



Youth

TODAY

AUGUST 2004

Newsletter for friends of Boys Town

Jumbo outing inspires our boys

Thanks to the generosity of a sponsor, our boys were able to learn a thing or two from animals that know all about team work.

Forty boys from two Boys Town homes had an experience to remember when they were treated to a visit to The Elephant Sanctuary in Magaliesburg. In addition to being able to savour an 'up close and personal' meeting with the elephants, the boys also learned a great deal about these majestic creatures.

They went home filled with wonder at the way in which elephants naturally adhere to their own peer-group system. We extend our thanks to everyone who made the boys' visit such a valuable learning experience.



The peer group system – the elephants' way ... 14-year-old Marula leads the herd.



Thrilled to be at The Elephant Sanctuary, the boys couldn't contain their excitement.

Answering the call of parents – and their children

Why would Boys Town launch a new publication, *Parenting Today*, aimed specifically at parents and caregivers? Because behind every call to our National Hotline – from concerned parents, relatives, professionals and children themselves – is a plea for help.

Boys Town's Executive Director, Joe Araujo, summed up the essence of our new publication perfectly: 'Think of *Parenting Today* as a good friend – the kind of friend who loves your children even when their behaviour is at its most challenging.' But this doesn't mean that the newsletter focuses entirely on 'problem' behaviour. There are also inspirational and light-hearted aspects to its content – all relevant to parents and anyone who cares for children.

If you received the launch issue, we hope you enjoyed reading it and will talk about it to others. If you filled in and returned the questionnaire – thank you; your responses will help us plan future issues. And if you come across an article or issue you feel we should cover, please forward it to us – and help us help others.



Partners in caring

Boys Town is delighted to have a working partnership with Big Brothers Big Sisters South Africa, whereby our boys are mentored by the organisation's volunteers.

Affiliated to an international network which operates in 36 countries, Big Brothers Big Sisters South Africa (BBBSSA) helps children and youth at risk realise their potential by facilitating the development of long-term, one-to-one mentoring relationships.

Thanks to a partnership between this organisation and Boys Town, youngsters from our homes have already been matched up with BBBSSA mentors. The aim is for our 'Littles' (the boys) to benefit from the friendship and guidance that the 'Bigs' (the mentors) provide.

The BBBSSA programme requires that their volunteers commit to spending one hour each week – for a year – with a child. Training is provided. If you'd like to become a 'Big' in order to help a 'Little' at Boys Town, please contact the BBBSSA office on (011) 673 3088 or e-mail bbbsgauteng@bbbssa.org.za – or visit their website at www.bbbssa.co.za

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BOYSTOWN
because boys will be men

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Vision

Successful youth; our strength,
our future.

Mission

Creating opportunities for youth
to succeed.

Values

Responsibility in caring.

Talk opens boys' eyes—and hearts



Priscilla Simons with the boys at our Macassar Centre.

When our boys were visited by a woman and child who have Aids, the harsh reality of the disease hit home.

Our boys have heard many 'talks' from people from all walks of life – but the day that Priscilla Simons came to talk to them, they didn't just listen – they felt!

Priscilla was diagnosed with the HIV/Aids virus 12 years ago, and has since dedicated her time to educating others about the disease. She works at a centre that cares for HIV-positive children. Sharing her life story with the boys,

Priscilla told them of the realities of the disease – including all the suffering it causes. A five-year-old HIV-positive child accompanied Priscilla on her visit, and the boys were deeply moved by his plight.

As a result of Priscilla's talk, our boys became acutely aware of the dangers of unprotected sex; and some opted for voluntary HIV/Aids testing. Our boys also extended an invitation to the children at Priscilla's centre, in the hope of treating them to a day of friendship and fun.

Despite being ill on the day she had promised to visit, Priscilla travelled by train to talk to our boys. We thank her for her commitment and courage.



Old Boys create a legacy

Our Old Boys Association has embarked on an ambitious project to show their appreciation to Boys Town in a unique way. They're planning to erect a life-size, bronze statue of Bishop Orsmond, Boys Town's founder, at our Magaliesburg home.

The Association has already erected Walls of Remembrance at Boys Town Magaliesburg in memory of the old boys who have passed on. It's fitting that Bishop Orsmond's statue be positioned at this site, which faces the home's main complex. Leading to the statue will be a pathway of glazed tiles, each bearing the donor's name and a brief message.

The Association is inviting Boys Town supporters and friends of Bishop Orsmond to support this unique project by either buying a tile



Rows of tiles, similar to these, will permanently mark the pathway to Bishop Orsmond's statue.

or contributing towards the cost of commissioning the statue.

A special bank account – The Orsmond Memorial Savings Account – has been opened for this purpose. If you'd like more information, please contact Joe Araujo, Boys Town's Executive Director, on (011) 482 2655.



Our Verulam boys have hearts of gold

How do you ask a group of youngsters to give up week-ends for unpaid, tiring community work? The boys at our Verulam Family Home didn't need to be asked ... they offered!

I'm doing it for her,' said young Simon breathlessly, as he continued to clear brambles and invasive growth. He had just overheard Sihle, his Assistant Family Teacher, comment on how hard he was working. The 'her' that Simon was referring to is one of the mentally handicapped children who will benefit

from the boys' involvement in the development of a residential agricultural project for youngsters with special needs.

It all started when the boys visited a smallholding outside Durban. The property had recently been purchased by a group of trustees who hoped to repair the vandalised house and restore the mini-farm to its former glory. It would then be ready to open as an agricultural project for youngsters with mental handicaps.

The boys had been invited to enjoy an outdoor experience and help out for the day. They enjoyed feeding the animals (including the pigs, who are named after the trustees – much to the boys' amusement) and wasted no time in performing other tasks, such as clearing alien vegetation. It was a day of physically exhausting work – with no reward other than the sense of a job well done and their hosts' appreciation.

But that wasn't enough for the boys. They decided to commit themselves to this work as their community project for the next year. This means they'll be giving up their own free time to work at the smallholding until the dreams of others are realised.

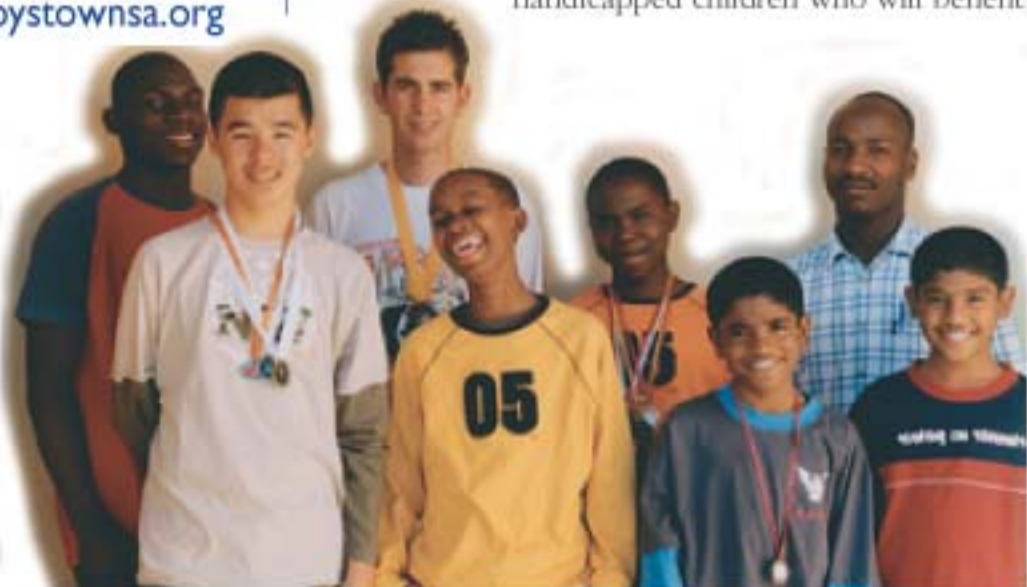
We're sure that our supporters will join us in saying 'well done' to the boys at the Verulam Family Home ... 'you're setting an exceptional example and we're proud of you!'



Inspired by this bronze statue of Father Flanagan, Boys Town USA's founder, our Old Boys Association is embarking on a special project to commemorate Bishop Orsmond, Boys Town South Africa's founder.



Visit our Website
www.boystownsa.org



Assistant Family Teacher, Sihle (far right) with the boys who are committed to their new community service project.

Remembering our founder and friend

Boys Towns throughout the country held special ceremonies in May to pay tribute to our founder, the late Bishop Reginald Orsmond.

When hundreds of boys, staff, Old Boys, community members and Boys Town supporters gathered around the country to remember 'Father O', it was in the spirit of love. Many endearing stories, amusing anecdotes and memories were shared as we paid humble tribute to the man who blazed a trail for the Boys Town movement in South Africa.

At the Boys Town Tongaat service, Principal Thakor Morar fondly recalled how the Bishop had a particular liking for crab curry — and how he had always called on his late mother before proceeding to the office! Father Sham, who became principal of Magaliesburg when the Bishop left for Johannesburg, was the guest and contributed immensely to the formal part of the proceedings. After the day's events, the home's main building was dedicated to the memory of Father O.



A plaque in honour of Boys Town's founder, Bishop Reginald Orsmond, was erected at the entrance to Boys Town Tongaat's main building. Looking on are Boys Town Tongaat's Vice Principal, Jakes Raman, Father Sham, Godfrey Pillay, Chairman of Boys Town's KwaZulu-Natal Regional Committee and Principal, Thakor Morar.

In memoriam



We are sad to record the passing of a true gentleman, Richard Lohlun, who served Boys Town and our youngsters in various capacities — as Board member, Chairman of the Auxiliary Committee for Observatory and Boys Town's national architect.

His memory will live on, especially in his design of Boys Town Kagiso-Randfontein. Rest in peace, Richard.

Meet our young achievers



Karate champ
Simon started karate only recently — but he has already won a bronze medal.



Anyone for cricket?
Roderick's climbing the ladder of success. He was selected to represent his school in cricket — a great achievement since he's one of 1200 pupils!



Soccer stars

Boys Town Tongaat affiliated two of their soccer teams to the Tongaat Football Association. Both teams reached the semi-finals stage in a recent knock-out tournament. Boys Town Tongaat's Under 15 soccer team, with Nik Roberts (Project Trust, UK), Mackey Moodley, Sports Co-ordinator; Marten van der Lande (Project Trust, Amsterdam) and Raj Govender; Soccer Organiser;

Nathi is tops!
Young Nathi recently earned numerous medals at his junior school's athletics day. Congratulations, Nathi!



All the right moves
Sixteen-year-old Thabo has been playing chess for just one year — and now he has been selected to represent the Tongaat zone in the Regional Chess competition.



Rugby sensation
We're proud of Etlin, whose skill on the rugby field has ensured him a place in the South African Junior Championships.



On the right track
Garlan's speed in the 100m sprint has earned him his Gauteng colours in athletics.



The Under 17 soccer side with Mackey Moodley, Sports Co-ordinator (far left, back row) and Team Manager Mandla Mtshali (far right, back row).

Creative capers
Youngsters from Boys Town Kagiso show-cased their creative talents — amongst 38 other participants — at the Randfontein Show, and were awarded third prize for their efforts. Here, 14-year-old Charles displays two of the many items that the boys create in their weekly pottery class.



Old Boys in top form

A team of Old Boys played their hearts out in a friendly soccer match against youngsters from Boys Town Magaliesburg and Kagiso. For the first time in many years, the Old Boys won. Could it be that our boys took pity on the old guys?



Our water wonder
Ricardo scooped all the prizes in his school's swimming gala — a remarkable feat since he only started swimming competitively this year.

Staff news

Welcome, Claude

We extend a warm welcome to Claude da Silva, our new Human Resources Manager. An Old Boy, Claude spent four years at Boys Town Macassar, where he matriculated before completing his National Diploma in Human Resources Management at the Port Elizabeth Technikon. 'Not only am I excited to be on board, but honoured as an Old Boy,' says Claude.



Thakor Morar retires

Most people would agree that a 26-year term at Boys Town entitles a man to some rest! By bidding farewell to Thakor Morar, Principal of Boys Town Tongaat, we also thank him for his sterling period of service, mentorship to the boys and for the excellent hospitality that visitors to our Tongaat home have enjoyed under his leadership. We wish Thakor all the best on his retirement.



Want to sponsor a newsletter?

To contain costs, Boys Town is looking for sponsors for its newsletters – *Youth Today*, *Youth Update* and *Parenting Today*. Acknowledgement of the sponsorship will be carried in the particular issue sponsored. For more information, please contact our Executive Director, Joe Araujo on (011) 482 2655.



Three decades later ... and still learning

This year heralds a proud service record of 30 years for our Executive Director, Joe Araujo. He shares some reflections on three decades of involvement with Boys Town.

It was only the other day when a donor asked, 'Is Joe still with you? He must be getting on.' Well, yes, I've been fortunate to last the pace – and have much to be grateful for today.

I'm grateful, firstly, to those people who, back in 1958, gave me the opportunity to be a pioneer of the Boys Town movement in South Africa.

After completing my Social Work degree and working as a 'Probation Officer', Father O (Father Reginald Orsmond, Boys Town's founder) asked me to join the organisation in May 1974.

I resigned after six weeks ... until my other mentor, the late John Hayward – who had once been my teacher at Magaliesburg – gave me a dressing down. He then threw me into the world of business – when Boys Town started micro-business ventures in order to generate funds. This was a baptism by fire – but one that ended in ashes – including the demise of our then well-known personalised Christmas cards. What a rude awakening!

I then went on to working with our donors and began to capture the uniqueness of the Boys Town approach. The secret lay in the way we approached them – personally – so that they became not only our friends but part of our Boys Town family.

This approach has enabled us to discover one truth that is not always apparent to most people: every person is **inherently** good, wants to do good and wants to make a difference in the world!

I was especially proud of our donors during those dark days of disinvestment in South Africa. They continued to provide for the boys. Local has always been lekker for us – and we have always stuck with our own people, unlike many other non-profits which had to rely on overseas funding.

The late 70s and early 80s was a period of rapid growth for us. We saw the establishment of projects in KwaZulu-Natal and the Western Cape; and the establishment of Family Homes in Johannesburg (since closed) and Verulam. Our wish to serve children from all communities saw us merge with a 'street children' organisation in Hillbrow in the late 80s. These youngsters became the nucleus of today's Boys Town Kagiso-Randfontein and the ultimate realisation of Boys Town's promise to provide facilities for all of South Africa's children.

Father Orsmond left his beloved Magaliesburg in 1981. The period that followed, I know, was particularly difficult for him. He had left the personal involvement he had enjoyed with the boys, after living amongst them since 1958. But he continued to mentor Boys Town from a distance and keep his vision for children alive. The greatest joy for me and our organisation was his appointment as Bishop of Johannesburg – a just reward for his work and abilities.

After 19 years, my appointment as Executive Director – and successor to the Bishop – was the highlight of my career. It was a vote of confidence in one of his Old Boys and an awesome responsibility. I was fortunate that he continued to be my 'Father' and mentor until the day before he



passed on. I miss him still. His knowledge of kids and people was truly amazing – but he has left us and South Africa a wonderful legacy. Like Father Flanagan, I believe, he, too, can say: 'The work will continue, you see, whether I am there or not because it is God's work, not mine.'

Another turning point was my visit to Boys Town Nebraska, USA in 1994. It led to the introduction of some of their programmes, which

have changed the way we care for our children.

The 'Common Sense Parenting' and 'Classroom Management' programmes are the most powerful and effective programmes I have seen in this country. As we share these with the public, they will help stop children from coming into care. Our programmes are also available to corporations – which need to look at what's happening in families, at schools and in the communities where they do their business – because all these factors influence the bottom line.

What of the future? One question that has always plagued me is: what about girls? I'd like to let you in on a secret. People who are not part of the Boys Town family won't know this – but help for girls is not far off. Watch this space!

I want to pay tribute to the people who have journeyed so far with me. We've shared the joy of being of service to the boys who have entered our gates. I also want to thank the Old Boys who continue to encourage and support me in this work – and keep me in line!

But these memories wouldn't exist without our donors – the wonderful individuals who sacrifice, pray and speak for us and who continue to show their love for children in very tangible and caring ways – and so frequently!

God has blessed Boys Town. We pray every day that He may continue to bless you and yours.

Joe Araujo
Executive Director

Public policies

1. Boys Town South Africa is a private, registered non-profit organisation in terms of the Non-profit Organisation's Act (Act 71 of 1997) – Registration No 009-244 NPO.
2. Boys Town is registered as a 'Public Benefit Organisation' in terms of Section 18A of the Income Tax Act (Act 58 of 1962). Donations to Boys Town are **tax-deductible** in the hands of the donor – up to R1000 or 5% of taxable income – whichever is the greater amount. No duty is charged on bequests made to it in Wills (SARS ref 8/11/13/379).
3. All donations received are used for the sole benefit and care of the youth of Boys Town.
4. Only staff in the employ of Boys Town are permitted to raise funds for the organisation – unless otherwise specifically authorised.
5. The names of Boys Town donors are never sold or divulged to other organisations.
6. The stories of youth published in our reports are true but their names have been altered to protect their identity.
7. Youth are admitted to a Boys Town regardless of race, colour or religion.
8. The Boys Town books of account are audited annually and its financial statements are available on request or can be viewed at the office of the Director of Non-profit Organisations.
9. Boys Town does not receive funding from Community Chests.