



**GIRLS
& BOYS
TOWN**

Helping youth S.H.I.N.E.® since 1958

Youth TODAY

NOVEMBER 2019

A NEWSLETTER FOR SUPPORTERS OF GIRLS & BOYS TOWN



“ PUBLIC SPEAKING IS SOMETHING
THAT CAN OPEN MANY DOORS
IN A CHILD’S CAREER ”

Children in our care are required to do eight weeks on various programmes to help them learn new skills – one of the ways we equip them with knowledge and empower them to shine!

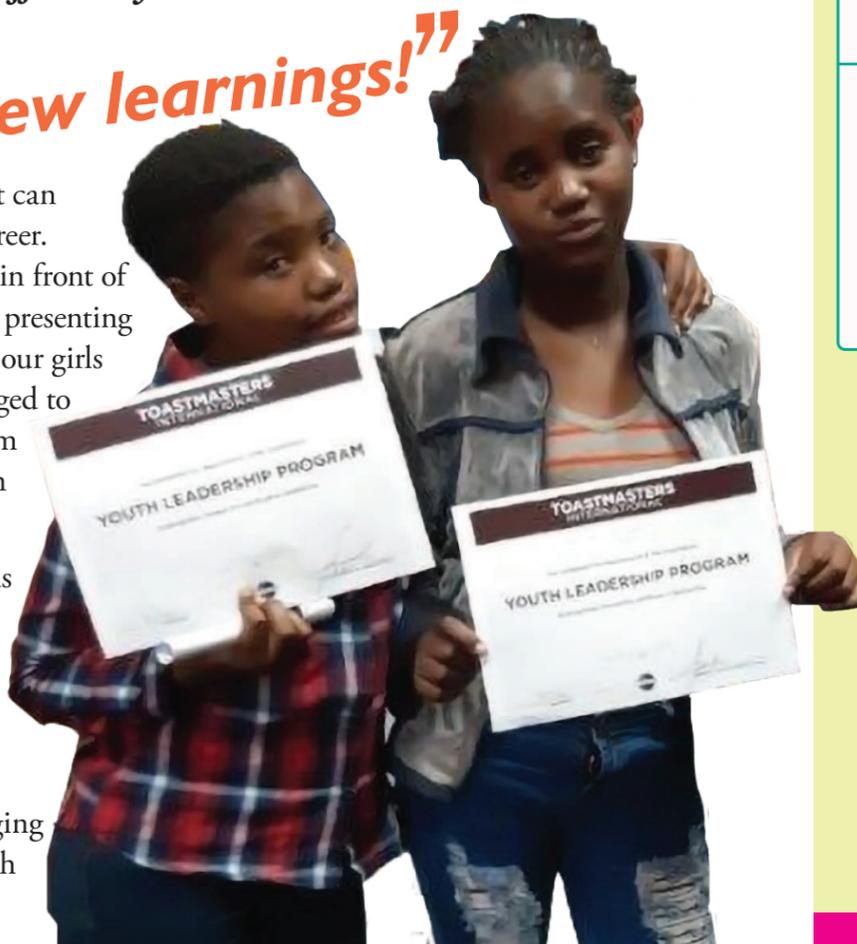
“And now... a toast!”

Recently, 33 youths, aged between 13 and 18 were introduced to public speaking at Girls & Boys Town in Randfontein through a two-day programme offered by Toastmasters International.

“To new learnings!”

Public speaking is something that can open many doors in a child’s career. Overcoming nerves when speaking in front of an audience, planning a speech and presenting that speech were some of the skills our girls and boys learnt. They were encouraged to participate in discussions, brainstorm new ideas and share these ideas with each other.

Everyone who attended was presented with certificates of completion. It was wonderful to see some learners really shine during the programme, and we hope it opens new doors to confidence for them. We look forward to encouraging new young leaders in future through this programme.



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. Your bequest to Girls & Boys Town will consequently be entirely free from estate duty and will reduce the portion of your estate which is subject to Estate Duty.



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Dear Partners in Care

We hope that this newsletter finds you and your family well and happy.

There can be no doubt that life at GBTSA brings us new challenges every day. Those that are most familiar emanate from our individual youth, their unique responses to our world and their healing process, preparing our staff teams for creative shifts needed in responding to and healing our young and vulnerable girls and boys, maintenance of our buildings and campuses, and so on.

Those that are truly challenging and taxing are those that fall outside of our areas of expertise and training – those of structural building challenges – and fixing those problems! God in his wisdom hands us only challenges that we can manage and so our Tongaat, KZN campus, despite consistent and routine maintenance over the many years, has begun collapsing.

According to the engineers, the foundations in many of these buildings were not built robustly enough

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to securely hold them solidly in place over the past 80 to 100 years – and they have been deemed to be structurally unsound. You will thus become aware of our newly launched ‘Tongaat Capital Campaign’ where we are endeavouring to raise the R68 million required to restore our Tongaat campus as we continue to care for abused, vulnerable and abandoned young people – and continue your legacy.

Our greatest concern is to ensure that we are able to keep our fundraising in meeting the needs of our children’s daily needs of education, food, therapy, etc - separate from that of fundraising for the ‘Tongaat Capital Campaign’ as we rebuild a safe haven for our youth there. So our appeal to you and all of our regular donors is to not shift your funding from direct support of the children to the campaign funding. We would, however, be deeply grateful should you wish to support the campaign over and above your regular donation for our children – as this is an enormous challenge to us, especially in these economic times!

Thank you for always being there for us – and our children. Without your help and partnership we would not be helping and healing our vulnerable children, whose progress and achievements are evident in the pages of this publication.

Kind Regards

Lee Loynes
LEE LOYNES
Chief Executive Officer

A TASTE OF THINGS TO COME



Learners embrace the working world

Preparing for life after Girls & Boys Town is something we take very seriously, and one of the ways we can begin to prepare our youth is by getting them to think about their future careers.

Silverstar, in collaboration with The Education Agency, sponsor a Career Development programme which includes a Job Shadowing Day and Professionals Day for high school learners – two highlights of the year!

The programme provides a pipeline of development for learners from Grades 9 to 12 to help them find the right career direction.

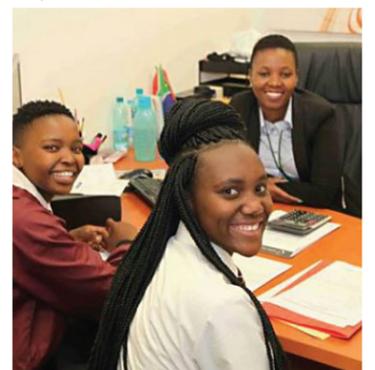
It starts in Grade 9 with an online evaluation that identifies skills and aptitudes to match personality types, and highlights suitable career opportunities, which in turn guides subject

choices. In Grade 10, learners attend workshops, which include Professionals Day and exploring tertiary education options. Grade 11 learners are then given the opportunity for job shadowing, and assistance in higher education applications and job-readiness training, which intensifies in Grade 12.

It was our Grade 11 learners’ turn to get a taste of the working world at their recent Job Shadow Day at Silverstar – preparing them for bright futures in their own careers and entrepreneurial initiatives. They got to chat to employees and hear first-hand from many who had to overcome odds of their own to thrive in their careers today – what an encouragement to our girls and boys!



From the tricks of the trade to office etiquette, it was all new and exciting!



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/



Know more about our bequest programme.

In response to enquiries from friends and donors, we have a bequest booklet available on our website, intended to be an easy-to-read guide for anyone who is interested in leaving a bequest to Girls & Boys Town.

By leaving a bequest to Girls & Boys Town, or ceding an endowment or insurance policy to us, you will ensure that we will always be here to keep on helping vulnerable young girls and boys for years to come ... empowering them to S.H.I.N.E.*.

For more information on our Bequest programme and/ or to receive a copy of the brochure, please contact Gertrude Wilson on (011) 482 2655 or email her on mailing@gbtown.org.za.



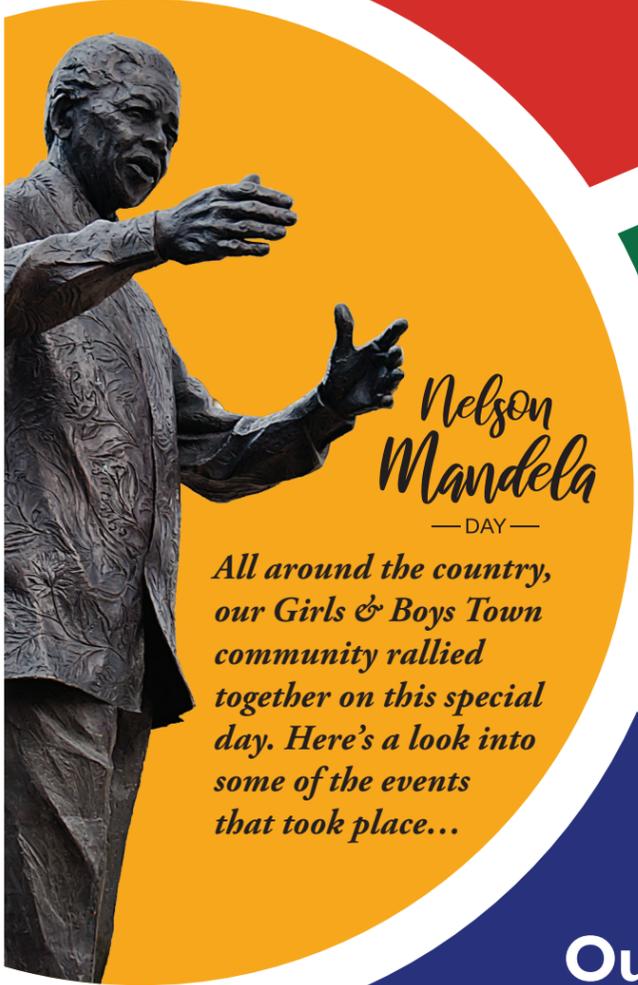
Project Courtyard at Tongaat, KZN!

For the longest time, this courtyard at our Tongaat campus sat empty and unused. On Mandela Day, one of our donors decided to help do something about this! Together with his staff, they harnessed the enthusiasm of the boys and brought colour and life to the walls with paintings. Several of our boys also spent some time working in the gardens.

It didn't end there. Other old friends built a small outdoor gym with monkey bars, benches and punching bags for youth to work out on – and have fun. For the final touch, we built motor bikes and it's been awesome watching our boys imaginations at work riding their very own 'Harley Davidsons'! Thank you team KZN — our donors, staff and youth who got involved!



NEVER LOSE your INNER child



Gauteng gets a Makeover

Spoiling and up-skilling were both on the agenda for this special day, and what more could our girls ask for? A donor from a local beauty academy invited our girls over for a training session on beauty therapy and gave insights into a possible career in this field. Our girls now have some free training slots to look forward to, which were also generously offered by our donor. Thank you for spoiling our girls and opening a door to new opportunities and skills. And a well manicured thumbs-up to our girls for their enthusiastic participation.



Our Western Cape team shows appreciation

At our Macassar campus, a most rewarding experience was recently sponsored by one of our donors – an initiation course during which several of our youth were introduced to the local fisheries industry. In return, we invited this donor to one of our award ceremonies. We had a full house with 60 youth – creating an enormous buzz and excitement. Team Macassar did such a great job organising the event. Our guest of honour spent time afterwards engaging with the staff and youth, also stayed to share a meal with us. He was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation and we know he was so proud to see the rewards of his investment into Girls and Boys Town, and the youth.



LEARNING FROM EXPERIENCE

THE GREAT ANNUAL WILDERNESS LEADERSHIP EXCURSION

Five of our youth were recently given the opportunity to go on a leadership excursion in the wilderness, kindly donated to them by a game lodge.

As a number of our youngsters have learnt in the past, you can find guidance in behaviour from all kinds of places – not least the wild spaces of our country.

The exercises have been found to have a positive impact on a young adult’s behaviour, mood, interpersonal relationships, and social skills, and have greatly helped the Girls & Boys Town Youth who get the opportunity to go.

The theme of this year’s trip focused on awareness of nature, respect for nature and introspection at how we respond to nature. It was a chance at self-discovery and new found independence for these budding leaders – a rite of passage!

We are incredibly thankful for the opportunity to return to the game lodge. It’s faultless safety record, the highly skilled guides, carefully facilitated programmes and years of experience make it somewhere we love to come back to year after year.



Here’s what some of the girls and boys had to say about the experience...

“While at the lodge I learned that you must work with others. Everyone has their weaknesses and you need to help where you can.

There is more to life than what I thought. I learnt more about nature and animals, how they live, how they interact with each other and how they act when we’re around.”

“I learned to value the company of those around me. In the wilderness helping each other out is essential - you have a responsibility to other people, for example the night watch duty.

I will not forget this experience. It gave me the opportunity to be educated about nature and I left having learnt new skills about life and the bush.”

“While away we made a lot of good friends and shared stories and motivated each other. Thank you to the donors whose support meant I could go on this course and thank you to the Wilderness Leadership School for teaching us about life in the wild. I was given a chance to prove to myself that I can do better in life.”



BY ANY NAME, OUR GIRLS AND BOYS ARE REAL! All the youth you’ll see in our newsletters are real Girl and Boys Town family! But as a measure of protecting their privacy, names are changed as a policy. We trust you’ll understand. Thank you.