

Powerful images for our new website.

We are very proud to announce the arrival of our brand new website. It is a powerful new resource for anyone who wants to know more about the work we do with South Africa's vulnerable youth and another great way to celebrate 60 years of doing it! We invite all our friends to visit the new site — and please comment if you are moved to do so.

www.girlsandboystown.org.za

A giant step towards his dream

Senzo was placed into Girls and Boys Town via the Children's Court about four years ago when his foster placement fell through. During his time with us, we have watched this leader truly come into his own. "The perfect example of a child who faced many challenging circumstances and was able to overcome them. He has not let his past define who he is or his future!"

His exciting story started out when we asked the daunting question "What would you like to do when you finish school?" Senzo answered without hesitation

Play rugby for Province.

We soon began looking for a sponsored gym membership so that he could train regularly and pursue his dream.

After many refusals, the team at the Sport Science Institute of South Africa (SSISA) came through for Senzo with a sponsored membership to the gym for six months. After meeting Senzo at the SSISA during July 2017, the team were keen for him to be part of a more focused programme and immediately contacted the SSISA prestigious High Performance Centre.

Within hours the High Performance Centre team contacted us with the news that

they had accepted Senzo as a Macsteel Maestro and asked to meet him the very next day!

Sporting legends the likes of Wade van Niekerk, Natalie du Toit and Nompumelelo Nyandi, all have one thing in common: they are all Macsteel Maestros and products of the Sport Science Institute's prestigious High Performance Centre. Senzo can now be counted as one of them.



Senzo with Gill Taylor of the High Performance Centre (left), and SSISA gym membership manager Claire Cowan.

The Macsteel Maestro programme provides a platform for a lifetime of achievement. Every programme is tailor-made to the individual talents and circumstances of the athlete and allows a person to develop every facet of their lives. This programme gives the sports-person skills to succeed in and out of competition, during and after their sporting careers.

Special thanks to you.

Senzo has managed himself very well through this process and, as a result, has been partially sponsored to continue with his professional sporting and development programme in 2018. Thank you to all donors for helping to create this opportunity, and for helping Senzo to SHINE.™

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 and 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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A Study on Education:
The Key to a Better Future

It has been widely documented that youth in care are more likely to experience lower levels of educational achievement and have a lower high school graduation rate than their peers. This has a ripple effect that leads to unemployment and a poor quality of life.

As a result, the ongoing focus of the Girls and Boys Town Research Division has been on evaluating and monitoring our youths' academic achievements. The academic results are analysed and distributed throughout the organisation. Research shows positive educational outcomes for youth in care, including:

- ¥ Key to better outcomes
- ¥ Key to opportunities
- ¥ Key to freedom
- ¥ Key to making sense of the world

It is very encouraging that despite a wide range of challenges, our youth are still determined to finish high school before they leave us and aspire to create a better future for themselves. Some of the key outcomes in the most recent annual academic report 2014/2016 highlighted that:

- ¥ 15 youth were in grade 12 or enrolled in vocational and skills training;
- ¥ 14 youth sat for the National Senior Certificate and National Vocational and Skills Certificate; and
- ¥ 13 of the youth that sat for the National Senior Certificate and National Vocational and Skills Certificate passed.

Among the examples of our successful care-leavers:

- ¥ One now studies Informational Technology at Potchefstroom University. He was able to secure a bursary for his studies and accommodation with the help of Learner Support Staff at Magaliesburg campus.
- ¥ Another is studying at Ekurhuleni East TVET College to achieve his dream of becoming a mechanical engineer. He has also pursued his soccer aspirations and played in the Multichoice Diski soccer challenge.
- ¥ A further example now studies hospitality and works at Glen Boutique Hotel in Seapoint, Cape Town.
- ¥ Two of our girls both completed their vocational training certificates in 2016 and are currently working in beauty salons in Cape Town.

Through persistence, hard work and by grabbing the opportunities given to them, these youths were able to better their lives through education! Thank you to our donors who partnered in changing these youngsters' lives for good — and congratulations to our graduates!

Lee Loynes
LEE LOYNES
Chief Executive Officer

It has been a 17-year journey for
Hank — and now he's giving back

We recently chatted to a single mom of two who came to Girls and Boys Town for support in 2000. Peer pressure and a broken home had seen her son Hank get involved in some harmful situations with the wrong people.

The foundations that my child needed so badly were laid by Girls and Boys Town following his admission as a 14 year old. Here, he got the intensive counselling and care he needed while continuing his schooling. He was given opportunities to participate and succeed in kickboxing, rugby and yachting which sparked his love for sport.

A few years after leaving Girls and Boys Town, with the help of our donors, we extended our support once again for Hank's Fitter and Turner apprenticeship by buying the required toolbox, paying for his accommodation during his training as well as the final payment of the trade test. Back home, Hank attained his Red Seal as a Fitter and Turner in July 2016.



Now enjoying the benefits of a steady career, Hank gives back with a monthly donation to Girls and Boys Town.

He is currently employed with a successful company in the Western Cape and makes a monthly donation to Girls and Boys Town so that another child can be helped. Hank, you have made Girls and Boys Town - and Mom - very proud!

Tongaat alumnus
plans to return
and share his
success story

Justin came to the Tongaat Youth Development Centre in 2008. Now, almost ten years later, he is living a life beyond Girls and Boys Town with plans to visit and share his story, which goes a bit like this

*At Girls and Boys Town,
I learnt to give respect in
order to get respect.*

*A key learning from a
Tongaat YDC alumnus.*

A tough home life and no father figure soon saw Justin become a product of rejection, anger and drug addiction. We then began working with Justin and his mother, getting him admitted to (and staying in) rehabilitation. Justin was on the road to recovery. We soon saw relationships being restored, Justin's return to school and even his enrolment in college!

Fast forward to today and Justin is a business consultant at a leading motor manufacturer in Limpopo. His relationships with his family have never been better, he is also engaged and saving up for his wedding.

None of this happened overnight for Justin, it took a lot of work and perseverance. At a time when he felt he was indestructible and did not need anybody's help was when he needed support more than ever. Luckily

Girls and Boys Town was there for him and now he wants to encourage other youth who are facing similar situations, helping them to SHINE.™ We look forward to your visit, Justin!

Reaching out, digitally!

Banner ads, like the one below, are part of our new drive to cost-efficiently tell the story of the successes we achieve with vulnerable youth. To be found on digital and social media — please like us on facebook and share with your friends. Thank you!

SIGNIFICANCE

We help young people develop a sense of self-worth and unique value

- Helping our youth to Shine™

HOME

We provide the safety of home and family and the ability to function in one

- Skills to Shine™ at home

INDEPENDENCE

We help young people develop the courage and skills to fare in the world

- Understanding and perceive the world as a place worth shining in.

NURTURE

We help young people develop the sensitivity to care about themselves and others

- Helping others to Shine™ too.

EDUCATION

We give young people the knowledge and practical skills they need to compete

- Shine™ through achievement.

Empowering vulnerable youth to Shine™

Our youth adopt a local crèche ... CREATIVELY!

Our Magaliesburg campus was very privileged recently to welcome two students to do their practical studies with us. From North West University, Palesa and Dineo are both in their 4th and final year of social work and, being young and enthusiastic, led us on a wonderful community project.

One morning these two young ladies ventured into the local township to see if there was an area that needed assistance. They went with a wonderful seed planted in their minds by our Youth Development Manager — about creating toys for young children.

A local crèche, Ithutheng Day Care Centre, was identified. This was a crèche in real need — no toys, no structure and about to close its doors.

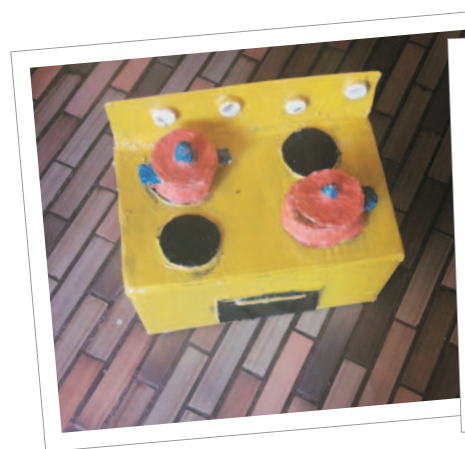
It seemed that the crèche was not registered, had no logo, nothing no structure.

Palesa immediately began working behind the scenes setting up all the paperwork so that the crèche can properly register itself with the relevant authority.

Palesa also arranged for a parenting workshop. Parents were coached on the significance of developmental age, how to respond correctly to behaviours, and how to



Under the artful guidance of Neo Makebe (above middle) the boys create a mixture of soaked newspaper and glue — and then begin moulding the shapes of the toys. Below, some of their colourful creations — now proudly used at the crèche.



stimulate individual children.

Meanwhile, our GBT Magaliesburg manager also arranged for the wonderful Neo Makebe to come through and show the students and the youth how to make improvised toys.

Preparation for the toys started well before the handover day — newspaper had to be torn into small pieces and then soaked in water and mixed with glue.

Then came the big day when the toys were taken to the crèche for all to see and, obviously, play with.

There were about eight of the Magaliesburg youth that went along to assist. It was amazing to see the interaction, and our youth thoroughly enjoyed nurturing and helping others to SHINE™ too.

This project will obviously now live on and grow.



Boys and their toys!

We recently had a wonderful day with Auto Zone visiting us at Tongaat Youth Development Centre, and the two family homes joining in the event.

Our youth learned about various aspects of cars, for example how to wire a sub, the working of the battery in your car, and other electrical parts of the car.° They also had the privilege to play a special x-box game, that was really the highlight of the day.°

The youth were treated to mouth-watering sausage rolls and cold drinks.°

It was all together a fun, very well organised day. Many thanks to all — the youth really had a splendid day and learnt some helpful new skills about cars.

Kagiso girls shine ...

Meet ...

MAMPHO

... she has great plans for her life and is determined to see them through.

Mampho recently passed her Grade R Play Based Learning Course and has been working as an Early Childhood Development educator at Westcol College. These achievements have been the motivation she needed to work hard and succeed.

Coming from a particularly traumatic past involving the loss of her parents at a very young age, Mampho was left vulnerable to physical, sexual and emotional abuse. From only eight years old she was forced to carry more pain than she could bare.

It took a while for her to adjust and adapt to the structure of Girls and Boys Town but she has persevered and today she lives a better life for it.

Congratulations on all your achievements Mampho! We and all of our donor partners are so proud of how far you have come!

Meet ...

LAYLA

... she is determined to excel against the odds.

In September Layla received four awards at school. She shows a keen interest and is successful when she puts her mind to something.

Suffering from rejection and abandonment after her mother left, Layla then went into foster care, which eventually also let her down. Finally she was able to settle at Girls and Boys Town.

She had battled previously with anger outbursts, communicating honestly, and respecting other people's property. But during her time with us she has taken huge strides in addressing these referral problems.

Her need for belonging is huge, but is in the right place! She shows great tenacity and her achievements are the fruit of her hard work and willingness to work with the GBT team as she heals.

Lessons from the wild

Another group of Girls and Boys Town youth were privileged to experience a Wilderness Leadership Trail in the Hluhluwe-Mfolozi game Reserve from 6-10 July this year

The Wilderness Trail was a wonderful life changing experience for me. I enjoyed making our own food, e.g. pumpkin, broccoli, etc. We mainly ate healthy food (vegetables).

There was no lotion, soap, perfume allowed. We had to use the toiletries they provided or us, even we had to bath in the river. This was a first-time experience very cold, but enjoyed it!

We had to clean our sleeping areas, by using leaves to sweep. we used water and soil to clean the pots we used to make our food — that really was impressive.

When the baboons came, we had to climb trees, with our heavy backpacks. Our two guides were fantastic, they taught us skills about to survive in the open. I enjoyed connecting with animals and nature. I would like to thank GBT and the trail guides for the experience and opportunity afforded to me.

At first I was a little afraid around the animals but managed to get over my fear after making friends and realizing that everybody was afraid as well. So I was not alone. I enjoyed the long walks, sleeping out in the wilderness and night watch. Thank you to all for a great experience.



Rhinos: Adding OUR voice!

Representatives of Project Rhino visited us recently to involve our youth in the Rhino Art Project. With a mission of Let the children's voices be heard, the project aims to gather the largest number of youthful art voices ever heard.

In addition to the conservation awareness created, twelve GBT youth winners of the Rhino Art competition will be hosted by the Pilanesburg Wilderness Leadership School. Some sponsorship is needed for this, half of which we have — and half still needed!

Rhino Art often involves local communities that are at times the silent witnesses to the slaughter — awareness that is part of Project Rhino's effort to fight the war against poaching. It was an opportunity for our youth to gain awareness and give back.



BY ANY NAME, OUR GIRLS AND BOYS ARE REAL! All the youth you'll see in our newsletters are real Girls 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.