

Filling size 13 boots

Derrick Groep has known Joe for 28 years and shares his reflections.

Joe had to fill the size 13 boots (literally and figuratively) of Bishop Orsmond when he was appointed Executive Director of Girls & Boys Town.

Joe seemed undaunted and has led this organisation with determination. Compassion, commitment, loyalty, single-mindedness – and sometimes stubbornness – are traits that I have come to associate with Joe.

Joe had the privilege of 'sitting at the feet of the master' – Bishop Orsmond. This instilled important values in him – all of which I believe he has lived.

Amongst these are the beliefs that children are inherently good, should have fun, be loved and be

trusted with responsibility.

I remember two leadership camps where Joe did not mind the conditions under which we camped.

He was prepared to share basic amenities with about 10 other people, sleeping in a kitchen with a leaking roof – all for the sake of giving youth an opportunity to grow.

I only have gratitude to Joe for the many contributions and sacrifices he has made for Girls & Boys Town. He made the difference he wanted to see in the lives of many young people.



New CEO appointed



The Board of Trustees takes pleasure in announcing that Ms Lee Loynes has been appointed Chief Executive Officer of the Organisation. She will officially take over on 1 October 2007 from Joe Araujo, who is retiring on 30 September 2007. Lee has been with the Organisation for some 14 years, firstly, as Child Care Manager and more recently, as Director: Youth Services. In addition to overseeing the child care programmes, she was instrumental in the implementation of the GBTSA Education Model which now offers expertise and skills to youth, parents, teachers and professionals. We wish her every success in taking the Organisation to new heights.

Loud and clear

Ros Halkett, a member of our Board of Trustees, pays warm tribute to Joe.

With your guidance, Girls & Boys Town expanded its services during the last 10 years. What struck me most during this time was your firm conviction in the potential that you saw – and continue to see – in each and every child. Girls & Boys Town has added value to the

lives of many, many youngsters during your time.

Many folk refrain from saying what's needed for one or another reason. Not so with you! I've been proud to be associated with an organisation that speaks out loud and clear for the rights of the child.

On a more personal note, a special thank you for keeping the Board updated on rugby and cricket scores during our working weekend tea breaks!

My best and kindest thoughts go with you. Your expertise remains highly valued.'



Out and about at Girls & Boys Town



Young Neo received the trophy for 'Boy of the Year' at Girls & Boys Town Kagiso. An excellent achievement, Neo!



Thanks to a visit from the Simba lion, a roaring good time was had by everyone at Girls & Boys Town Tongaat.



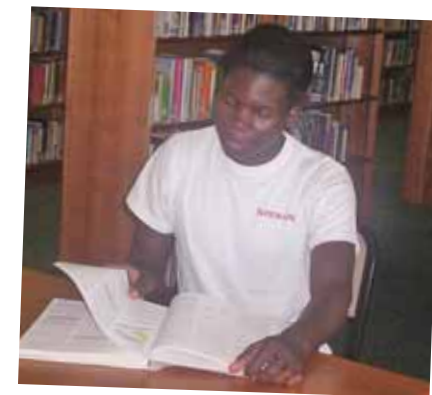
Community spirit in abundance ... youth are encouraged to get involved in voluntary work whenever possible. Here, one of our boys hands a toy to a baby in hospital.



Kagiso karate kids Mark and Brian demonstrate their martial arts skills.



Shawn was proud to be elected Mayor of Girls & Boys Town Magaliesburg and is flanked by (from left): Councillor Matthew; Councillor Michael; Vice Principal Gladys Moiloanyani; Principal Merilyn Pick and Councillor Adrian.



Quiet time in the library helps youngsters focus. Help with school work – and better marks – is one of the rewards of our learners' hard work.



Youth TODAY

AUGUST 2007

A newsletter for friends of Girls & Boys Town

Creating opportunities for youth to succeed

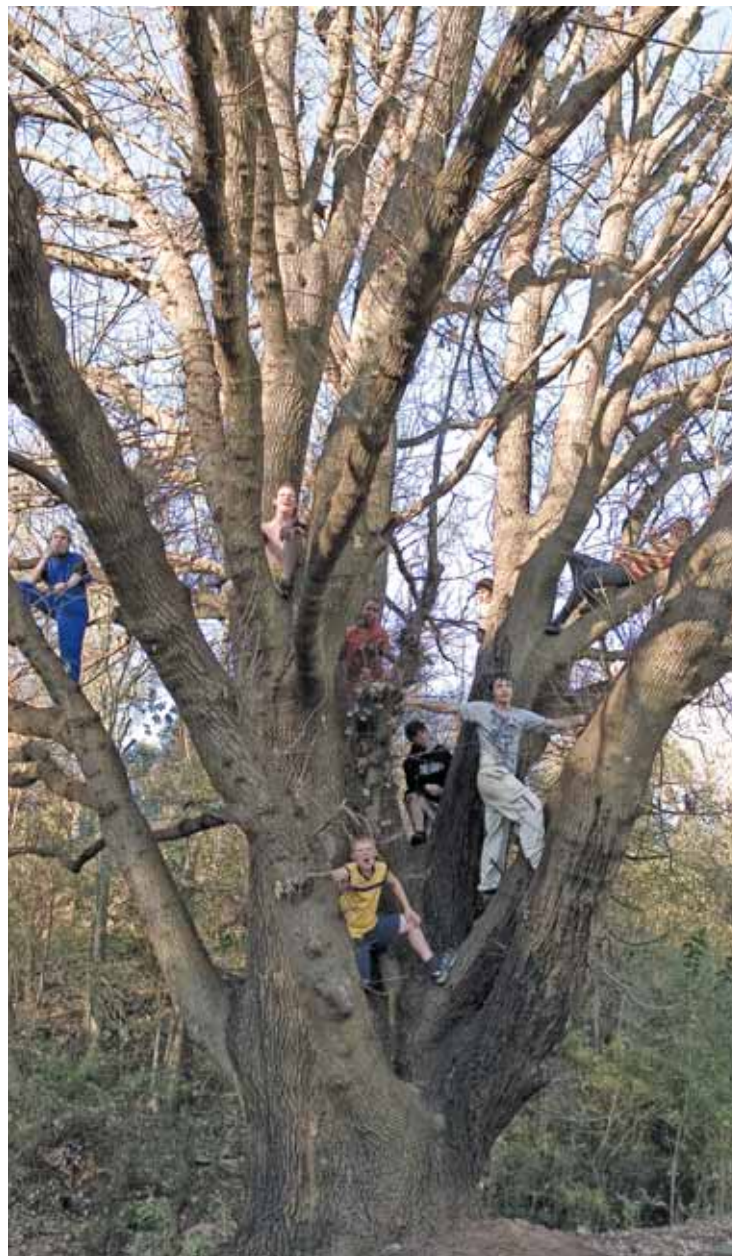
Girls & Boys Town has worked successfully with thousands of youth and families since 1958.

In 1996, Boys Town South Africa (as we were then called), established a relationship with Girls & Boys Town USA that resulted in the introduction and adaptation of several programmes to South African conditions and cultures. These training programmes have been helping thousands of South African youth – as well as educators and parents – since 2002.

Children coming into our residential programmes have invariably experienced difficulties at school. Some critics even maintain that they're 'victims of a failed school system' – because educators do not have the necessary skills to manage them.

What's the answer?

We'd like to hear what our supporters say about the state of education in South Africa. Share your constructive comments with us by visiting our website on www.girlsandboystown.org.za



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Tributes

Warm tributes to our Executive Director, Joe Araujo, on his retirement.

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Out and about ...

... at Girls & Boys Town.

Good news for donors!
Your gift is now tax-deductible up to 10% of your taxable income. Remember, we gladly provide receipts for tax purposes.

Children have the last word

When our youth communicate their appreciation for what Girls & Boys Town has meant to them, they often do it in writing.

This note was found on a study desk at our Magaliesburg centre:

*'Boys Town boy 2003
I love Boys Town Magaliesburg because it took*



me out of bad things, eg. starving. Now I thank it a lot and wish that when I am big and having my own money, I will donate money to them. And I pray that the Lord God will bless them and make the home to be big like never before. Michael Ncomo.'

Another letter reads:

*'To whom this might concern:
Two years ago I went to Boys Town not knowing what to expect. I was surprised at how they helped me and for all the things that they do for the boys. I just want to say thank you for everything they did for me. You were really great to me.*

If it means something to someone, you can overcome problems if you work at it. Thank you again for everything you've done for me.

Yours sincerely, Hannes Olivier.'



All work and no play makes for dull children! Here, boys from our Tongaat centre get into the true spirit of gardening ... which is enjoyment!



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Registered as a Welfare Organisation
(Act 100 of 1978)



Mentor and friend

Old boy Mario Montanari – who was at Boys Town from 1974 to 1978 – and chaired the Old Boys’ Association for six years, has fond memories of his friendship with Joe.

The fact that Mario’s two older brothers had been at Boys Town previously did not make any difference to how Mario was treated. ‘It wasn’t such a good thing, as Joe always reminded me how good my brothers were!’ recalls Mario.

After Mario had left Boys Town, he kept up contact. ‘Nothing was ever too much trouble for Joe. I could always chat to him when I was experiencing difficulties,’ adds Mario.

As time went by and both men grew older, their relationship evolved. ‘I was guided by Joe when in doubt, which enabled me to complete six successful terms as chairman of the Old Boys’ Association,’

says Mario.

Of course, there were also lighthearted moments. Mario vividly remembers one occasion when the old boys all met at Munster, on the South Coast, for the AGM. Father O (the founder of Boys Town) was still alive then – and made sure he was always at the AGMs to keep an eye on things.

This particular year saw Mario and Joe making a toast or two (or three) to Boys Town – much to the disgust of Father O.

‘That weekend was not a good one for us. Father O didn’t speak to either of us the whole of Sunday.’

This did little to dampen the great love that Mario has for Boys Town – and he’s proud of Joe ‘for all the good he has done over the years’.

‘He has been an excellent example to many. I wish Joe and his family all the best for the future – and thank him from the bottom of my heart for his dedication to and passion for Boys Town.’



It is with a deep sense of loss and mourning that we record the passing of Mario subsequent to his writing this tribute to Joe. Mario will be fondly remembered for his achievement in rescuing a company from liquidation and becoming known throughout the country as ‘Mr SA Paving’. Rest in peace, brother.

A man of faith and passion for youth

The first time that David Daniels met Joe, he received a ‘tongue lashing’.

This happened in October 1984 when David – a member of Girls & Boys Town’s Board of Trustees – attended a meeting of the Regional Committee at Duin-en-Dal (now Macassar) for the first time.

‘Joe gave me a tongue lashing because I suggested that the boys do some work in the garden. He made it clear that this was not a reformatory where boys are forced to do manual labour,’ recalls David. Since then, David has got to know Joe better.

In the early 90s when the Board had to decide on who would replace Bishop Orsmond as Executive Director, Joe was the unanimous choice.

‘You cannot be the Executive Director if you don’t have a passionate belief in the organisation and what it stands for. Joe has intense passion and is a person of deep faith,’ adds David. It is this faith that has carried Girls & Boys Town through difficult times, when it was financially challenged and faced possible closure.



David admits that he was ‘intrigued’ by the relationship between Bishop Orsmond and Joe. ‘The Bishop was Joe’s strongest critic because he expected so much from Joe. He loved Joe deeply and regarded him as his son. He was extremely proud when Joe

succeeded him as Executive Director.’

The legacy he leaves is an organisation that is financially stable, well managed and offers a range of dynamic and relevant services.



Lessons for life

The Principal of Girls & Boys Town Tongaat, Jakes Raman, has learned valuable lessons from Joe and shares his insight: Joe has come full circle, from being a ‘boy’ at this organisation many years ago, to becoming its leader.



I’ve had the privilege of being associated with Joe since I joined Boys Town in 1978 and have seen him grow through various portfolios of responsibility until he reached the pinnacle of his career as Executive Director.

Joe has always possessed an abundant reservoir of expertise – not only in the field of child and youth care, but in fundraising. One feature that always stood out for me is his unselfish sharing of knowledge and his ability to guide in difficult situations.

Joe taught me to be fair and to be a good listener. When it came to the youth in our care, he ensured that they always received the very best.

It’s my wish that Joe will continue his involvement with Girls and Boys Town into the future and pray that God will grant him good health. I also say a special thank you to Joe’s wife, Lorraine, for sharing her husband with us for so many years.’

What you gave and gave up

Clem Da Matta and Robert and Pat Kelly pay tribute to Joe.



Robert Kelly and Clem Da Matta.

In 1958, Joe Araujo, the longest standing ex-pupil involved with Girls & Boys Town, became a part of the foundation that he’s helped consolidate for the past 30 years.

He walked in as an awkward student and stepped out a role model to everybody who knows his work and passion for Girls & Boys Town.

His dedication will never leave our hallways and his heart and soul will always be embedded in the bricks and cement that hold Girls & Boys Town together.

Backbone

The endless love and support that he gave to his colleagues and the youth is the backbone of what we can proudly look upon today.

Thank you for what you gave and gave up for us, our boys and girls and our community.

Words are not enough to let the world know what a magnificent impact you made, the difference you made, the lives and hearts you mended. May God bless you and your path.

Keep the badge of Girls & Boys Town in your top left pocket – close to your heart, where it always was and always will be.’



We remember

Regional Development Officer for the Cape, Patricia bids farewell.

The Fundraiser would like to thank all the years of wisdom and support.

His passion, dedication and commitment will always be remembered – not only by those in our care – but by all of us.

Joe has been an inspiration. We cherish his work and we are here for you.

I bet the Bishop is smiling down on Adeus e boa sorte. God and good



Farewell from Joe Araujo

Joe reflects on his time with Girls & Boys Town

What began as a social telephone call to the late Bishop Reginald Orsmond in March 1974, ended in a career with Girls & Boys Town that now spans 33 years! An incredible achievement and success story for the organisation since it was the first time that a former pupil ever headed up a Boys Town in the world! And an unbelievable journey to have been part of the growth of an organisation that had one project (Magaliesburg) when I joined and now operates eight facilities throughout South Africa!

Leaving Social Work with the then Department of Social Welfare and joining John Hayward in the Development (fundraising) Office in Johannesburg was an unusual move for me – but then the organisation had already shown that it had the audacity to challenge and change some of the traditional ways of running a welfare organisation. After almost closing its doors in 1967 because of a lack of funding, John Hayward developed the Sponsor-a-Child programme started by the late Lady Ina Oppenheimer and saw the organisation ‘get-out-of-jail’ within two years – thanks to the hundreds of ordinary people who responded so generously to our appeals to save Boys Town.

Thereafter, the Bishop, the Board, John Hayward and many of us began dreaming big dreams of Girls & Boys Towns for children of all population groups.

Fights and rights

Right from the start of this amazing movement, we were part of the ‘struggle’ as it’s known today – a struggle on another platform that encompassed not only the conditions of the day but the ‘fight’ and right to:

- Admit children of all races and creeds. In the picture of the first 26 boys, one sees how the organisation became a haven for children who suffered the indignities of the racial policies of the day.
- Help families and admit Afrikaans children – to what was then labelled by the State as an English Children’s Home – despite the fact that of the 10 teachers teaching children, nine were “Afrikaners”.
- Establish a Girls & Boys Town for black children in Randfontein by taking the Randfontein Town Council within a day of the Townships Board!

The highlight of my career was undoubtedly succeeding Bishop Orsmond as Executive Director in 1993 and my visit to Girls & Boys Town USA – an event that has led to the establishment of a relationship that, I believe, will continue into the future and which will benefit both organisations. The introduction of their programmes and blending them with our own, has had a significant impact on the way we care for our children and will benefit similar facilities once we are able to offer these programmes to other childcare facilities. The Education Model – once adopted by the State – will have tremendous implications for our education system and preventing children from coming into care – including our care!

Milestones

The most significant events in my career were the loss of two ‘significant others’ – John Hayward, who was a hard task-master and taught me all I know about fundraising and of course, the Bishop, who was a real ‘Father’ to me – as he had been to many youngsters who passed through our gates. Both thrived in throwing responsibility at me – the ultimate test of all they taught us at Girls & Boys Town!

In 2005, the introduction of girls (and name change to Girls & Boys Town) to what had been an all-male organisation for 47 years was a memorable occasion – and about time too, many said! Since then, they have wreaked havoc with all that was familiar – our logo, our pay-off line, our facilities, the holiday periods – and it won’t stop there! Welcome ladies!

In all this, it is easy to forget the true forces behind this organisation – God and our donors! How can you go wrong with them on your side? Only people who work in this field can point to the goodness of man (and women) and the benevolence of the Almighty. I had many encounters with God

and on many occasions felt like the person in the Footprints story – especially when things weren’t moving along at my pace!

Reward

I have also learned that investing in this work is spiritually rewarding – for us and our donors – because as the late Bishop said: ‘If this was not God’s work, he would have made it abundantly clear a long time ago.’ This is another way of saying what Father Flanagan believed when he said: ‘The work will continue, you see, whether I’m there or not because it’s God’s work not mine.’ May God reward you abundantly as you care for His children!

Please continue with your investment – because in this work, we will always have more clients than cash and the challenging child will always be with us. If we can win their minds when they are young, we have a chance as a nation!

Influence

I want to thank the staff, the many people who served on our Board of Trustees, the Old Boys and people too many mention, for their role on this journey and helping me make the organisation what it is today – a powerful force in childcare in South Africa. Many of these people have proud records of success and sacrifice in their efforts to influence the futures of many of the children who have passed through our gates. The reward for all of us is, especially, when they visit to show off their wife and children and their achievements in life.

But this story would not be complete without acknowledging the tremendous support and encouragement I have received from my family – my wife, Lorraine and my children: Wayne, Nicole and Michael – who have allowed me to share my life also with other children. I have been truly blessed! As they say, ‘Behind every successful man ...’

Potential

Fears for the future? Very few – as we are well placed to impact on many youth, families, teachers, schools and other childcare facilities through our many programmes. We have incredible potential to do good and enable others to do better in their work – to impact on children and families like no other organisation in South Africa.

God bless you all and thank you for enabling me to make this journey!

Joe Araujo

Sharing sorrow and joys

Delores Sacks has worked alongside Joe for 15 years and knows that Girls & Boys Town will remain a priority for Joe.

Joe was the first person I met at Boys Town – as it was then called. I’ve learned so much from him – and from his example.



He’s always been the epitome of efficiency and honesty – and he cares about his colleagues. Although always busy, ‘the boss’ had an open door and made time to listen. We’ve shared working hours and social times – especially when Joe was the chef at braais!

I found a friend in Joe. The journey we’ve travelled together will always be important to me.

My wish is for Joe to enjoy his retirement with his wife, Lorraine – and to do all the things he’s never had the time to do because Girls & Boys Town always came first.

Lorraine and Joe Araujo, with Delores Sacks (centre).