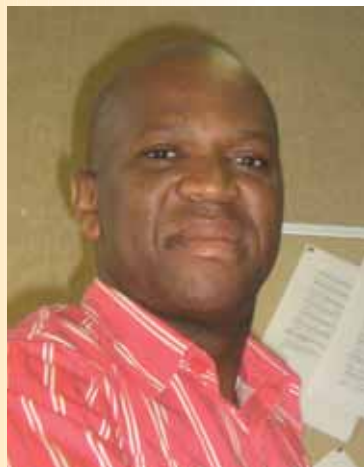


Yesterday's Boys Today

'You're welcome, brother, you're welcome ...'



Noël Milner

Noël Milner grew up in the gang-infested Cape Flats, which were riddled with drug lords and the lure of their lifestyle. Going to Girls & Boys Town at the age of 15 changed his life.

One of the problems of growing up around gangsters is that they become your role models. Not because you aspire to their lifestyle, but because their way seems to be the only hope for a better life.

This is a tough perception to overcome – but thanks to Girls & Boys Town, Noël Milner was able to do just that.

In his own words, he describes his time with us many years ago: "At the age of 15 I was accepted at Boys Town. This was the best day of my life as I knew my life would change. Even though I was ridiculed by my peers, I stuck to my resolve."

Welcomed

"The evening of my first day I received a welcome from the staff and boys at supper time. They welcomed me with a song, 'Jy's welkom broer, jy's welkom' ('You're welcome, brother, you're welcome')."

"I knew I was home. I was not judged by staff or the boys. The warm welcome and great smiles put me at ease. At the time the motto was, 'We can't change their past, but we'll help them shape their

future.' This motto helped me believe that I can make something of my life."

Values

"During my stay I learned important values; I learned to take responsibility and make good choices. Derrick Groep was a great inspiration and he guided me through the Peer Group System."

"My love for youth work developed during my time at Boys Town. I matriculated in 1992 and they helped me obtain a qualification to prepare me for the job market."

"Over the years I was privileged to work in different youth settings and gain valuable experience."

Opportunity

"I joined Girls & Boys Town as a staff member in 2003."

"Later, the opportunity to become a trainer came up, and now I'm able to help educators and parents in managing children at home and schools."

"I am so grateful for this because I've found my true calling in life through the work that I'm doing."

'We learn wisdom from failure much more than from success. We often discover what will do, by finding out what will not do. He who never made a mistake never made a discovery.'
Samuel Smiles

Youth Update

November 2007

Your investment at work



Healthy transitions

Girls and Boys Town youth are masters at adapting to different circumstances and environments.

They leave home and enter our programmes for a period of time, make new friends, establish and maintain new relationships, learn healthier ways of interacting and managing personal challenges – and then adapt their skills and strengths to varying situations as they return to their homes and other environments.

This transitional journey continues for all staff and youth as we bid Joe adieu as Executive Director, but know that we will enjoy ongoing relationships with our donors into a successful future – but only with your help.

God bless and watch over you for your tireless commitment, support and friendship as the Festive Season approaches and as Girls & Boys Town heads into its 50th year.

Lee Loynes

LEE LOYNES
Chief Executive Officer



SHAPING THEIR FUTURES
SINCE 1958



Having someone to count on makes all the difference ... children from our Macassar Family Home learn about teamwork – and trust.

Making better choices

When Jenade first arrived at our Verulam Family Home, he was a teenager with a challenging attitude. helped me become a better person. I'm leaving at the end of the year and I won't forget what I've learned,' adds Jenade.

"My way was being a rebel and going against everything, but I was wrong," he explains.

"Girls & Boys Town taught me that not everything is about being top dog and that if you strive to succeed, you can change your life."

Jenade has also realised that friends – and people in general – can be a positive or negative influence. However, your own behaviour is a choice.

"I appreciate that people have



Jenade won't forget what he's learned with us.

"I am truly grateful to the team at Girls & Boys Town. Thanks a million!" Jenade has learned valuable lessons at Girls & Boys Town – and skills that will serve him well for the rest of his life.

We wish him every success in the future.

Your loyal support continues to be a blessing to many youngsters at Girls & Boys Town Centres throughout South Africa. Thank you for your commitment.



Girls & Boys Town

SHAPING THEIR FUTURES
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50 years young

2008 is a big year for Girls & Boys Town: we're turning 50!

Celebrate *your* contribution to this special milestone – because it's our supporters' generosity that has sustained us for five decades.

We'll keep you posted of anniversary happenings.

Thank you for investing in South Africa's youth.



Nkosi (YDCM) First report

Nkosi came to us in 2006 as a result of uncontrollable behaviour, problems at school and a poor relationship with his mother and stepfather.

Excessive childhood trauma had led to a 'don't care' attitude and he had also been expelled.

Girls & Boys Town involved Nkosi's family in their efforts and planning, which has led to an improvement in his behaviour.

When he was transferred to a technical high school this year, he started taking pride in his work. His teachers are impressed with his behaviour at school.

Nkosi's attitude has taken a huge turn for the good. He is now doing very well academically and is happy at his school.

His circumstances at home have also improved tremendously. His family visits every chance they can and keep regular telephone contact.

Nkosi has become a caring youngster and he now helps new youths settle in when they arrive at Girls & Boys Town.



Some of the girls at our Alpha Family Home bid farewell to Joe Araujo, who recently retired as Girls & Boys Town's Executive Director.

Out and about ... youth from our Glenwood, Tongaat and Verulam centres enjoyed a beach hike together, along with two staff members. The outing was thoroughly enjoyed and highlighted the beauty of nature's creations. The team returned exhausted but exhilarated.



Melanie (FHA) First report

Relationship problems with her mother, bunking school, drinking and staying away from home without permission: these were some of Melanie's problems when she came to us in 2006.

Changing her school and having regular contact with her teachers has proved to be beneficial.

The tragic death of her young nephew in a car accident earlier this year was devastating, and Melanie continues to attend counselling sessions with a social worker.

Time and support has seen Melanie progress well – and her relationship with her mother has also improved.

Earlier this year, Melanie was part of a youth tour and travelled to Namibia over the holidays.

She's developing into a responsible and mature young lady. It's likely that she will be reunited with her mother in the near future.



Mike and Syd (YDCT) First report

These brothers have had more than their fair share of emotional challenges lately.

After a holiday with their foster parents, they felt anxious about the future of this relationship.

Then their biological father made contact after years of absence. The boys were thrilled – and confused. They visited dad (who was staying with their sister) and were happy that the family agreed to have them for a holiday.

Sadly, the boys were not treated well and dad left after an argument with their sister. The emotional upheaval has been difficult for the boys.

Despite this, Mike's a Councillor and continues to do his best. He's received awards for his schoolwork and was recognised for his excellent efforts at a Toast Masters' leadership course.

Syd has also done well and has earned awards.

Although he had difficulty with the developments in his life and went through a phase of inappropriate behaviour, he's back on track.

Lenny (YDCT) First report

It was hard to believe that quiet, reserved Lenny had stolen, run away and disrespected his teachers and relatives prior to joining us.

Initially he did well at Girls & Boys Town and soon earned leadership status.

However, behaviour problems led to him being demoted.

Lenny is learning from his mistakes and his grandmother reports that he is respectful during his home visits.

We're sure that Lenny will succeed if he allows himself to benefit from the facilities and programmes at Girls & Boys Town.

You can do it, Len!

Anton (YDCM) First report

Anton came to Girls & Boys Town with his older brothers in 2004, after their mother received a prison sentence for fraud.

Their father needed help after the boys' relationship with their stepmother deteriorated badly.

He has strong leadership qualities and has risen in the Peer Group System – and been demoted – four times.

His willingness to keep trying and work hard has paid off. He has now reached – and maintained – the highest level within the system. He wants to be the best he can be.

His mother was recently released from prison. The challenge now is to rebuild Anton's family relationships and sustain them.

With continued support, Anton is sure to shine!



All aboard!



Friends help make everything better ...

