick in. Try to spare a thought for the less fortunate who don't have holidays to escape to and have no presents waiting under a tree. Whatever you are doing, may it be a peaceful time with family and friends. Travel safely.

To receive our newsletter or become a donor, email jenny@gumboots.org.za, phone 082 928 8806 or visit www.gumboots.org.za.

LERATONG PRE-SCHOOL

Dimakhato
with 3 of the
happy children



SANTA SHOEBOX EVENT

All the Gumboots Foundation projects were lucky to be selected for the wonderful Santa Shoebox project. Throughout South Africa, 100 000 children received personalised boxes filled with appropriate gifts. It was a special morning for the children at Leratong with the five classrooms patiently taking it in turn to get their boxes – the shouts of joy rippled between the classrooms – a wonderful thing to witness the children opening their gifts, probably be the only ones they will receive. Dimakhato, the teacher of the 5 year-olds watched with awe as the children unpacked the clothes, toys, stationery, toiletries: "This is amazing. Look how happy they are. Next year I am going to do this with these children so they learn to give, share and make others happy. We'll all bring things and make boxes for those who are in real need."

PEGGY'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

"Thank you for partnering with Leratong Joy for One. Your care, support and involvement in serving the community and society of Alexandra



Peggy, the dedicated teacher and constant caregiver

has made a big impact in our lives. We are Joy for One because of you. The strength and zeal to go on serving and assisting the needy in our communities is inspired by your kindness and good deeds. Keep on doing good. It is the end of the year, may the good Lord protect and guide you always with your families. If you are going away for holidays, may God protect you and keep you safe. Have a blessed festive and hope to see you next year more healthy and stronger in spirit. Thank you once more for your dedication and commitment."

THE NEW KADEY HOME AT LERATONG

The renovations and upgrade of Moss Kadey's children's home are proceeding well. The open-plan living area, dining room, study and kitchen are hoped to be completed in the new year. In the foreground of the photo is Sylvia, one of the dedicated house mothers who has been with the home since its inception seven years ago.

Taking the opportunity to play in the builders' sand



House mother Sylvia

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RATANG BANA

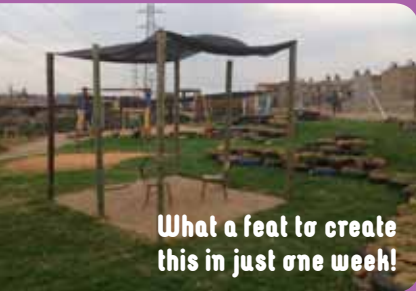


Just check those exciting boxes!

SANTA SHOEBOX VISITS RATANG BANA

The very hot and blustery day that ended in rain, didn't deter the 300 children – they were there from 8am for the 12md kick-off to make sure they got a Santa Shoebox (in fact there were about 200 extra kids who arrived from Alex and were not part of Ratang Bana – who sadly had to leave empty handed). When the Santa crew arrived, there was huge excitement, chaos, noise, confusion – but it was wonderfully festive. Thank you to the Santa Shoebox Team for your generosity, hard work... and stamina!

THE JOAN HOFMEYR PLAYGROUND



What a feat to create this in just one week!

Since the last newsletter, the students from CalPoly, USA have created an amazing playground on the extra land adjoining Ratang Bana. Each student was responsible for a particular area – sandpit in the shape of Africa, the

musical area, slides, drums and tyre swings, sheltered reading spot – in a matter of 5 days, the weedy rubble-ridden space was converted into a grassy, colourful, safe play zone. The area has been fenced and the playground is always full of children. We are hugely grateful for all the creative efforts and time that all the students, Dave Watts and Liza Lightfoot from the US put into making it.

WELCOME TO INGRID'S BABY

We welcome Bathabile Mamphela Mapule Moloi into the Ratang Bana community. She was born on 8 November, a healthy 3.5 kg and is growing strong and beautiful. We all wish Ingrid and Koos many happy years with their little girl. Each new baby born is a miracle and this little one is especially so.



Vivien and her team with the group of future leaders

THE LEADERSHIP CAMP

The first Young Entrepreneurs & Leadership Camp took place in September organised by Vivien Hunt (UK) and EvaLotta Wickström (Sweden) with 12 youngsters from 14–16 and funded by an entrepreneurial competition in the UK, Spain & Sweden. The week was full of learning new skills, building relationships and having fun! The children explored their individual strengths and values, they learnt about good communication, and they practised asking powerful questions. The highlight of the week was a visit from volunteers from Deloitte whom they interviewed about leadership and its challenges. A mentorship programme has now kicked in and the same group of young leaders will meet on a monthly basis in 2014. To be a mentor or meet the group to share information about what it's like in your profession, please contact vivienh@gumboots.org.uk.

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SIGIYA SONKE

DANCING FOR THE SANTA SHOEBOX CROWD

The event kicked off with wonderful dancing by the group to set the scene for the presentation of the gift boxes. The organiser told the group the Santa Shoebox story... "A long time ago there was a shoemaker called Martin who made a pair of white shiny shoes for a special somebody that he didn't yet know. And then one day a little shoeless girl arrived at his door and the shoes fitted perfectly. So now today, each one of you has been specially chosen by someone who has filled your shoebox with personalised gifts because each of you is special too."

The boxes were handed out, the countdown began... and then there was shouting and screaming as they unwrapped the contents. What an amazing day for the children... and also for the onlookers!



The brilliant township jive finale

20TH ANNIVERSARY

In 1993 Jack identified a need for a space where youth could gather and keep off the streets. He started a dance school called Youth Stand Together and for 20 years he has had 100s of young people cross his dance floor. Now called Sigiya Sonke, they meet at the Dance Warehouse 4-5 days a week to be taught diverse dance, socialise, study and relax. With Beauty at his side, they have taught more than just dance, and we salute them both for their dedication and constant care as they celebrate with a 20th anniversary event in December.

A MOVING SUCCESS STORY

Three years ago Jack took on Menzi Dlamini, a young boy of 14 to be part of the group. He was physically disabled from having fallen from a building – he couldn't talk and had trouble with movement and coordination. The children in the group kept their distance. But Jack had faith in him and has coached him and encouraged him along the way. He now dances in the front row with the group; he helps Jack with his admin and organising the other dancers; and he is happy and confident. Both at home and at his school, his family and teachers are astounded – they never believed it would be possible for him to reach these heights. Jack has to be congratulated on once more teaching so much more than just dance – he has made it possible for one boy to believe in himself again.



Menzi is completely enraptured by his Santa shoebox



Jack and his hardworking, talented team

JACK'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

"We as the Sigiya Sonke Dance group would like to take this opportunity to thank you for each and every single thing you did and still doing for us. We want to let you know that we appreciate every little change you bring in our lives with Gumboots Foundation. We would also like to thank the people from Santa Shoebox very much for the beautiful presents that they brought for the kids – they can't stop smiling. That meant a lot to us and the children's parents. May the Good Lord Bless all of you."



PHETOHO EDUCATION

THE SCHOOL LEAVERS AT UCS

Our three older children at the United Church School have finished writing matric and are anxiously waiting their results in January.

Matebogo has grown into a vibrant, confident, hardworking young woman who has done well at school and has shone in the dance group. She was awarded 3 certificates, medals and trophies at the anniversary event! She wants to study psychology next year at Randburg College.



The United Church School Assembly



Matebogo with Mzee's brother Zimvo

Mzee has a bursary for Boston College campus (with a "good behaviour scholarship"). He is still to choose what course he would like to do. This is a great achievement – thanks to the financial support from Graham Allibone.

Phusoletso has registered for Randburg College next year to do a B. Com.



Mzee

THE "FAMOUS FIVE" YOUNGER CHILDREN

The five young Phetoho children have completed their first year and we are so glad we selected them. Their results reinforce our view that the younger they move into the system, the better they do. Congratulations to them all and thank you to all the donors!

- Paballo and Pinky (promoted to Grade 8 & Grade 6 respectively): their results were in the 40s; they will get extra lessons next year
- Khoza (promoted to Grade 3): 64% (94% reading; 81% grammar)
- Lindo (promoted to Grade 2): 82% (98% spelling; 96% maths; 91% grammar)
- Itumeleng (promoted to Grade 2): 63% (88% maths; 87% grammar)