



NEWSLETTER

APRIL – JUNE 2009

Latest News Stories

Teboho Trust Modifies It's Logo

Teboho Trust has taken a look at it's logo that was created in 2004 by Trustee Natasha Tshabalala. In the early years, our focus was on adolescents as depicted in the old logo below:

Many of the young teens have gone on to



university and some have graduated top of their class with many awards. Since last year, we have taken on board many young children from age four – 12. We felt that our logo no longer reflected us. We tasked the staff and learner governing body to re-design a logo that tells our current story. We also enlisted the support of a local marketing firm – Breakthrough Waters to assist with the task.

Our new look truly reflects our reality today (Please see our new logo at top of newsletter). We now focus on our young children as well as adolescents.

It also shares our five pillars of programmes: 1. Personal empowerment; 2. Social Development; 3. Educational Support; 4. Wellness; and 5. Economic Development as reflected in the five rays emitting from the sun. The font used for the Teboho Trust was a reflection of our beaded name tags on our staff shirts and caps that were made by community women we support. We thank all that made our new look possible, including Quinton Jones and Koena Kotsokoane from Breakthrough Digital as well as the Teboho Trust Staff - Thabiso Maesela, David Rantho and Jose Bright

Knitting Workshop Held

On the 2nd of April Teboho Trust held knitting and crocheting workshop for the learners at the Teboho Trust office in Dube Village. The objective of the day was to equip the young learners with skills to make their own scarves and hats to keep warm this winter. Both girls and boys exhibited a keen interest in acquiring the new skills and enjoyed the experience Simpiwe, one learner commented: "if my granny could see me do this, she would stop buying me clothes because she knows I'm a perfectionist. To most of the learners,

especially girls, giggling was one of the most themes of the day because they were thrilled to see the boys doing what is said to be women's work. Mr. Bright indicated that, "We try to create gender



equality in all of our activities." The workshop was a huge success! Thank you Gogo Bright, Rita Bright – David and Lillian Bratton for making it happen. Thank you also to Carla's mom for the donation of wool and tools. We also thank all those volunteers that were present to make the day an unforgettable one for all the learners of Teboho Trust

Mr. Bright's Birthday Celebration

"We cannot offer you anything more than our talents because that is all we can afford", these were the words from Khotso



also acknowledge all the good deeds that he has done for the learners of Teboho Trust over the last eight years.

Sellomah a grade 6 learner from Teboho Trust on the 4th of April 2009. The day was merely to thank and honour Mr. Bright on his birthday and

.The learners prepared dances and songs to celebrate the festivity of the day and all of them were anxious to show their skills and talents.

The highlight of the ceremony was when a painting with the Teboho Trust staff looking at the learners was given to Mr. Bright. The exceptional painting was created by Gogo Cathy and symbolized more than she had thought. We would like to thank Mr. Bright and hope he will be able to witness more years with us...We love you Mr. Bright!

Celebrating Freedom Day at Teboho Trust

The 27th of April was Freedom Day, a



national public holiday that celebrates the democracy and freedom of all people in South Africa. They had the learners reflect on its history where the majority of South Africans were denied participation in democracy and lacked fundamental freedoms. Over the years, the Teboho Trust learners visited historical landmarks and museums highlighting a history of oppression, struggle and now new democracy. Those that made the new freedoms possible made great sacrifices, including loss of life. The children and teens today were grateful for the sacrifices of those that are older. They indicated that they want to show – through their academic excellence and good citizenship – that they will take responsibility to continue a

legacy of freedom for all. It was a sobering dialogue and many were motivated more to do their very best. The learners were tasked to speak to their families, neighbours and others in the community to hear their stories of involvement in the struggle for freedom. They were also tasked by their peers to host a commemorative celebration through song, dance, speeches and poetry. They want to invite those in Soweto that made sacrifices for the freedom we experience today at the celebration. We will certainly share with you the events of that special day planned.

GIBS Partners with Teboho Trust

Teboho Trust is an organisation aimed at developing and empowering the community of Soweto. On the 6th of May 2009 eight young people from



Teboho Trust were chosen to be ambassadors of Soweto to a group of senior executives from the public and private sectors of South Africa through the Gordon Institute of Business Science. The youths took the 45 delegates to Soweto to learn more about entrepreneurial activities / opportunities in Soweto, its heritage and its people. Specifically, the delegates were introduced to both the first and second economies operating side by side in the township; visible and invisible. They had the opportunity to go and see Freedom Square, The Business Place, the Soweto Hotel, Maponya Mall

and local restaurants and B&B's in the tourist areas of Soweto - Orlando West. The youths not only provided information on the sights, sounds and smells of the township, they also shared their stories as proud young Sowetans. All were impressed with the young ambassadors and many expressed an interest to come back for another visit and sleep over with their families and friends. Our youth felt valued, visible and humbled by the experience. We would like to thank the GIBS team lead by Mr. Lebo Molete and Mr. Bright, the Teboho Trust Executive Director for giving such an opportunity to the youth of Soweto.

New Teboho Trust Parent / Guardian Advisory Board Established

In March, the parents / guardians and adults of the community indicated that they were proud of the good work of Teboho Trust and wanted to play a meaningful role in further growing the organisation. They felt that our Executive Director, although well loved in the community, is an American and the staff if composed primarily of youth. They felt that the elders in the community needed to add strength in bringing support to the organisation. This support is truly welcomed. They indicated that according to African culture, every child is their child and they wanted to take their rightful place to support our children. They held several workshops to define their role, structure and processes to assist the organisation. On the 16th of May they held a meeting to vote on the establishment of the advisory body and their constitution. They also held an election for the newly established Parent / Guardian Advisory Board. The Executive Committee that was elected includes: *Chairperson* Mr. Phillip

Mokone, *Vice Chairperson* Mr. Perry Mbere, *Secretary* Miss Lebogang Mothae, and *Treasurer* Nthabiseng Mokoena. They also established committees and elected the other board members: *Marketing Committee* Zenzi Buhale; *Planning Committee Chair* Pamela Radebe; *Social Development (parent support) Chair* Mr. Nkosana Tshabalala and *Vice Chair* Miss Nomisa Dhlamini; and *Fundraising Chair* Mr. Mbulelo Twala. Their primary mandate is to advise the Board of Trustees on governance issues and the Executive Director on operations. We are grateful for the added support from the community and look forward to working with the advisory board. We are certain that their pearls of wisdom and good standing in the community will only make us stronger.

Noted Musician and Scholar - Salim Washington - Visits Teboho Trust

On the 16th of May, the Teboho Trust learners were blessed with a visit from a noted jazz musician and scholar – Salim Washington - from the United States of America. Mr. Washington held a music workshop where over 180 children learnt about the different instruments and the sounds that they make. They also learnt about the influence of such instruments in the music from all over the world. What was most appealing to the children and teens was an exercise where they were showed the different



tactics of using their bodies as musical instruments. The glitz and smiles on their young faces were very overwhelming and exhilarating. The magic that the room created was like a solid rhythmic element that the whole of the world would have been thrilled to listen to. Mr. Washington demonstrated genres from hip hop to jazz. The learners had a fair taste of being with John Coltrane with a mixture of Jay-Zee. It was a remarkable day!

Music is the sound of young children experiencing joy and happiness

Morehouse Leadership Academy Visits Teboho Trust

On the 23 of May we had a visit from students from Morehouse University in



Atlanta, Georgia, USA. They spent the day with us at the Saturday School Academy and assisted with English, maths, science and other academic tutorials. They were very impressed with our learners. We broke up the 170 children / teens into smaller groups where the Morehouse Men could have a dialogue with the children and teens of Teboho Trust. They spoke of poverty, life choices, tertiary life and dreams of a better future. Our children learnt a lot from the Morehouse Men and so did they from our children / teens. Many of our children were interested in their views of Obama and life in America for young African Americans. Many of the

Morehouse Men were intrigued by their curiosity and intelligence of our children.

Workshop Held: Children / Teens Visualise a Brighter Future

A life skills workshop was held to get the children / teens to create a picture of their future using art supplies as well as pictures and words cut out from magazines. The objective was to help the children see their dreams through a collage of images and words that will help them stay focused and work hard to realise their dreams. The learners had a lot of fun and helped each other with their respective posters. One learner pointed out, "The question is to



be or not to be...the answer therefore lies in the capability and the thought of the mind...If you can aim high, nothing can bring you down." Many learners depicted their futures in big houses, fancy cars, professional careers and loving families. One of the highlights of the workshop was seeing all have fun and viewing the gallery walk of unique posters; some neat, some messy, some with lots of details and others that were minimalist. It was all a matter of choice yet keeping all focused to do their best to achieve their dreams was the goal.

Teboho Trust Trustees Welcomed at Global Fund for Children

Board of Trustees Kedibone Kekana and Jose Bright were in Washington,

DC as a stop over to California for Mr. Bright's mum's 85th birthday celebration. On 29 May, Trustees Kedibone Kekana and Jose Bright met with our funders - the Global Fund for Children - in Washington, DC. The purpose was to informally report on our activities and achievements. The Trustees also



sought their advice to further strengthen the organisation to meet the growing needs of the children. Mr. Bright echoed, "we are truly grateful for all of the support the Global Fund for Children has provided us for the last two years. "

Mr. Bright Visits His Hometown

On 2 June, Mr. Bright went home to Compton, California to visit his family



and to celebrate his mom's 85th birthday. Given his dedication to Teboho Trust, he hadn't been home since to visit his

family since 2002. He was long overdue for a visit.

His brother – Carlos Bright – is a technology teacher at Dominguez High School in Compton and invited Mr. Bright to give a Teboho Trust Life Skills workshop to 50 high school learners there. They listened attentively at the Teboho Trust story and the stories of some of the children from Soweto. They were eager to learn their secrets to experience similar successes. Mr. Bright facilitated a personal empowerment workshop where their paradigms were challenged. The teens realized that they needed to change their mindset if they wanted a promise for a brighter future. Mr. Bright also realized that what was started as a successful model in Soweto was needed also in his own community and maybe his country too. Mr. Ralph Davis one of our big supporters there insisted that Mr. Bright also met with the Mayor of Compton – Mr. Eric I. Perrodin

Mr. Bright shared the Teboho Trust story with the Mayor. The Mayor felt that the Teboho Trust model is needed in Compton too.

Happy 85th Birthday Gogo Cleo!

Gogo, we at Teboho Trust wish you a very happy 85th birthday and we



love you very much! Thank you for

your love and support to all of us at Teboho Trust.

Our children are our future...what are we doing to build a solid foundation in our children?

A Season of University Graduations

Three former Teboho Trust learners have graduated from the Rosebank College. Patricia Adams and Edward



Shopeng graduated with IT degrees and Xoliswa Rampeba with a degree in Media Studies. Edward took top awards and both Patricia and

Xoliswa graduated with honours. Mr. Bright and Monique Griffith attended the graduation with her parents. Mr. Bright felt like a proud father. "Seeing them in caps and gowns brought tears of joy. It was a very happy day! These young adults are paving the way as role models to the many more children that will follow in their foot steps."

Acknowledgements

Meet Mr. Patson Jumbi

Mr. Patson Jumbi was born in Zimbabwe on the 30th of March 1987 and raised by his parents. He did his studies at the Makumbe Secondary School and Gaza High School where he did well for himself passing his matriculation with Distinctions; his other qualification is in computer sciences. Mr. Patson came to South Africa late 2008 and settled at the Methodist

Church in Orlando West because he had no relatives in the country and hence he needed a job. He is still looking for employment. This wonderful



young man, even though he has not yet started working, has given up his time to volunteer at the Teboho Trust Saturday School Academy since the beginning of the year. We are grateful to “Ma Pontso, one of the guardians of one of the Teboho Trust learners, for bringing him to us. As from the beginning of this year Mr. Patson has been teaching Mathematics to the grade’s 8 – 9. He has very little but give so much of his knowledge, skills and time to our children. Patson states that, “I am hungry to see our children have success and to appreciate everything given by God, for He is the only one that knows our destiny...without his guidance we are lost.” We are proud to acknowledge Mr. Patson because he gives so much of self to those in a community that are often ignored and forgotten. A young man from a neighbouring country finds it in his heart to have compassion for our children and give his time and talents. Thank you Mr. Patson for giving such a gift...of .your time, talents and love.

Our Children Speak Out

Poetry Section

Blow the Whistle, Not Your Future



*Your future, my future
Our future, the future
That is bright for me and you
Not waiting to be turned black by the
youth of today which does not have
respect*

Blow the whistle not your future

*I am a girl, a girl that is strong and has
dignity within
I am not a time waster
I am a girl who has a plan
A plan that will set me free*

*Take a look around at the youth of today
Some are being destroyed
Look at the future
Look at the time wasted
Having bad company wont help you
succeed and achieve your goals*

Blow the whistle and not your future

Ntando Banda

From the Executive Director

This quarter has been a very productive and exciting one. We witnessed the growth and belief in Teboho Trust by the community and we strengthened our ties with our local and international partners. We now have a well organised committee of women from the community that prepare all meals for the children. We have developed a credible partnership with one of the best



Business Schools in Africa – GIBS. We are continually requested to expand the Teboho Trust model to other communities across Africa and beyond. We are proud of the elders in the community for taking the initiative to establish the Teboho Trust Parent / Guardian Advisory Board. They are committed to bringing resources to our children. We now have elders from the community to assist the children and staff. They have already played a parental role with some of our orphan children by assisting them with government support and a father / mother figure in their neighbourhoods. Our Board of Trustees has been very supportive and continues to ensure good governance and proper oversight. The staff is ever committed and professional when interacting with our stakeholders, especially the children.

This last month has been a tremendous challenge as we operate the Teboho Trust office in a local government

building thanks to the management of the City of Johannesburg Emergency Management Services. However, the employees there are on strike and we cannot access our office as it's not safe to be there. We have been operating and delivering our programmes and activities in spite of this due to the committed spirit of the staff. We have been operating from our cell phones, homes and using internet cafes. We have not found venues to operate our winter holiday programmes for the children as we normally operate from our offices. We are in the midst of the winter school holidays and are hopeful to find venues to hold activities to keep our children engaged in edutainment activities. In the meantime, we are more focused than ever to find a home for Teboho Trust so that we can better serve the needs our children and community. Keep us in your prayers and also join our efforts to find a home for Teboho Trust. With your continued belief and support, we can do it together!

Finally, thank each and every one of you for helping to strengthen Teboho Trust and playing a role in empowering our children to dream of brighter futures and celebrate their short-term victories.

Let Us Hear From You

We would love to hear from you.
Share your reflections, experiences and feelings of your interaction with Teboho Trust with the Teboho Trust Family and friends.

Contributions of Articles:

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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