

APRIL – JUNE

2010

TEBOHO TRUST

# NEWSLETTER

## SOUTH AFRICA WORLD CUP 2010!!!



**TEBOHO TRUST FEEL IT, IT IS HERE!!!**

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## World Cup Fever Hits Teboho Trust

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On 11 June, the World Cup arrived for the first time on African soil. In 2006 FIFA announce the 2010 host country as South Africa. We all cheered and counted the days to have such a big event to land on our shores. New state of the art Stadia have been built. Our highways were widened to accommodate the increased traffic. A new bus systems – Reya Vaya - is now operational and we have a new fast train; Gautrans. People are saying that this event is bigger than the first democratic elections that rocked the world back in 1994. The World Cup is really unifying all South Africans to truly reflect the concept of the rainbow nation – one people, many colours. The tourists are surprised at our infrastructure and friendly people. Many say that South Africa is quite surprising, as it does not fit the stereotype of Tarzan, forests and lots of wild animals everywhere.

Below, our children and staff share their views and experiences on this global event happening in their back yard:

### Comments from our Children:

South Africa is hosting the 2010 World Cup; everyone is excited to see different parts of the world coming together to watch the beautiful game. This World Cup event is a huge experience and also beneficial in terms of opportunities for our people. I think about a man who made all this possible; a legend who fought for freedom - Mr. Nelson Mandela, I honour this man because it is happening in our country during my life time. **Cindy Sebushi (Grade 10)**

I have always asked myself, “What would happen if the World Cup were to come to our country?” I never thought it would be this soon! It all happened so fast! The World Cup to me is a dream come true for Africa. The Cup in South Africa means a lot to us people; the fans. I mean the whole world is here to fill up the stadiums fan parks, streets and hotels. The benefits from this event will help some overcome poverty. Some will change their lives financially. Others will get jobs and the country will gain respect that was taken away from us by those who said, “...we will not be able to host the World Cup.”

**Ndabezinhle Mntambo (Grade 10)**

For the first time in my life, I got a chance to stand up as a proud South African! It means a lot to me as a young person. There are many things that I am proud about my country. Some people around the world don't get a chance to learn about the different cultures. We have eleven official languages. Ever

since the FIFA president pulled out the card that said the World Cup would be held in South Africa, that was the day I started to feel it because it was already there. Many people said bad things about my country. But my country has a lot to offer. As an African, I am so proud of my country and keep a positive attitude about my country. I knew that some people would change and expand their worldviews. I know that one day we will all unite and become one. Looking around the World, I know there is no place like my country. You can look for other places with better views but you will never see anything like South Africa and that is Ayoba!!! **(Nomaswazi Mkhwanazi – Grade 10)**

This World Cup...what it means to me? It is like a dream come true! It's like I am dreaming, but it is happening for real it is here! So being South African is what I am and seeing other countries makes me happier than ever. Back then, we would have been separated, but because of freedom, we are now together as one. I'm proudly South African and being one makes me happier as this World Cup brings joy to the people all over the world. We have been waiting for this year to come and now it is here! Being here watching the World Cup at the fan park, I'm feeling it cause it is here, proudly wearing a soccer t-shirt showing support to our Bafana Bafana team is what is really important. South Africa rocks with everything from the people to the places. It means a lot to us. Sharing what we do as South African is also something else we need to do to give our visitors a memory of a lifetime. We also need to teach them words and phrases in our eleven official languages and the culture of our different traditions. But in short I just want to say that this is a huge opportunity for all South Africans as this may only happen once in our Continent and we have to enjoy it till the last whistle of the final match. **(Zinhle Mabaso – Grade 11)**

Having a chance to host the FIFA World Cup, it means everything to me. I finally feel normal as all the other people in the world are in my country to share our heritage and it feels good that the blood shared in South Africa to fight against apartheid and discrimination didn't spill for nothing. South Africa and the whole of Africa are beautiful. In the past, some whites held a false belief about us Africans. They said we were “monkeys or baboons”. We are just normal human beings like all others. Africa must unite and be one like the United States of America. Whites are welcomed to our nation. “No discrimination” the greatest thing is that the World Cup is in our country for the first time ever and it will

be played on the African soil. Bafana Bafana we support and salute you in this World Cup tournament! (**Wandile Mosia – 10**)

### ***The World Cup Opening Concert:***

Our children are always working hard to understand their work in class and at the Teboho Trust Saturday Academy. The Grade 10 learners this time around were given an opportunity to experience the South African World Cup in style. Ms Yvette Babb, our Maths and Economics facilitator, gave the Grade 10 learners a Mathematics assignment /competition. The main aim for this assignment was to math math real and part of every day life. Specifically, the competition was based on finding a better method for people using wheel chairs to maneuver in a school that doesn't have a path for people using wheel chairs. They had to provide illustrations using creative drawings and mathematical formulas to show the measurements and designs of the physical structure of the path recommended.

Ms. Babb excited the learners when she announced the prize; two tickets to the World Cup Opening Concert at Orlando Stadium in Soweto. On the 5<sup>th</sup> of June, Ms Yvette was ready to give away the two tickets to the two top learners for the assignment. Ntando Banda and Cindy Sebushi won the ultimate prize to go to the World Cup Concert that was held on the 10<sup>th</sup> of June 2010. The learners had a great time with Ms Yvette Babb as they commented that it was one in a million seeing those celebrities (Hugh Masekele, Angelique Kidjo, Knaan, Parlotones, Alicia Keys, Black Eye Peas, Big Freshly Ground, Soweto Gospel Choir, Vusi Mahlasela, Nuz, Shakira, John Legend, Blak Jas and many more African and International stars). Cindy, exclaimed, "I couldn't believe that all of these stars were in one space and we were singing and dancing to the beautiful music for the 2010 World Cup tournament that awaited!" Nthando stated, "For three hours, we danced, sang and just enjoyed being with over 30,000 people from all over the world at the concert!" We want to thank Ms Yvette Babb for sharing such a wonderful experience with our teens, as they will never forget this experience! They will live with the happy memories of the concert for the rest of their lives. Ke Nako! (It's time!) ...*feel it, it's here!*

### ***The Teboho Trust Staff Invited to Witness a World Cup Game:***

On the 15<sup>th</sup> of June the staff was in high spirits for the World Cup fever as Mr. Raymond Ledwaba, our accounting facilitator gave four tickets for the 12<sup>th</sup> match World Cup soccer game to the Teboho Trust

staff. The game between Slovakia and NewZeland at the Rustenburg Royal Bafokeng Stadium kicked off at 13h30. The park and ride atmosphere was amazing. It was filled with many people and the now famous South African soccer sound; the loud noise coming from the vuvuzelas.

The stadium was 95% full, mostly with South African fans. During the game people were creating their own fun by singing, dancing and making a lot of vuvuzela noise. The colours of the South African flag were all over the stand. There were two guys conducting a Mexican wave in our stand, though it was not done perfectly. The response was great as we tried to follow what we have seen only on TV before.

It was a tough match were both teams ended up playing a one all draw. It was a wonderful experience for the staff. We are truly grateful for the experience, though there was a breeze from the cold front. We also like to thank Mr. Bright - Teboho Trust Executive Director for providing the staff with transport fare and lunch. The staff was excited to experience the World Cup fever to a life game.

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## **QUARTERLY NEWS**

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### **Spiritual Health For Our Children and Volunteers**

On The 3rd of April 2010, Melisha Smith and Brenda Malukeke visited Teboho Trust from the Sunshine Centre; an organisation that works with children with disabilities. Their organisation was formed in 1976 by Ms Sylvia Langrooven, her main priority was to establish a society for "loved and wanted" children. The main aim of their visit to Teboho Trust was to educate our children on other children in the community with disabilities. It was important to make our children aware of children in the same community that are differently abled in order to improve the state of our community and give true meaning of the word "Ubuntu" (being human by connecting with all humans). On this cold day all the children / teens assembled in a classroom to receive information on disability month. In order to make the experience fun, they then went marching outside to play games to relax a bit from the serious information on children with disabilities. One would simply think they were tired but they had the energy to jump up and down, dance to the Mc Donald's and Kentucky Fried Chicken songs and just be happy to be together. Everyone was astonished at the challenges children with disabilities encounter, but

they raved with soaring hearts from the stories of hope they heard. This day made it possible for our children to have compassion and see other children with disabilities as children too with the same needs and wants. We would like to thank the Sunshine Centre for uplifting our learner's spirit to be inspired to be a better individual in the society.

### **The World Cup Brings Human Trafficking to South Africa**



On the 10<sup>th</sup> of April 2010 a group of young people from the Kings Kids Johannesburg, came to impart important safety information to over 300 of our children. King's Kids International began in 1976 in Hawaii under the leadership of Dale and Carol Kauffman. Since then, hundreds of teams have ministered throughout Asia, the Pacific, the Americas, Western and Eastern Europe, Africa and the Middle East. These wonderful people visited us at Teboho Trust to make our community - young and old - aware that human trafficking is here, especially during the World Cup. They shared valuable information through singing, pantomime, acting and dance. Everyone was amazed by the theme of the programme and had the opportunity to grasp a lot of information as their eyes were totally focused on what the visitors had in store for them. From one scene to the next, they kept on giggling with amusement and later expressed pain, as other scenes were very intensive and emotional to watch. This whole event highlighted the importance of becoming aware of human trafficking and not fall into the pitfalls of becoming another victim. Specifically we learnt the stages of human trafficking: 1. Taken; 2. Trapped; and 3. Exploited. It provided needed information on what to do if you find yourself in any of these stages. It made all present aware of the challenges that our nations are faced with in regards to drugs, child slavery and prostitution. We would

like to thank Mr. Ad and Mrs. Karin Scheurwater for giving us such an experience. It has really helped us to empower our learners and community be cautious of strangers that may try to abduct them. We also extend our gratitude to Miss Monique Griffith for making this day possible by inviting this great team.

### **Our Young Women Celebrate their Achievements**

On the 16<sup>th</sup> of April 2010 twenty-two young women who participated in the Young Woman Empowerment Project celebrated the end of their successful completion of the project. On this day the young women were acknowledged in the community with a graduation ceremony at Ubuntu Kraal here in Orlando West, Soweto. This project was



sponsored by the Embassy of Finland and in partnership with Youth Development Trust. The young women worked very hard to complete the training and it's important to publically celebrate their achievements. The graduation was so wonderfully decorated and all were proud to hear the speeches from the graduates. The young women were beautifully attired and looked the part of successful businesswomen. Ms Kifilwe Mahoa of YDT organized the graduation and decorated the hall. The young women walked with pride to collect their certificates. The young women are so grateful to getting this opportunity as they are now taking all their time to finish their business plans and registering their businesses so they can get started. Watch this space for more news on these up and coming young businesswomen. Again, thanks to the Embassy of Finland for their financial support and to YDT for making this day possible.

### **Teboho Trust Evicted From Phefeni Senior Secondary School**

On the 17<sup>th</sup> of April 2010 was a very depressing day for the Teboho Trust family as we were evicted from the secondary school where we've operated our Saturday Academy since August 2006. We were quite shocked that the School Governing Body wanted us out in order to make room for back packers to reside at the public school during the World Cup. At that instant the staff and volunteers

of Teboho Trust were very terrified for the children as this is like a second home for us all. Our parents and guardians were outraged and wanted to take destructive action. We were all puzzled as to making back packers a priority over orphan, vulnerable and at-risk children / teens in Soweto who were interested in their education and well being. In order to take action that would be a good example to our children, the Sowetan adults were persuaded not to burn houses down, toyi toyi and cause civil unrest. Instead, we appealed to the media to help us find another suitable venue to house our Academy that reaches over 400 children / teens. We were heard by the media and given a platform to share our plight. Specifically we went to John Robbie's 702 Talk Radio morning show, Kgmotso's Breakfast Show on Khaya FM and The Star Newspaper; Soweto Edition. The story was simple; orphan, vulnerable at at-risk children were evicted from a public school where they were working hard to improve their academic performance. The media assisted to us getting the attention of National, Provincial and Local Government. Our parents / guardians and community gathered over 500 signatures on a petition to government to find a suitable home for Teboho Trust. As a result, we have been visited by the Provincial Department of Education to find a solution to house Teboho Trust in the community. Mr. Bright, our Executive Director, said, "I try to look at the positive in all that happens. I am happy that this happened as it brought us all closer together in the community and made us even more committed to ensure that our children that are orphan, vulnerable and / or at-risk benefit from this new democracy from public property that is unused. Moreover, it put Teboho Trust on the map and gave our community skills on how to get government to respond to their basic needs in a positive and constructive manner." We will continue to hold government accountable to their political and service delivery promises to our children and community. We are certain that Teboho Trust will have a permanent home shortly!

### **No Saturday School on May 1, Due to Eviction**

Teboho Trust has been working hard to find a home for the organization but with the lack of assistance from community councilors and local government officials. It felt that our contribution to empowering our children and community were in vain to government. The leadership was ready to phase out Teboho Trust programmes and activities, as we felt unwelcomed by government. Rather than cancel the

Saturday Academy, we took over 300 children / teens on the 1<sup>st</sup> of May on an educational / recreational trip. On a very cold morning, the children and teens were gathered outside the Phefeni Senior Secondary School in their bright orange and yellow t-shirts. They were eager to learn where they were going for the day. There were many tourists that morning on Vilakazi Street just opposite of the school near Mandela's House. This was certainly a perfect picture to watch but this was soon to change when we announced that they were going to the Sci-Bono Discovery Centre. Everyone started shouting and chanting next to their parents asking for consent forms, others excitedly screamed at the Learner Governing Body to get a place in the bus while many were simply calm, waiting impatiently to board a bus and embark on their fun day of



learning. When they arrived to Sci – Bono Discovery Centre in Newtown Johannesburg it seemed to be a fairy tale for many people. Every child looked bright with their new Teboho Trust t-shirts and kept buzzing with huge smiles that were filled with happiness. The 15 adult chaperones and five staff members were also excited and proud that our children would benefit from the outing. Before the Teboho Trust group entered the Sci – Bono Discovery Centre, the Centre's tour team divided everyone into teams. The only thing they could hear was the screeching sound of stones as every child passed by the walkway to reach the main entrance of the venue. The first thing that was said to the learners before they could experiment in "Albert – Einstein" lab was: "The reason you are here is to learn and interpret science in a fun way!" In so doing, all the groups marched their way to different experiences from a water tornado, Newtown's Cradle to Maglev trains that are propelled by magnetic repulsion. The centre was definitely a lot of fun! The children / teens also got a chance to play soccer, as our country is the host for the 2010 World Cup tournament. Nkosinathi Radebe, a Grade 12 learner, was the best soccer

player. Throughout the visit, the faces of our children / teens had huge smiles and they were astonished that science in every day life was interesting and entertaining. Every time something was simplified through experiments, their faces lit up with proud smile and shouts of “ah-haa”! It was then time for the learners to see the real experiments where every learner from grade 8 – 12 had mixed emotions; the experiments were based on the most abundant gases on earth. The learners we highly informed about science on this day as they shared their views on how important it is to know about the changes and cycles of technology and science. The food as well was very nutritious and mouth watering, as the learners couldn't stop helping themselves to seconds and thirds. We thank the Sci – Bono Board giving us free admission to the Centre. A special thanks to the Centre's touring team: Molebohang Mofokeng, Nomsa Tshabalala, Laurence Moakemela, Phumlani Galane, Christina Raphohlelo, Masike Mosikare, Dikgang Mofokeng, Refiloe Pico, Thembi Sibanyoni and Goitsemodime Nyokong for giving our learners such great experience. Thank you Mrs. Kay Schirmer for organizing such a great place for our learners and the other Teboho Trust staff members for making sure that the day ran smoothly. We are most grateful to our chaperones

### **The Saturday Academy Continues and Becomes Even Better!**



On the 8<sup>th</sup> of May we were humbly welcomed by Mr. Kganana (Principal) of Herbert Mdingi Adult Centre in Orlando East to house our Saturday Academy on a temporary basis. This day was filled with tension and a lot of work as many were not really familiar with the new venue and we had to put together a map with directions to the new venue for our volunteers. We also had to organize to get our cooking equipment to the new venue. But never the

less, the learners came in large numbers to enjoy the Saturday Academy new temporary residence. All were impressed as the school was clean, litter free and the toilets were also clean. Many had to walk further than before to get to the new venue. This new venue has been of great benefit to our younger learners as now they can run and play in a open field ground and even just hang round to clear their heads after the classroom sessions. It's great to see so many yellow and orange t-shirts having fun with recreational and sports activities. We've also attracted the children from the Orlando East community as well as the children of the adults that attend the Adult Centre.

We want to thank Ma Flora Radebe, Ma Zenzile Buhale, Sister Lebo, Mr. Matthews Ngidi and Mr. J Bright for working together to organize this temporary venue for the Saturday Academy. Teboho Trust is a growing organisation that is always looking forward to the building young minds to reach their full potential and become better people in the society.

### **Blessings Are Always On The Menu At Teboho Trust**



On the 15<sup>th</sup> of May we were visited by Rev. Robert Kirk and his gracious wife, Rev. Diana Kirk; a very loving couple from the Atlanta, Georgia in the United States of America. They came to Teboho Trust so they could learn more about who we are and at the same time to inspire our learners to have faith in God and themselves. The Kirks had the opportunity to give our Grade 8 – 9 learners a spiritual session that helped them to get more in touch with themselves and asked questions that helped them to learn more about God and their walk with God. The session was an eye opener to most in the classroom. The Pastors even shared their experiences of walking in

faith to the learners. Afterwards, they met with the grades 4-7 under a huge tree on the grounds to talk about God and their walk with God. This spiritual session inspired our children to learn more about their walk with God and to know that God loves them very much. We want to thank George and Nomvula Cook for bringing the Kirks and Mr. J Bright for encouraging them to visit us. We all hope that they can come again to inspire more of our learners and adults so that we can build a better world for all through God's love.

### The Teboho Trust Sets Its Flag in Motion



As we all know that South Africa is the host for this year's World Cup tournament and as you can identify there will be thirty-two countries participating. In these thirty-two countries every country has a flag that represent the culture, customs and traditions of the actual country. So in this regard, Teboho Trust wanted to the people that make it a wonderful place to be and to express its culture of our organization that attracts so many to us. It was decided that Teboho Trust too, must have its flag to create patriotism of the children and community in the organisation. Thus, we held a competition to all of our children, staff members, volunteers, supporters, parents and guardians and community to design a flag using our four primary colours whereby the flag would represent our organisation. Well we must say the competition was a huge success as we had the opportunity to see more talent and potential from our stakeholders. But at the end of the day there had to be a winner. It was a difficult choice to choose among so many creative designs. The prizes offered were: for the Third a vuvuzela, second the mascot Zakumi stuff animal and first position a large South African Flag. All prizes were to encourage our community to feel the spirit of the World Cup and support Bafana Bafana. On 29 May, the prizes were handed out. It was an exciting day as we watched a

slide show of the top 12, to 6 and then the top 3. The third prize went to Vanessa Koba, a Grade 6 learner. Second prize went to Phindile Yende, one of our young women who participated in our young women empowerment project. Our first prize went winner was Mandisa Magazi, a Grade 8 learner. We want to say congratulation to all the participants for making the effort to design a flag to represent Teboho Trust. We want to thank Mr. Thabiso Maesela for planning and organising a successful competition. We also want to thank Mr. Bright for organizing the prizes and our Judges Ma Granny, Mr. Kagiso, Mr. Kgotso for making an informed decision on who won the flag competition. We believe that our flag will unite us all and will become a symbol that brings many good memories and makes us proud to be part of such an amazing family; Teboho Trust.

### A Symbol of Promise – Our Flag



Over the years, Teboho Trust has become a centre of excellence in the community. Our achievements are now being heard near and far. As we believe in the growth of our learners and adults in the community, we felt that we needed something that would represent the voices of Teboho Trust. A few years ago, the learners created their own pledge and anthem. They say the pledge whenever together for programmes and activities and then sing their song. It was only a natural progression for them to have a flag to symbolize their pledge and anthem. On the 22<sup>nd</sup> of May we decided to arrange a competition for our learners, adults, volunteers and supporters to design a significant flag that represent our qualities and values, we used the elements of the meaning of our four colours:

- Black = the community;
- White = Purity, peace and faith;
- Yellow – Our younger children; Grades R-7 Growth as well as hope and light and growth;
- Orange – Our teens; Grades 8-12 as well as knowledge, Ubuntu and our future

So through this initiative we had judges to tell us about the designs, as there were so many to choose from. The learners and our adults worked very hard to come up with creative flags for Teboho Trust. We thank all that participated in this exciting project. We now have a flag; a pure symbol of who we are and what we stand for.

### **Motivation is Innovation and Food to Bring Out The Best**



On the 17<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup> of May 2010, a knitting project coordinated by Ms Zenzile Buhale was held at the Teboho Trust office in Dube Village. The project was focused on engaging the Teboho Trust parents and guardians to give back to the children in need in our organization. Moreover, winter was fast approaching and we know that most of our children would be without winter wear. This successful project consisted of 17 women, many of which were grandmothers, aunts, mothers and sisters of the Teboho Trust learners. They all gathered every morning at the office and demonstrated such commitment, talent and creativity in designing and producing such beautiful one-of-a-kind knitted scarves. The women were able to produce over 120 scarves for the learners with cheerfulness and happiness in less than two weeks. They always came to the office in excitement and vibrancy; singing and adulating when knitting and getting to know each other even more. Mum Zodwa Masondo commented, this project was a therapy for me and supported me mentally. Mum Thembeni Mjiako received a first prize for knitting more than 23 scarves. She deserves the prize because she said every night she slept at 3.00 a.m. in order to finish just another scarf for another child. The prize given was a artistic painting by a local artist of a granny knitting a scarf. All were blown away by the prize and MaMjiako said she would cherish the gift and remind her that she is helping children to keep warm this winter. Mr. Bright said he was amazed at the talent of the group to the point that the women couldn't see their talent in producing something so beautiful that could sell in high-end shops. The project gave a sense of understanding of the role a woman has in our community. The statement, "You strike a woman, you strike a rock," still exist in our community. The workshop was a huge success. I would like to thank Mr. Bright for thinking and advising us to think of the children during this cold winter. Thank you also to Mr. Bright's mum and



On the 29th of May 2010, Mr. Doron Geber; a motivational speaker, visited us. He came to the Saturday Academy to motivate our Grade 8-12 learners for their mid term exams. He shared a lot of points about how the mind works and the fact that the sub conscious mind dominates our attitudes, beliefs and behaviours. He gave many examples and explained the process of how people use their mental thinking capacity via the conscience and subconscious. The topic was very interesting as most of the learners could understand how their fears and the negativity pushed upon them limited their outcomes. They asked many questions and felt empowered to do much better on their mid-term exams. The learners definitely want Mr. Doron to come back to do more sessions with them. We want to thank Ms Louise Bick for motivating Mr. Doron to visit us and impart such needed information to our teens. We are sure that our teens will perform even better with the right mindset.

### **Teboho Trust Grannies and Mums Bring Warmth To 120 Needy Children**

sisters (Lillian & Rita and Carla) for donating the wool and knitting needles. Moreover, thanks to 17 volunteers who were present to make the project an unforgettable one with their beautiful scarves.

### **Arts & Crafts Project Initiated with a Bang for Teboho Trust Adults**

Parents and guardians of Teboho Trust and Sowetan community members have joined forces to form an Arts & Crafts Co-operative. It all started with the knitting project. We now have 20 full-time members with an additional 15 more that come in to learn how to bead and will assist on an as need basis. We are working with Mom Patronella from the City of Jo'burg, Department of Community Development; Directorate of Human Development. She brought along Mom Sonto who is our trainer. At the moment the group made badges of the South African flag and Mum Patronella took them for sale at the stadium for the World Cup games. The group is committed and they already have great plans. They are now busy drafting their constitution and business plan in order to register the cooperative. They have given themselves a deadline 29 June 2010 to finish and approve both documents.

The beading workshop started on the 27<sup>th</sup> of May 2010 to set the rules and a starting day. They started the training on the 31<sup>st</sup> of May 2010 with 15 members. When times goes where they had three new members and are hoping for more. They are meeting four days a week from Mondays to Thursdays. They have set aside Tuesdays as their day to take care of administration matters. They currently have 20 committed Teboho Trust parents / guardians and community members that will become members of the Co-operative.



They currently have an order to bead 109 vuvuzelas with Ndebele designs for Coca-Cola for the World Cup semi-finals and Final. We have partnered with

one other community enterprises (Orlando Arts & Crafts Cooperative) to satisfy the order. We are thankful to Mr. Colpo at Enterprise Development Alliances for organising a financial contribution from Sedgman South Africa to fund the start-up of this project and eventually to help it register a cooperative enterprise that will benefit many households in our community.

Watch this space for more information on the name as well as the management team and board members of the Cooperative. Also, they will definitely get more orders for their products as their work is made with quality, beauty and creativity.

### **Teboho Trust Staff Assists Local NGO- Sunshine Centre**

On the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of June 2010, Teboho Trust was invited to host a workshop for the Sunshine Centre World Cup holiday programme. These days were filled with information, wisdom and experience, as the age group for this workshop was critical (age 13 – 18). The workshop was based on an Art therapy session for personal empowerment; it dealt with “Personal Identity” the most important thing that young people don’t really understand. It was very interesting to listen and to try and understand the different backgrounds that the young people were coming from. Some were very emotional through the process. Mr. Thabiso Maesela from Teboho Trust facilitated the workshop and provided the young people with necessary skills to learn more about themselves and in understanding their lives better. After the theoretic work was done, the teens were given a chance to express what they learnt on paper, as they painted their emotions and feelings on paper. On the last day, they then had the opportunity to present to everyone their ideas and emotions regarding their identity. This experience was very intensive as most of the learners became aware of who they are through this workshop. Mr Thabiso Maesela was blown away by their presentations. He said, “I never expected such a response from the young people hence again I have learnt so much from them. I didn’t think they would open up and share such vulnerability. Moreover, I didn’t expect to hear them motivate each other through their presentations. Most of the children come from dire realities (e.g.,



orphans, rape, abuse, etc.) and they had so much to share with their peers to help them overcome the negativity.” We need to build our communities through skills development so they can break the chains of dependency to better their chances and to become better providers for their families and individual lives. We would like to thank the Sunshine Centre for giving Thabiso such an opportunity to engage with the teens and help them to help themselves in this challenging world we live in.

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## TEBOHO TRUST CHILDREN / TEENS SPEAK OUT

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### Comments from Madam Mayor Lungile Buhale:



I have been thankful enough to be part of a great organization that has taught me a lot in life. The greatest outcome of being an ingredient in a mixed bowl of “coconuts,” “peanuts” and “dried-fruit” is that you can capture all the different kinds of personalities and still encompass your own. But regarding the above mentioned, it has been evident that amongst all the learners of Teboho Trust we all moan and fuss about the greatest things in life without thinking about the possibilities of achieving them.

We are all from different backgrounds and transparently we all have a certain flavor to add in the Teboho Trust bowl. With sufficient time and effort, we can be the greatest people in all aspects of life. Interestingly enough I regained my consciousness and decided to draw attention to the crucial aspects we need after leaving this wonderful organization we attend every Saturday of our life.

To those who have been more than keen to read the newsletter articles every quarter and have been the number one supporter of Teboho trust, the following rules are what you have experienced. These rules will help us to walk a fruitful path in life. Therefore I dare you to continue reading as I promise you that once you get to the end of this article, you probably would have chuckled, smiled or thought deeply about something you always thought people didn't have in common. I conclude by stating that we are Young, Gifted and Bright hence we can all be prosperous with a little push in the right direction.

### The Rules Of Life for Teens:

**Rule 1:** Life is not fair; get used to it.

**Rule 2:** The world won't care about your self-esteem. The world will expect you to accomplish something BEFORE you feel good about yourself

**Rule 3:** You will NOT make 40 thousand dollars a year right out of high school OR college. You won't be a vice-president with a car phone, until you earn both.

**Rule 4:** If you think your teacher is tough, wait until you get a boss. He doesn't have permanent status in your life.

**Rule 5:** Flipping burgers is not beneath your dignity. Your grandparents had a different word for burger flipping; they called it opportunity.

**Rule 6:** If you mess up, it's not your parents' fault, so don't whine about your mistakes, learn from them and move on.

**Rule 7:** Before you were born, your parents weren't as boring as they are now. They got that way from paying your bills, cleaning your clothes and listening to you talk about how cool you are. So before you save the rain forest from the parasites of your parents' generation, try "delousing" the closet in your own room.

**Rule 8:** Your school may have done away with winners and losers, but life has not. In some schools they have abolished failing grades; they'll give you as many times as you want to get the right answer. This doesn't bear the slightest resemblance to ANYTHING in real life.

**Rule 9:** Life is not divided into semesters. You don't get summers off and very

few employers are interested in helping you find yourself. Do that on your own time.

**Rule 10:** Television is NOT real life. In real life people actually have to leave the coffee shop and go to jobs.

**Rule 11:** Be nice to nerds. Chances are you'll end up working for one.

### **From the Learner Government:**

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This quarterly edition, we investigated the most prime and interesting answers to the most difficult questions to assemble. All the learners received questionnaires, which they all had to fill out with their best interest at heart. You all know that questionnaires are regarded as “secretive” as they dignify peoples comments, but because the feedback of this survey was more or less great, we thought it would be wise to inform you what goes on young minds. Some of the answers we revolting while others were simply a glimpse of the old Teboho Trust. It became a pleasant feeling going the humongous pile of answers rather than tiring because from one page to another something perfect (almost perfect) had to be stated about the organization. Below is what came out of the survey:

#### **What don't you like about Teboho Trust?**

“I like everything about Teboho Trust, we learn, play and we also make a lot of cool friends. There is nothing I want to change at Teboho Trust.” Njabulo Sibeko Grade 6

“I cant think of anything I can hate about Teboho Trust. It is a wonderful organization!” **Ndirine – Grade 10**

#### **What would you like to change about Teboho Trust and Why?**

“I would want to keep the organization the same but I would like to go back to eating bread because I don't want the people in the kitchen overworking themselves with cooking to feed 400 of us a snack and hot lunch.” Lerato Kgoabane

“I would not change anything at all because if I do, I would be changing the place I love coming to “Lerato Mpoa

### **Poetry Corner**

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#### **“Stop Bullying!”**

**S:** is for sadness, which I feel,  
**t:** is for the tears trickling down my face  
**o:** is for offending which they do to me  
**p:** is for picking on me

**b:** is for bullying and how horrible it is  
**u:** is for upsetting which I always feel  
**l:** is for lying when confronted  
**l:** is for laughing when they see I'm upset  
**y:** is for `why me`  
**i:** is for ignoring which I rather they do  
**n:** is for nasty for the names they call me  
**g:** is for ganging up on me.



Cindy Sebushi –Grade 10

#### **Meet our Bo Isaacs; Our Sports and Recreational Activity & Special Projects Intern**



Teboho Trust has been focusing a lot on academics and it was time to introduce more sports and recreational activities for the children / teens. In this effort, we had to have people that would be ready to provide edutainment to our many children. It was critical that we found someone that would motivate the children to participate in sports & recreational activities

as well as to design and plan these fun activities

where the children / teens would grow in their life skills and social skills. We also needed assistance with our Teen Technology, Environment and Entrepreneurship Conference coming up in August. We were quite pleased when Bo Isaacs arrived at our doorsteps ready to take on these initiatives.

### **Meet Bo Isaacs**

My name is Bo Isaacs I was born on the 16<sup>th</sup> of March 1990 in Washington DC and moved in and out of South Africa and America in my early years of living. I went to a number of different schools such as Crossroads Primary School and Montesory School while in South Africa before moving back to America and I also played basketball at Oak Hill Academy after that time. I attended the University of Maryland Eastern Shore and Montgomery College. I moved back to South Africa in November 2009 and started working with Teboho Trust this year 2010 in May. I joined Teboho Trust in the fight to help the youth of South Africa because in my opinion the only organization that really does things for the benefit of the young people and helps them to make informed decisions through education is Teboho Trust. They also try to help the adults to open businesses in the community to help these individuals support their families. At Teboho Trust I run sports and recreational activities and work on Special projects. I am currently the project manager to get the technology, entrepreneurship and environment conference organised.

### **Meet Ms Yvette Babb (Economics Tutor)**



After living in the Netherlands with my family for more than a decade, I returned to South Africa in 2007 upon completion of my university studies. My time in Europe was enlightening in many ways, but South Africa remained in my heart throughout my stay abroad. It was after coming back to South Africa for six months during my studies in

2005, that I knew for sure that I wanted to be part of how our young democracy takes shape and hastily moved to complete my degree so I could return.

I currently work for a South African bank in the economic research division, while living in Melville (Johannesburg). I learnt of Teboho Trust and the Saturday Academy early 2010 through a friend Ms Louise Bick. Inspired by Jose Bright's commitment and the enthusiasm of other volunteers, I eagerly asked to assist with the Economics classes. It has thus far been a very rewarding experience and I leave the Academy on Saturdays looking forward to the next opportunity to interact with the children.

Thanks to Mr. Jose Bright and Mr. Thabiso Maesela as well as the other volunteers for making me feel welcome at the Academy and for allowing me to be part of the children's experience.

### **Donations and Contributions**

We would like to thank the following people for their contributions this quarter: Miss Ann Blevins for donating clothes for the learners, Mrs. Kay Schirmer for bringing goodies for our learners on Saturdays and Mrs. Schuyla Goodson-Bell for all the treats she brings to her English Class for the Grades 6 and 7 learners.

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### **Words From Our Parent / Guardian Advisory Board**

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#### **Words of Wisdom from the Vice Chair: - Mr. Matthews Ngidi**

"The journey to true freedom requires the help of many along the way. We are all products of the input, investment, encouragement, criticism, knowledge and advice of many individuals who we are privileged to meet along the way of life." Dr. Mules Munroe

The statement above means a lot to me through the recent experiences that had occurred. The people God puts in our lives will be hard on us. They will force us to grow because their job is to prepare us to live in freedom. They come to take away our comfort zone, so that we can start a new journey and pay the prize of our freedom. Their purpose of teaching and training is not just for information but it is for a transformation. We are not here to be in protected cocoons for eternity, the hours of struggles for



breaking free and becoming beautiful butterflies are at hand. Trying moments kick-start us to take pain, risk and become persistent, to take responsibility of our freedom, when everyone is nice to us we maybe their mentors who will force them to grow some day soon. We may be forced to take away their comfort zone so that they may transform and fly away like beautiful butterflies and spread the beauty across the entire world. "The journey to true freedom requires the help of many."

As Teboho Trust we were housed by others mercy, during this time we have been working on finding a home for the organization. The reason behind my story is that there will come a time in everybody's life to force change. At Teboho Trust we've been looking for a home for the past eight years. Phefeni Senior Secondary School Governing Body and Staff had allowed us to use their school for four years. Since change is inevitable, the new Governing Body (SGB) was elected and it was time for the Trust to be exposed to the new powers of that school. We tried to arrange meetings with them to find out how to continue with a good working relationship, all was in vain till the moment we were given an eviction letter with a back date; they only gave Teboho Trust two weeks to find a new venue. Teboho Trust staff, Advisory Board, Supporters and parents had to come together and keep the organization going no matter what. The new School Governing Body came into our lives and forcefully removed us from the premises. The time for growth was instant and spontaneously where no negotiations were an option. These are the people who come to make us grow or quit, we rolled up our sleeves and went to work to find both a temporary home and a permanent home for Teboho Trust. We are grateful for this push to change for the better and to position us to grow and reach more children and adults in our community.

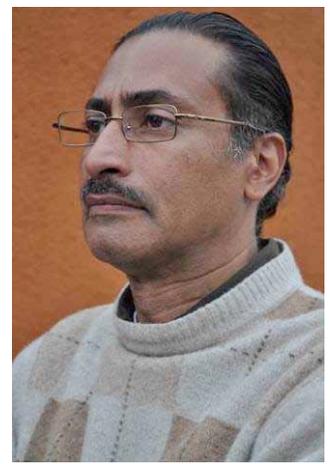
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### **From The Executive Director; Mr. Bright**

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This quarter certainly has been one big roller coaster ride for Teboho Trust. We were evicted from the public school where we've operated our Saturday Academy for the last four years and quickly had to mobilize our staff, boards, parents / guardians, volunteers and supporters as well as the children. Many were angry and unsure how those in positions of influence to expel such a miraculous programme and its orphan, vulnerable and at-risk children and teens out of a public school so that they could accommodate back packers in the public high

school. What made it worse was that we didn't really have sufficient notice to find an alternative venue. One 76-year-old granny came to my office in tears as Teboho Trust has helped her with 10 of her grand and great grand children stay in school, do well



and eventually go off to university. She told me that the smaller children are always eager for Saturdays and holidays so that they can spend more time at Teboho Trust. She personally witness them become interested in their education and have dreams of taking good care of granny when they get older. Many more elderly grannies walked to our office to complain and felt that Teboho Trust gave them hope and made them feel good that their grand and great grands will have a better future as a result of Teboho Trust. We held a parent / guardian meeting to discuss how to proceed with Teboho Trust or should we close it down as it was difficult to find an alternative venue to house the organization and operate the Saturday Academy. Over 200 parents / guardians / care-givers of the Teboho Trust children came out for the meeting. They were angry, outraged and ready to become destructive. They were not about to let the doors to Teboho Trust close. They felt that Teboho Trust is the only hope they have for a brighter future for the children. Moreover, the children love what Teboho Trust offers them. After a heated debate among the Sowetan adults, they decided against burning houses of decision-makers, toyi toing and causing civil unrest in the township. They were reminded that they must set the example for the children. We took our case to the media in order to get the attention of the government. We have tried for many years to get their attention to help us secure unused government premises to house Teboho Trust without any success. We are grateful that the media: 702 Talk Radio; Khaya FM and The Star: Soweto Edition were interested in getting our story out to the public. In the meantime, the Teboho Trust community initiated a petition to government with over 500 signatures. Many of our committed stakeholders kept the staff motivated to carry on and united their voices to speak on the needs of the children. This was a first for many in our community as they feel powerless due to their poor education and poverty. We were able to finally get the attention of all levels of government with a commitment to find us a permanent home. Many have requested us to assist

other schools and communities with our model of true empowerment.

I must say that we were certainly pushed to survive, grow and continue the good work. This roller coaster ride took us all through many emotions. Many shared their frustrations, tears, anger and prayers. Little did we know that we were being pushed together to grow stronger together. I was amazed to see the poorest of the poor come together without fear to fight for what was good for the children; Teboho Trust. They really got the attention of government and forced them to deliver on their promises of their political agendas and what the struggle to end Apartheid was all about.

Since we moved to the temporary venue, our children continue to come in numbers. We have also attracted children from the Orlando East community near the new venue. We now have over 400 children and could not accept any more children as we've expanded beyond our current capacity. In addition, we continue to amaze people as we've expanded our programmes and activities and have developed a larger network of strategic partners.

I must say that this episode has been an eye opening experience and I have learnt so much from the community. I've learnt that many love Teboho Trust and want to see it grow even stronger. This love has translated into commitment to fight to keep it alive. I have witnessed a spirit of determination and commitment to help the children and community. The community took the lead role in all of this. They carried themselves professionally, respectfully and with great leadership and humility. They were focused and willing to learn how to achieve their objective; to keep Teboho Trust for the children. They developed strategies. They planned, organized and lead meetings with government and other parties. They also took the lead in all the follow-up required. Finally, the community has taken their rightful place. It makes me so happy to see such commitment and ownership by the community of Teboho Trust. Though the quarter started with great despair and uncertainty, we are much stronger together and will achieve much more together. Our lessons will help other communities in the immediate future. Thank you all, our children, parents / guardians / care-givers, our staff, boards, volunteers, supporters, friends and partners for keeping the dream alive; to empower each and every child in the community to reach his / her full potential. Without all of you, we would not have been able to get this far in such a short time. You are all a blessing to the children of Teboho Trust.

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## Let Us Hear From You

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We would love to hear from you and share your words with the Teboho Trust Family and friends.

### Contributions of Article:

Should you wish to include an article in our newsletter on your experiences with Teboho Trust, please feel free to contact us.

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## Please Donate Today

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Your Time / Talents:

Please Contact us

Your Treasures:

Our banking details are:

Name of Account: Teboho Trust

Bank: Nebank

Account Number: 1970 841 737

Branch Code: 197 005

For Electronic Wire Transfers:

Swift Code: NEDSZAJJ

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## The Newsletter Team

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