

Yesterday's Boys Today

The privilege of contribution and pleasure of friendship

In addition to being an 'old boy' himself, Harry Prince spent almost two decades working for Girls & Boys Town. He could almost be described as someone who loved Girls & Boys Town so much that he didn't want to leave!

Harry originally left us in 1973, after spending three-and-a-half years at our Magaliesburg Centre. During that time he'd risen up the ranks of the Peer Group System to become the 'Chief Cop' as he puts it.

After his stint with the army – which was compulsory in those days – he enjoyed an administration and accounting career.

When he moved back to Magaliesburg – to a property that bordered Girls & Boys Town – he gradually became involved with the organisation.

Counselling

After joining Magaliesburg's Auxillary Committee and becoming its Chairperson, Harry eventually took up the position of administrator at Magaliesburg in 1992.

He was often called upon to offer advice and counselling with regard to the Peer Group System and also helped at Camp Caroline, our holiday camp at Munster on KwaZulu-Natal's South Coast.

Harry became an active member of the Old Boy's Association in 1977 and served on its Executive Committee for many years.

As part of his 'duties' here, he tried to play against the boys in various soccer matches – although he's the first



Harry Prince

to admit that his ball skills leave much to be desired!

In 2004 Harry was diagnosed with a defective heart valve. This led to major surgery.

Surgery

The after-effects of open-heart surgery and the need to slow down forced Harry into early retirement at the end of 2005 – although he stayed on as Acting Principal of Magaliesburg and eventually left in May 2006.

Harry's dedication to Girls & Boys Town will always be treasured and we wish him well in his new home in Swellendam.

Remember, Harry: 'You can't keep a good man down!'

To understand the heart and mind of a person, look not at what he has already achieved, but at what he aspires to do.

– Kahlil Gibran



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Youth Update

November 2006

Your investment at work



Each child is unique

There may be similarities in the problems that lead children to Girls & Boys Town – but no two youngsters will experience their hardships – or healing – in an identical way.

This means that those of us who work with the youth will always be challenged to look at things differently, to keep an open mind and stay sensitive to every child's uniqueness. Sometimes, we learn a thing or two ourselves along the way!

Girls & Boys Town is about setting kids up for enduring success in life. And your help makes it happen!

God bless you over the festive season. Thanks again for all your caring.

Joe Araujo

JOE ARAUJO
Executive Director



Everyone needs a big buddy to lean on sometimes ...

Your gifts count – 100%

We often remind you of the pivotal role that you play within Girls & Boys Town.

These are not empty words, because friends like you – our most valued sponsors – help provide almost 80% of our income. State subsidies amount to only 11% of our funding.

You'll be pleased to know that the bulk of Girls & Boys Town's funding goes exactly where it's supposed to: into our Youth Development Centres and Family Homes which care for children.

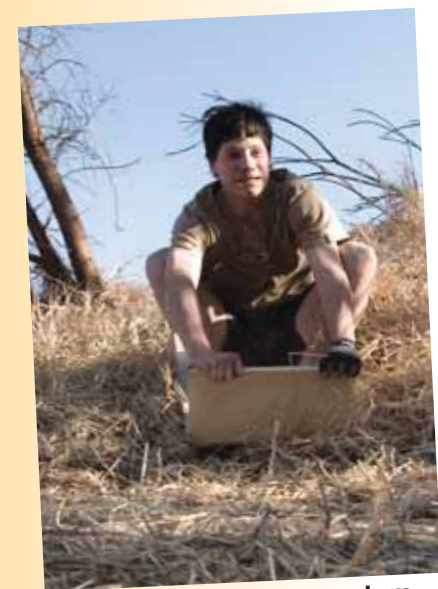
If you support us through a monthly debit order, we're especially grateful.

Not only do debit orders reduce administration costs, but this dependable income helps with proper financial planning. It's also a safeguard against postal pilferage.

But no matter how you support Girls & Boys Town, we strive to make every Rand count 100% in children's lives.

And we want to say it again: thank you so much!

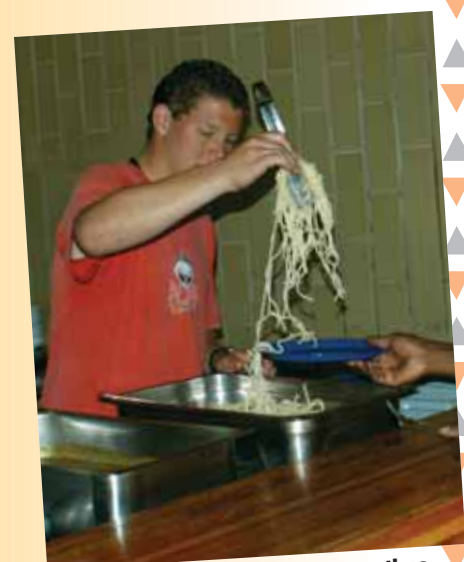
A rose only becomes beautiful and blesses others when it opens up and blooms. Its greatest tragedy is to stay in a tight-closed bud, never fulfilling its potential.



Often, the most fun you can have costs nothing!



At work on ... homework.



Service with a smile at supper time.

Etlin (KAG 047)

Final report

Currently on our Independent Living Skills Programme, Etlin's now employed by a company in Germiston and doing well.

We know he'll implement everything he learned at Girls & Boys Town to continue on his path to success. Best of luck, Etlin!

Rudi (MAC 659)

Final report

Rudi has shown us that no matter how tough or tragic one's past is, you can still make a success of life.

Rudi worked hard to re-establish his self-worth and overcome the early trauma he suffered at seeing his father killed.

He has formed healthy relationships with adults and his peers and has learned to manage his emotions.

Sadly, his grandfather died shortly after he was reunited with his family – but this made him even more determined to rebuild his relationship with his mother and grandmother.

You can do anything you set your mind to, Rudi – so reach high!

Mandla (TON709/05)

Second report

Mandla, who's now in Grade 9, continues to do well in the Peer Group System. He willingly accepts responsibility and is trying his best at school.

Unfortunately, Mandla had problems at home during the holidays and ran away. This placed his relationship with his parents under strain.

Mandla admits that what he did was not a good choice and deeply regrets his actions. He has learned from his mistake and is motivated to try even harder to succeed.



Eugene (MAG)

First report

Eugene's behaviour deteriorated after his parents divorced. His relationship with his father, in particular, suffered.

He came to Girls & Boys Town because of his emotional outbursts and temper, poor social skills and disrespect for authority.

At first, Eugene was defiant. He struggled to settle at school and wouldn't co-operate with teachers.

But now – thanks to help from his Youth Care Worker and therapy sessions – Eugene has developed into a well-mannered boy and applies himself at school.

He has asked to visit his father during some weekends – which is a sure sign of his own healing.

Zane (MAC 703)

First report

Zane grew up with his grandmother but had problems after he started living with his mother.

He got into trouble regularly at school. Counselling and suspensions made no difference – and in desperation, his mother approached Girls & Boys Town for help.

Now, Zane's school work and behaviour have improved. He has the potential to realise his dream of becoming an engineer or computer specialist. A great effort, Zane!



Chores are part of daily life at Girls & Boys Town. Boys take turns to serve food (left) and (above) girls at our Alpha Family Home wash and dry dishes as part of their duties.

David (MAG)

First report

David's sad past includes a violent father, a half-brother who was adopted and then emigrated with his adoptive parents and the death of his mother.

David has the same hereditary disorder as his late mother, which requires him to have medical checks every six months.

David battled to deal with his mother's death. Behaviour problems and two unsuccessful foster placements were the result.

But thankfully, David's made good progress since he joined Girls & Boys Town. While he has to keep working on his behaviour and performance at school, we're positive he'll do well in our system.



A Chinese proverb: Tell me, I'll forget. Show me, I may remember. But involve me and I'll understand.

No such thing as a bad boy

Father Flanagan, who founded Girls & Boys Town in the USA in 1917, said: 'There is no such thing as a bad boy. There is only bad environment, bad training, bad example, bad thinking.'

This may well be so – since there are families and homes so unsafe and dysfunctional that children can't remain in them.

Not all youngsters do well in foster care either. For many, residential care is the best option.

All our residential centres are 'open' environments – children are never locked up. And they must want to be with us.

In return, we offer some of the most comprehensive and effective developmental programmes in South Africa. And Girls & Boys Town is the only organisation to offer programmes according to children's needs.

Overcoming trauma

Our youngsters attend local schools and participate in school and community activities just like other children.

They also get extra help if necessary – whether tutoring or expert guidance – to help them overcome their past trauma. Crucial to each child's time with us is the learning of values and social skills.

These essential skills help in the classroom, in dealing with adults, choosing and making new friends and managing the daily challenges that face them.

In our 'Peer Group System' youngsters are involved in decision-making regarding their affairs and rule themselves – under the close guidance of adults.

Why not come and see this for yourself? To arrange a visit in your region, please call us on (011) 482 2655.



While youngsters come to us for many reasons, the root cause is most often that they have not been taught the social skills needed to manage life's situations.



Friends sharing a special moment.