

Yesterday's Boys Today

Foundations for the future

According to 'old boy' Vincent Luizinho, his time with us laid the foundation for his future.

In his own words, he shares his experiences: 'My years at Boys Town – between 1980 and 1982 – proved to be some of the most challenging, rewarding and enjoyable years of my teenage life. After the initial settling-in process, I steadily began my transition from a rebellious teenager to a responsible and courteous young man.

I was given much support from both Father Sham and the late Father Orsmond. They believed that there was no such thing as bad boys, just naughty boys who need to be given responsibility in order for them to become responsible young men.

In good stead

I steadily worked my way up the 'responsibility ladder' until I became Councillor in Standard 9 and Mayor in my Matric year. The trust shown in me – and the responsibilities given to me – by my fellow learners and teachers, stood me in good stead for my career with Pick 'n Pay.

After many interviews for a Trainee Manager's position within Pick 'n Pay, Sean Summers (now CEO of Pick 'n Pay) eventually employed me in 1985. It was a very exciting time for me as Pick 'n Pay was at that stage opening hypermarkets throughout the country. With the care and guidance shown to me by Peter Dodson, who was then a buyer within the Pick 'n Pay group, I steadily climbed another 'responsibility ladder' and achieved Senior Manager status.

Values

I married in 1992 after meeting my



Vincent Luizinho

wife, Stella, at work and we then moved to Cape Town to further our careers within Pick 'n Pay.

I resigned from the corporate group in 1995 and in the same year, Paul Robins and I opened our own Pick 'n Pay Family Store in Plumstead, Cape Town.

I believe that the guidance given to me at both Boys Town and Pick 'n Pay helped me succeed in my own business. I have tried to instil the values I learned at Boys Town in all my dealings with people at work and in my personal life.

Stella and I have been blessed with two wonderful children, aged five and two.

Finally, I need to add that I was also mentored by a very special man by the name of Joe Araujo, who is now Executive Director of Girls & Boys Town. He played a pivotal role in my childhood years, as well as my latter years, as he arranged for me to join Boys Town and later set up my first interview at Pick 'n Pay.

Youth Update

November 2005

Your investment at work



Character and courage

Many children at Girls & Boys Town have endured experiences that even adults would battle to overcome. It's testament to your support of our work – and the children's own character and courage – that young lives are healed enough to pursue their hopes for the future.

I thank God for the strength I see in our children – and for the conviction of friends like you.

Please continue to support us, so that we can continue to help troubled girls and boys find their way in life. God bless you and keep you safe during the Festive Season.

Joe Araujo

JOE ARAUJO
Executive Director



Hanging out ... girls from our Alpha Family Home enjoying a 'tree top' experience with members of the Top Tree Canopy.

Of girls and growth

A 'whirlwind of activities' is how Deidre Engelbrecht, Principal of our girls' home, Alpha House, describes the past few months. 'The girls have made progress – some faster than others – but we have seen them grow. Where would they be now, if they hadn't come to Girls & Boys Town?' she adds.

Meg, for instance, didn't regularly attend school and had difficulty accepting authority. Despite a troubled background – marked by no contact with her father, being reared by her grandmother and then living with her mother for the past five years – Meg has done well since she joined Alpha Home.

Now, she goes to school every day, fulfils her role as 'Manager' in the house when it's her turn, communicates well with others and is developing excellent leadership qualities.

She has also become computer literate since joining Girls & Boys

Town – an achievement in itself since she could not type at all before.

'Our donors, the Cape Family Team and the national network of Girls & Boys Town staff must be commended for their support in setting up our home for girls. It's thanks to the entire team that we're making a wonderful difference in girls' lives,' says Deidre.



Youngsters from our Cape Family Homes making friends.

'A hundred years from now it will not matter what my bank account was, the sort of house I lived in, or the kind of clothes I wore, but the world may be much different because I was important in the life of a child.'

Author unknown



Private Bag X61, Auckland Park 2006
11 Lemon Street Sunnyside
Johannesburg 2092
Tel (011) 482 2655
Fax (011) 482 6059
Registration No. 009-244 NPO
E-mail donorservices@gbtown.org.za
Website www.girlsandboystown.org.za



Etlin BTK 047 Third report

Etlin continues to excel. He was elected as 'Best Defender of the Year' at a soccer tournament and was again selected for Gauteng's LSEN Schools' Soccer Association Tournament. In addition to being a star on the soccer field, he is working hard at his NIC course and is making excellent progress.

Bheki BT TONG 673 03 Final report

We're happy to report that Bheki has returned home and is continuing with his education. Time at Girls & Boys Town has taught him to interact more appropriately with adults and he has benefited immensely from this guidance. He is now able to deal with life's challenges confidently and we wish him all the best for the future.

Peter MAC 595 Second report

Peter's relationship with his family, peers and adults has improved. He will pass Grade 6 at the end of this year and his school reports reflect that he is exceeding academic expectations for his Grade. Peter has begun to tap into his potential and is due to be reunited with his family later this year.

Angelo KAG Second report

We remain proud of this former Girls & Boys Town Mayor. He successfully completed his NIC course and is currently working at a Bank. Angelo was a great role model and continues to inspire the other children who still live with us.

Rudi MAC 659 First report

Rudi has had a tough time. He lived with his father after his parents' divorce – until his father was brutally murdered in his presence! Suffering severe trauma and undergoing many temporary placements in care, Rudi was

eventually reunited with his mother.

However, the mother's social problems forced Rudi into yet another home and he was finally admitted to Girls & Boys Town in April this year. Slowly, Rudi is being helped to rebuild his young life. He's an insecure 16-year-old and initially found it difficult to adjust.

Thanks to the care and expertise of the Girls & Boys Town team, Rudi has made friends, attends school diligently and he has started to play again. As importantly, his mother is working at improving her circumstances and wants her son to return home to her.

David MYC11/07 First report

David's early childhood was marked by abuse as he was with a violent father and addicted, ill mother. Despite the neglect he experienced, he was devastated by his mother's death, which led to behaviour problems.

After two unsuccessful foster care placements, David came to Girls & Boys Town. He is doing well, and we have no doubt that he will continue to make progress with us.

Mandla BT709/05 First report

It's hard to believe this is the same boy who came to us as a teenager who bunked school, stole money and used his father's car without permission. Not even counselling made a difference – so his parents decided to send him to Girls & Boys Town for help.

Mandla has already earned the position of Citizen in our Peer Group System and is proud of his achievements. He wants to use all the skills he's learning with us, to help make a success of his future. We're confident he'll do precisely that.



Proud to wear their Girls & Boys Town t-shirts, our girls showed excellent team spirit before their netball tournament.



Boys enjoying a game of tug-of-war at our Kagiso-Randfontein Centre.



Is anybody listening?

Whether the person on the other end of the line is a young child, concerned neighbour or desperate parent, every call for help to the Girls & Boys Town's National Hotline is treated constructively.

Not only are Hotline staff thoroughly trained in crisis and pre- and post-HIV/Aids counselling, they're also equipped to assess and respond to 'cues' that indicate whether the caller's at risk of behaving dangerously. This is particularly important, since prolonged stress and unresolved problems can lead people to extreme action, such as violence or suicide.

Currently, our Hotline deals with more than 400 calls per month. Ninety-nine percent of these pleas for help directly involve children and youth.

Why a Hotline?

As valuable as the Hotline is, it's an expensive operation to run. It's entirely funded by Girls & Boys Town – through the support of friends like you – and costs around R250 000 a year to keep going.

Until we find a generous sponsor, the Hotline is an expense we must bear. This is justified by the positive feedback we continue to receive from professionals – in the medical field such as psychologists and doctors, from children and parents who've found help and solutions through the Hotline – and from families that have been saved!



Who said wardrobes are only for clothes?



Enjoying quiet time together and the chance to chat.