



Newsletter February – March 2008

Opening of our Saturday School Academy



On the 2nd of February we opened the Saturday School Academy. All were very happy and ready to work hard and have fun in a warm and friendly environment. As it was an orientation day the learners were introduced to the new structure of the Saturday School Academy and the new volunteers to assist with academic tutorial and life skills. We now have children from the Democratic Republic of Congo and we offer French classes. 200 learners (ages 4-19) were tested on Mathematics and English.

The Global Fund for Children Visits Teboho Trust

On the 16th of February 2008 we were visited by a Miss Salome Lemma from the Global Fund for Children to assess

our programmes. Judging from her overwhelming comments, she was pleased to witness our growth. Teboho Trust was invited to submit another proposal for funding. She indicated that the Teboho Trust Model is one of the best integrated models for holistic child and adolescent empowerment on the African continent.

Teboho Trust Executive Director Invited to Arusha, Tanzania



The Global Fund for Children (GFC) held a knowledge and sharing exchange workshop with 23 of their grantees that operate programmes and activities to empower children, teens and / or youth. The workshop was held from 17-19 March. The GFC grantees came from across Africa. "It was a great opportunity to network with other people doing amazing work to empower the African child. Teboho Trust will certainly benefit from this network", states Mr. Bright.

Mr. Bright also visited the Massai villages and was amazed at how communities are coming together – men and women – to bring educational opportunities to the remote villages of Tanzania.

Newly Elected Mayor of Teboho Trust



Nthabeleng Koko, was recently elected Mayor of Teboho Trust by the children and teens. She is a grade 12 learner and attends St. Martin de Porres Secondary School. She enjoys reading novels, taking part in extra – murals and playing games. She believes a role model is a person that plays an important role in the society. Nthabeleng is a confident young lady. Her role is to implement the policies established by the ward councilors (class representatives) and lead her cabinet to ensure that the interests of our children and teens are represented in Teboho Trust programmes. She also represents the voice of the children and teens when we have visitors or when invited to participate in other programmes and activities. She has strong leadership skills and has the respect of the Teboho Trust children and teens. Congratulations Nthabeleng!

“We are preparing tomorrow’s leaders today. Become part to the legacy.”

Teboho Trust Children / Teens Elect New Teen Governing Body



As part of our democracy and governance programme, the children and teens elected their governing body for 2008. The teen leadership will participate in developing Teboho Trust programmes and activities as well as to assist in representing the interests and needs of our children and teens. The governing body will undergo leadership development training in order to effectively carry out the roles and functions of their portfolios. The governing body elected are as follows:

Executive Branch: Mayor: Nthabeleng Koko, Deputy Mayor: Ntokozo Mabaso, Minister of Health: Obbie Monthato, Deputy Minister of Health: Tumi Maumakwe, Prosecutor: Simpiwe Mazibuko, Minister of Communication: Lungile Buhale, Minister of Religious Affairs: Showakhe Nene, Police Chief: Xolani Masondo, Deputy Police Chief: Jeniffer Mathaganyane, Minister of Sports, Minister of Culture: Ntokozo Zindela and Minister of Correctional Services: Khotso Lesotho. **Legislative Branch:** Ward Councilor – Grade 7 and below: Sibongile Tshabala, Ward Councilor – Grade 8: Cindy Sebushi, Ward Councilor – Grade 9: Kgomotso Dinane, Ward Councilor – Grade 10: Nkosinathi Radebe, Ward Councilor – Grade 11: Refilwe Kola and Ward Councilor – Grade 12: Thandeka Zwane. **Judicial Branch:** Judges: Lesego Mathaganyane, Busi Ndaba and Nqobile Dlamini.

Discover and experience the Teboho Trust History Makers.

The Johannesburg Zoo Visits Teboho Trust



On the 1st of March, the children were visited by the Jo'burg Zoo. They were so excited to learn about animals, large and small. The children were able to touch such animals including: snakes, rabbits, iguana, turtles and other small animals. The Johannesburg Zoo. Introduce career opportunities at the zoo and the children wanted to learn more. It was the first time most of the 200 children and teens actually saw real live animals. The children were intrigued and very optimistic about knowing more (glowing smiles). They also shared their views on the ecosystem and how to protect the animals.

Teboho Trust Expands and Reaches out to Younger Children



Teboho Trust grows and reaches out to the children ages 4-11. Many of our older children and teens have started to bring their younger siblings to our programmes. Also, many aunts and grannies want their small ones to benefit from our programmes and activities too. We are also grateful to the many volunteers to assist in helping us to provide needed support, especially our primary school teachers Ann and Demetire, Beverly, Simi, Banele, Fundi and Gogo Kathy.

Coach T from IYDO Visits Teboho Trust



On the 6th of March Coach T from the Inspire Youth Development Organization in Washington, DC came and held a workshop to encourage some of our teens to work hard in school and to think of entrepreneurial opportunities all around them. Coach T shared his story of being homeless and turning his situation around through his granny's cookie recipe. With that recipe, he was able to get back on his feet. - cookie business. Because of his plight and desire to help young people, he was able to help the youth to stay in school and take advantage of business opportunities to sustain themselves by establishing Inspire Youth Development Organisation. The teens indicated that they were grateful to Coach T for sharing his story. It gave them hope and motivated them to work hard in school as well as to explore small business opportunities. Thank you Coach T for your visit!

Woolworths Supports Teboho Trust



On the 8th of March, Woolworths committed to feed the children attending our Saturday School Academy. This initiative is highly appreciated as we have experienced a tremendous growth in children and adolescents wanting to benefit from the Academy. As we approach winter, we will be able to provide hot meals so that our children and concentrate on the learning and fun taking place. Unfortunately, this will be the only meal most of our children and teens will have on Saturdays. The Global Fund for Children has assisted in the past to provide warm meals during last winter.

Teboho Trust Children / Teens develop Pledge

The children and teens of Teboho Trust indicated that they are receiving invaluable knowledge, skills and support at Teboho Trust to help them avoid the pitfalls of poverty and the social ills found in the community. They took the initiative to develop a pledge that they felt important to motivate them to work hard and become successful....to be in a position to come back and help the community. They recite the pledge at every gathering of Teboho Trust. Below is the pledge developed by the children:

Teboho Trust Pledge

- I promise to follow and respect the rules and regulations of Teboho Trust.

- I promise to help, share, respect and love others.
- I promise to use the opportunities given to me to achieve my goals.
- I promise to work hard and dedicate myself to produce good marks at school.
- I pledge to stay away from sex, drugs and bad influences and take responsibility for choices I make.

Teboho Trust Teens Create Teboho Trust Anthem

As Teboho Trust continues to grow and strengthen our institutional capacity, so do the children and teens feel the need to do the same. As a result, the children and teens have developed a Teboho Trust Anthem. They wanted to express what they believe Teboho Trust offers them and why they actively participate in our programmes. They now sing this anthem before starting our programmes and end our day with it. Below is our song:

Teboho Trust Anthem

Teboho Trust ya ka entle ooh ooh
(*Teboho Trust you are beautiful ooh ooh*)
Young, gifted, superb and bright x 2
We are love and joy and peace and hope x 2
Teboho Trust, you are the one I want
Your are the drink to quench our thirst

Each and every day I come
Something good will make me smile
The thought and spirit of being here
Makes my heart and soul.....
Feel good x 4

Every time I come to Teboho Trust
I gain knowledge, strength and a spiritual
vibe
Teboho Trust you give me skills to survive
The streets of the township
I'll be a success
I'll be a real man
Thanks to you,
I'll be the best!
You open my heart to love myself!
You helped me to help my community at
large
Teboho Trust ya ka entle ooh ooh x 2
(*Teboho Trust you are beautiful ooh ooh*)

Learner's Page

A CHILD IS THE GREATEST GIFT

"A child is the greatest gift that our lives can bestow

She brings the most exquisite joy that we will ever know

Some days deliver happiness for more than we can touch

We need the help of all our friends to comprehend how much we care

And so we thank you for the gifts

Both those you brought and that celebrate this rich, full life and its rising star"



by: Lungile Buhale

YOUNG CREATORS

Young Creators – a small business owned and operated by the teens of Teboho Trust – was conceived late last year. The goal of Young Creators is to empower the teens with business skills, master training in arts and crafts and educate the community on small business development.

We are currently finalising our business plan and we will register a cooperative in the next few months. The business will consist of 100 teens from Soweto that are all part of Teboho Trust programmes and activities. We all are talented, creative and innovative in using the medium of arts and crafts to help us to help ourselves.

The structure of Young Creators has top and middle managers in order to

increase our leadership skills as well as to ensure that all products will be produced within quality standards. We have already started training on how to make and design certain products and have been testing the market for their demand. Specific products that will be sold in the cooperative include: beaded jewellery, handmade greeting cards, several books (e.g., short stories, poems and photography), lip balm, music CDs of our choir, paintings, wood carvings and pottery.



Visitors to Teboho Trust are very happy to purchase our products, like the fragrant soaps above. All of our products are eco-friendly and are selling well now. Once we are registered, we will open the business bank account and work hard to obtain large orders. In this way, we can have the adults caring for us to help us make the products so that they can be paid for their labour and meet their household requirements of food, clothing etc. for us children. We will also establish a deferred dividend compensation account for our in order to have funds available to attend university. Mr. Bright, a social entrepreneurship expert, will continue to incubate us to ensure that we are sustainable and successful. This is an amazing opportunity!

Teboho Trust Teens Take American Visitors on Tour of Historic Soweto



A group of American tourists wanted to visit Soweto but their tour guide cancelled at the last minute. Our teens, on school holiday, took the visitors to important landmarks of Soweto (e.g., Hector Pieterse Museum, Mandela's Family House Museum, lunch at Sakhumzi Restaurant and a walk around the historical neighbourhoods. The teens also shared their stories and home and school environments with the visitors. The visitors (including: Adelaide, Bill Buckner, and Lorie Steedley and Rosie Allen-Herring) were very impressed with our teens. They were touched by the special tour and an real opportunity to have a time to interact with today's youth of Soweto.

Volunteers Are Making the Difference at Teboho Trust



It has become my great pleasure recently to become involved with the wonderful family of the Teboho Trust. It has been a privilege to work with such fine people who are so driven to improve their situation and to take responsibility for that what needs to be done.

These young people, with the guidance of Jose Bright, are driven with a passion for success in school and to build their community. I became aware of what it took to become part of this very driven bunch of youngsters. I had 3 children to stay the night at my home and teach them various hobbies of mine they could use for their business. I had an introduction on how to work really hard and to pay attention to every detail until the task was completely finished. I was exhausted and these three young ladies just shone. They could not get enough information and they constantly wanted to keep trying something new until no stone was left unturned.

Over 150 children attend the Saturday Academy where they improve their academic knowledge in the hope that they will be able to further their education after school. Thabiso Maesela runs the school. He is adored by the children who range from preschool age to matric. It is always amazing to see the older members who are now at university keep coming on Saturday to help out and see how their family is doing.

David Rantho and Thabiso Maesela run the office. It is a wonderful place of safety. The older children look out for the younger ones and if they find anyone in distress in the community, they introduce them to the family. The way they are welcomed into this family is amazing to see. No words can explain the way these young people accept each other and silently reach out to each other. I witnessed one of the older young men bring in a young child who was obviously in distress. He was immediately accepted and incorporated

into the tasks being done. The child relaxed and fitted in straight away.

Thabang Maboya Joins Staff

Mr. Maboya is a native Sowetan with great experience in counselling children and teens. We are grateful to have him join Teboho Trust as our socio/psycho counsellor. He has designed counselling programmes for our children and families. He will run life skills workshops for our adolescents. He will also assist in designing personal empowerment and social development camps as well as to conduct aptitude assessments. He studied at Vista Soweto where he enrolled for a BA Degree majoring in Psychology and Education, also Sociology and English. Upon completion of his junior degree he registered for a B.Ed (Hons) in Psychology of Education. After completing his studies, he volunteered his services at the Takalani School for Mentally Challenged, Diepkloof, Soweto to get more experience in Special Needs Education. Later he went to Bee Courtwise, at the Johannesburg Central Police Station, where he dealt with Trauma Debriefing for the victims of crime. This is where he initiated the Adopt-A-Cop project aimed at bridging the gap between schools and the police. The project was a success and led to his recruitment by the South African Sexual Health Association, through Pfizer as their sexual health counsellor. Part of his responsibilities has involved teaching sex education to schools and first year psychology students at universities. He also conducted workshops for companies and institutions such as the Reproductive Health Research Unit, Lovelife, Planned Parenthood Association of South Africa. He is a founder member of the Youth4Life an organization dealing with HIV/AIDS among the youth, sponsored by the Department of Social Development and monitored by the Human Science Research Council. Among his achievements is a high success rate with clients he's

encountered. The highlight of his career was being selected to chair a session in the 1st Congress on Sexuality held in South Africa. He will certainly add a lot of value to the lives of our children and teens.

Meet Thabiso Maesela – Our Project Manager for the Saturday Academy



My name is Thabiso Maesela born and raised in Duple Village Soweto. I was born on the 26th of February 1985 at Florence Nightingale Hospital as a premature. I have a mother, grandmother, one brother and two sisters, well for my father I don't know where he is. I finished my matric in 2003 and did a course in Graphic Designing for two years but did not complete the course due to complicated circumstances. Then late January 2007 I was introduced to Teboho Trust by a very good friend of my David Rantho (I take him as a brother), he told me that I should come and help not just other people but myself because at the time I was suffering from depression. As I was to meet these beautiful people it was very appealing to me seeing them doing the wonderful work to change lives. This of course was one of my ambitions in life to not just think of myself but for others. This kind of spirit I had came from my background and the encouragement my grandmother gives me all the time. In Teboho

Trust I learnt a lot especially when I meet Mr. Jose Bright, the founder of the organization. This man is a person that I still live to learn to understand; hence I see and learn so much from him everyday of my life. He has taken up his life for others not just to assist but to also empower beyond limited grounds. I also have to say that my skills have been increased very highly ever since I've been here. In my memories I know I have always wanted to be a leader and touch lives. In high school I was a leader for three years and now I am a leader of my own life. I feel that God has blessed me through all my prayers. I feel he has answered me. They say the time of pain comes and goes. It all depends on the faith of one man whether to find a way to good change or be controlled by the background you never chose. I am a project manager for Teboho Trust and this position is making me feel proud of myself not just because of being a manager but to give me the drive on to learn more and experience more on leadership qualities. I would like see more children in the township to be developed the same way I have been because it only takes commitment and trust to over power a negative situation. The learners in the Saturday School Academy Programme give me faith every time when I see and talk to them because they let me see so much out of life, as I am always trying to give advice and be a big brother to them. These learners come from different backgrounds but they still have the courage to work harder in what's right for their lives. They are very intelligent, respective and have a pretty good sense of humour. If they were to ask me what to change about Teboho Trust well nothing but

instead need to provide all the resources to push the movement of success for future generations. I may be still young, but the knowledge I possess and still will acquire will stay with me for life. The pages of my book of life are still to be unfolded as I am going on pushing the spirit of change to the young people at large.

Teboho Trust Newsletter Team:

Lungile Buhale – Journalist (student)
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Jose Bright – Editor (Executive Director)

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