



GIRLS & BOYS TOWN
60 YEARS OF HOPE

SINCE 1958
60 years of celebration – as we help vulnerable youth to S.H.I.N.E.®

Youth TODAY

NOVEMBER 2018

A NEWSLETTER FOR SUPPORTERS OF GIRLS & BOYS TOWN

MANDELA DAY SPIRIT

The joy of receiving,
the power of giving.

On Mandela Day, our youth were thrilled to experience the power of giving back, sharing and caring for others.



Cosy beanies, knitted and donated to us, were distributed among the younger children in the community.

A mid-winter surprise really warmed the beds and spirits of our girls and boys earlier this year.

Added to which, this generous gift of fleece blankets, was also a cheerful reminder that the joy of receiving is best matched by the power of giving.

And so, Mandela Day was the perfect opportunity for our youth to step away from their own concerns and get involved with the broader community. This is exactly what the Magaliesburg youth did as they helped hand out clothes and serve soup and bread to the families and the elderly living in an impoverished township nearby.

Learning to value the generosity is critical for youth development, especially considering that when children arrive with us at Girls & Boys Town, they are often intensely focused on their own predicament



and survival. Not surprising, given the trauma that many have experienced. So we go to work right away to redevelop their sensitivity – teaching and showing them how to care not only for themselves but others too. It is part of their journey to getting real meaning and purpose back into their lives.

This is why our youth are encouraged to understand that there are always people who are less fortunate than them. This helps them develop understanding, empathy and a sense of nurture towards others – part of their own path to healing.

CARE TO 'DONATE YOUR BIRTHDAY'?

Have you reached a stage of life where you really do not need any more gifts? Be it a birthday, wedding anniversary, or other special occasion – why not suggest to family and friends that they make a 'surrogate donation' to Girls & Boys Town in your honour? A warm gesture, and one that you know will benefit our work further.

Please see our website for further details. Thank you so much!

Our Vision

Youth, families and communities;
South Africa's strength and future.

Our Mission

Creating opportunities for youth to grow and develop into responsible citizens, able to contribute to family and community life in the spirit of peace, dignity, tolerance, equality and solidarity with others.

Benefits of a bequest to Girls & Boys Town

A bequest in a will to Girls & Boys Town, a registered 'Public Benefit Organisation' in terms of Section 18A of the Income Tax Act (Act 58 of 1962), is deducted from the value of your estate, which may be subject to estate duty. Hence your bequest to Girls & Boys Town will be entirely free from estate duty, thus reducing the portion of your estate subject to Estate Duty.



National Hotline No. 0861 58 58 58
Private Bag X6, Greenside, 2034 South Africa
Tel. 011 482 2655 Fax. 011 482 6059 / 0866 131 580
E-mail mailing@gbtown.org.za

Website www.girlsandboystown.org.za
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(Act 100 of 1978)



Shining in the world after Girls & Boys Town

How research is helping us to better prepare our youth for life after leaving our care.

Without question, our girls and boys often struggle when their time with us draws to an end. To make this transition easier for them, we have put a lot of time and effort into valuable research that will determine the best practices for this and how to then put these practices into use...

In 2009, Girls & Boys Town established a 3-phase, longitudinal research study partnership with the University of Johannesburg. The purpose of this research is to track our youths as they transition out of our care and into independence, annually measuring where they are at in their lives.

During the first few years of this Growth Beyond the Town study, we designed and developed procedures and tools, trained research staff and field workers who would then interview our past youths, gathering valuable insights on how we can help improve their adult lives.

Analyses done in phases 1 and 2 of our study showed trends of resilience and success for our youth in transition. As a result, we developed the Youth Ecological Resilience Scale (YERS), which was subsequently validated and is now used by other researchers.

Phase 3 of our research focuses on establishing, developing and implementing best practice programmes that will prepare our youth for a successful transition.

In order for our youngsters in transition to have the best chance in life, our research points to the same factors time and time again. These include the positive impact on a young person's relationships (family, friends, community), social environment (community safety, family financial security) and personal and interactional aspects.

We attended the International Pathways to Resilience Conference held in Cape Town in June 2017, which resulted in the valuable sharing of information and a validation of our study.

Our research partnership with the University of Johannesburg has also opened the door to great opportunities for our youth, including:

- Improved researcher and field worker skill sets and procedures
- Greater access to research tools and software to ensure research efficiency and effectiveness
- The establishment and implementation of the Phase 3 research study.

We will share the results from our studies on the Girls & Boys Town website, so please continue to follow our findings and developments at www.girlsandboystown.org.za

Lee Loynes
LEE LOYNES
Chief Executive Officer

JOURNEY TO SUSTAINABILITY



Girls & Boys Town staff and board members spent some time in KwaZulu Natal recently visiting our local Youth Development Centres and Family Group homes there.

It was the perfect occasion to celebrate the 60 years of our existence with local staff and youth – completed by the ceremonial cutting of our special commemorative cake.

It is commitment from our team, combined with the support of donors (some of whom have been with us since the inception of the organisation) that has sustained Girls & Boys Town through these 60 years – and, hopefully, many more.

Celebrating sustainability in a different way, a walk through the lush vegetable gardens was a real highlight. The gardens have grown out of donor investment into some of our recent sustainability projects.

Donor partners recognised

Donors, partners, friends... it is always difficult for us to fully thank those people who regularly contribute to the work we do at Girls & Boys Town. And so we have recently begun awarding appreciation certificates to individual donors when they visit our campuses or during other face-to-face meetings. A small gesture, but one of the ways we feel we can recognise the vital partnerships that help repair the youth in our care. Thank you to all.



Now you can support us through MySchool

You can support Girls & Boys Town through the MySchool programme. If you do not have a MySchool/MyVillage/MyPlanet card yet, simply apply for your free card now and select Girls & Boys Town as your beneficiary. Once you start swiping your card, we will start receiving funds. Every swipe counts! To get your card call the Client Service Centre on 0860 100 445 or email cs@myschool.co.za.

You can find out more at www.myschool.co.za/schools/

SnapScan App makes donating easier



Snap here to donate

- Donating to Girls & Boys Town with SnapScan is as easy as 1, 2, 3!
1. Download the SnapScan App and sign up with your details
 2. Scan to add your bank card details
 3. Choose a 4-digit PIN
- You are now ready to make your safe, seamless and convenient donation.



PROJECT 'TABLE'

In search of original beauty

Still good, still sturdy – and still delivering hearty meal-times to our youth.

These were the reliable old tables that had seen a lot of history in the dining area of our Magaliesburg campus.

But, as we know, time takes a toll.

And so, an idea was hatched: let us restore these tables to their original glory – but let us do it ourselves. Let us draw satisfaction from the task, and leave a legacy.

Come the much-anticipated renovation day, our boys teamed up – each team adopting a particular table as their project.

Rolling up their sleeves, the boys spent dedicated time sanding down, dusting off, and then patiently applying coats of varnish. Gradually, depths of rich colour and grain were revealed, beauty that had long been hidden beneath scuffs and scratches.

Our boys were keen to get stuck in, worked diligently at the task and, at the end, had the pleasure of hard-earned pride.

The result? Beautiful tables that look as good as new. What a wonderful, old fashioned experience for our boys.

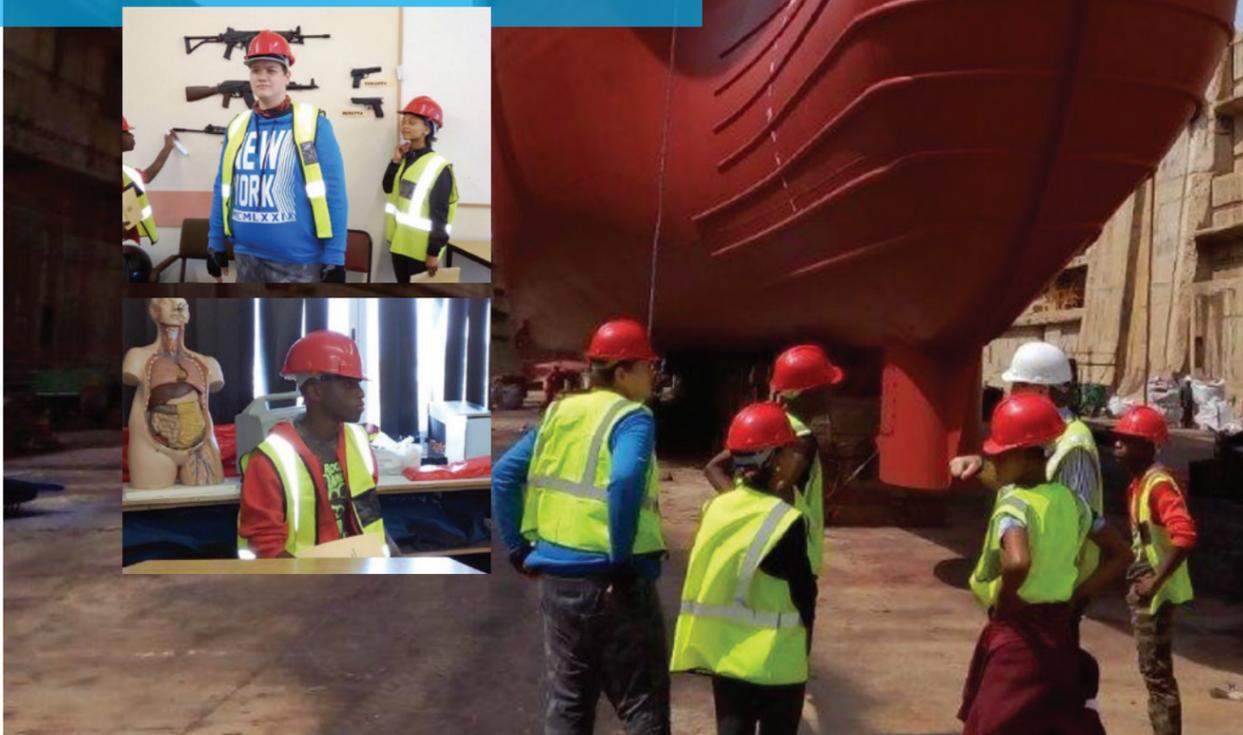
**HARD WORK
PAYS OFF!
FUN AND DUST -
WE'RE FULL OF IT!**

**WORK MADE
BETTER WITH
FRIENDS**

**BROTHERS WHO
SAND TOGETHER-
GET TO EAT AT A
NEW TABLE
TOGETHER!**

**UP NEXT -
A COAT OR TWO
OF VARNISH**

A sponsored invitation to "Come Aboard"



Thanks to thoughtful sponsorship by a donor, youth in the Western Cape were recently introduced to the possibility of future careers in the maritime industry. During an orientation day, our youngsters had a hands on opportunity to learn, ask questions, and gain valuable insights into the port and shipping. Their next step will be to take up the offer to complete introductory courses in subjects like fishing, firefighting, first aid, maritime distress, and safety systems – with course durations ranging from 6 months to 18 months. Our youth involved see this as a really valuable opportunity, and fully accept the responsibility of completing the courses they choose.



"Let's do this!"

THERE'S NO RAINING...



ON OUR PARADE!

Torrential rains on the weekend of 13 and 14 October looked set to take all the 'fun' out of our 4x4 Family Fun Day – scheduled on the Sunday.

But a plucky 'let's do this' attitude prevailed.

So, the weather did not dampen anyone's fun, it only 'wet' their appetites further!

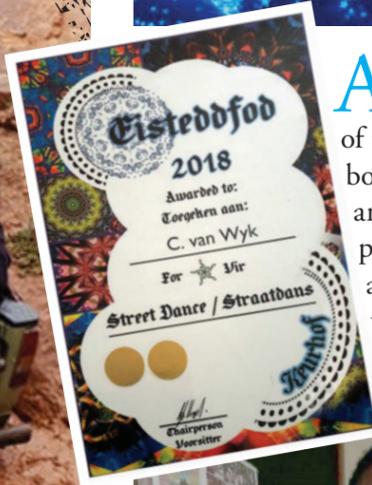
What followed was a superb experience for all who attended, with everyone going back to their childhood days stomping around in the mud and then riding in the 4x4 vehicles. The 30 children from the Kagiso and Magaliesburg Youth Development Centres were treated to the greatest fun. They were deeply intrigued by the learnings and information from the drivers, watching them

handle the rough and tough stuff with comfort, safety and ease.

The day ended with a braai and prize giving, which added lots more excitement and celebration. A huge THANK YOU to the wonderful children, the Girls & Boys Town staff, the organisers, sponsors and the participants for such a fantastic day. The children were exemplary and overseen exceptionally well by the Child and Youth Care Workers who attended.

It is this kind of event that gives the youth a day of unexpected fun and experience. It is also a day that is only made possible because of donors. Come rain, or shine, thank you for always being there for Girls & Boys Town!

Our Shining STARS!



A proud Girls & Boys Town youth was a recent recipient of the Eisteddfod award. She boasts many creative talents, and Girls & Boys Town is so proud of her well-deserved achievement. We look forward to helping her enhance these talents even further.



We also have a star hockey player in our midst - featuring in the local newspaper for being selected to play for the West Rand Schools two years in a row! This is a result of his focus, ambition and commitment towards this sport, and Girls & Boys Town cheers him on proudly!



Youth investing in themselves

The JSE Investment Challenge is a game that aims to teach South African learners about investing on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange (JSE) and the larger role that such investment plays in the country's economy. The Challenge helps the participants to learn about the fundamentals of investment strategy and encourages them to research and strategise issues surrounding the trading of JSE-listed shares. Girls & Boys Town youth have been chosen to attend the Challenge ceremony and get inspired to be part of this worthy initiative from 2019.