



NEWSLETTER : October – December 2009

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Teamwork at Teboho Trust – Three Legged Race

Teboho Trust News

Gold Reef City Giving Back Once Again

On the 1st of October we were graced with the pleasure of taking 80 of our learners and 15 adults to the Gold Reef Theme Park. This day brought a lot of joy and relaxation for all as it was all based on fun. The learners were eager to go on all the rides; the first time for many. It was overwhelming seeing them smile and giggle with happiness. This day was made possible by the forever committed staff of Teboho Trust (particularly Mr. David Rantho – Programme Manager) for always taking it upon himself to make



a better life for other children, (Mr. Thabiso Maesela – Project Manager) for contributing his efforts with logistics, (Ms Tumelo Maumakwe) for making sure the day runs smoothly for all to enjoy. We believe in our model and with the vision to make education fun



and fruitful for our children in the Soweto community we can change the world. We would also like to take this time to thank Ms Michelle van Staden

for giving us this opportunity once again to give our children what they always yearn for in their daily lives "Happiness". We also thank the chaperons that took care of our children for the day (Ms Zenzi, Ms Lebo, Ms Thato, Mr. Bright (Executive Director), Mr. Sylvester (Bookkeeper) and Mr. Kgotlelelo.

Solar Energy Comes to Teboho Trust



The 31st of October 2009 was a day of light and hope; Mr. Michael Addinall from Betta Lights; a solar power company that installs solar power to businesses and private residences. Mr. Michael came to visit Teboho Trust after hearing Simphiwe's story (one of the Teboho Trust matriculants) on 702; a talk radio show. Mr. Addinall told the Teboho Trust learners how he started his company. He also briefly educated them on the importance of solar power – a natural and alternative energy. The solar power is a great resource of providing light to many people in disadvantage communities without electricity. Many of the Teboho Trust children have to study by candlelight or not at all when it gets

dark. The learners were all dazzled by the significance of the solar energy device that they wanted him to continue speaking. He also gave a Simphiwe the solar product so that he could have light to study effectively. Prior to the installation, Simphiwe had to walk a great distance to the community hall to study when it was dark. It was a dangerous walk filled with thugs that threatened his life. We at Teboho Trust thank you very much Mr. Addinall and hope that you continue your generous work.

Spec Savers sharing a vision



On the 14th of November Spec Savers personnel: Mr. Tsholofelo Mdluli, Ms. Magotso Letsokego and Ms. Puleng Rabotapi came to Teboho Trust to check the eyesight of 80 of our Grade 4 to 7 children. Being able to see is critical for a child's ability to do well in school. This was the first time for many of our learners to have their eyes tested. From the testing, only seven needed spectacles. Spec Savers graciously donated the spectacles to the children in need. The care givers of the children were very surprised and grateful for their

support and love. We wish our older children could also undergo this test, because they also have the same problems as the younger children. We want to thank Ms Louis Bick for organizing this awareness programme. Thank you Spec Savers, especially Mr. Tsholofelo Mdluli, Ms Magaota Letsokgo and Ms Puleng Rabotapi for taking time out of your busy schedules to spend the day testing so many pair of eyes.

Girl Power Comes to Teboho Trust

On the 7th of November a group of young Teboho Trust girls participated in brief workshop on journalism and broadcasting. The workshop's objective was to empower our teen girls on the power of media. Specifically, they were given skills that are often not available in poorer communities like Soweto. The teen girls (Lungile Buhale, Refiloe



Kgoabane, Duduzile Mdlhuli, Samukelisiwe Mbatha) were taught the importance of communication and how the media emphasizes the way we view things. Ms Amie Williams, a noted journalist from the USA, came with expertise and a sensitive personality geared up to educate the teen girls. Amie is planning to come back to Soweto next year to offer a short course of journalism / broadcasting to empower our teen girls across Soweto. We are all looking forward to her return visit with her team. For more information on Amie's Girl Empower project, do visit her website and see our teens speak

from their hearts:
<http://uniteglobalgirls.ning.com/video/sowetogirlvideo-1>.

Resource Mobilization Workshop

On the 30th of November 2009, Teboho Trust was granted an opportunity to learn about Resource Mobilization. It was a day workshop facilitated by Mom Zozo and Baba Kagiso from GAP consultancy. This intervention was sponsored by the Global Fund for Children to strengthen our institutional capacity. The objectives of the workshop were to introduce Teboho Trust to the concept of resource mobilization (RM), how to develop a RM strategy as well as how to implement the RM strategy. It was of great benefit for the organization because now we know the importance of RM, how to approach donors and the requirements of most donors. It was indeed a great experience for the staff and the advisory board. We would like to acknowledge the following people for making the day to be possible, Mr. Jose Bright, for accommodating us to have the workshop at his house, the staff members for participating; David, Thabiso and Sylvester as well as our board members: Mom Zinzi and Mom Mashadi. We also want to thank Mom Zozo and Baba Kagiso for the wonderful presentation and transference of needed skills. We are looking forward to meeting with them again in the new year to have them review our RM strategy document. They will also build our capacity to manage our resources more efficiently. In addition, we would like to extend our gratitude to The Global Fund For Children for funding this workshop and their continued support.

Crafts Day at AISJ

On the 4th of December a group of learners and staff members from Teboho Trust attended a crafts market day at the American International

School of Johannesburg (AISJ) in Bryanston. There were many different organizations there to market their organisations and to sale their hand made arts and crafts. All of the tables



were colourful. The learners of Teboho Trust sold lip balms, hand made soaps and beadwork. The learners benefited from the experience as their marketing skills were put to the test. They all had fun being entrepreneurs and showed those who attended what young leaders can do. Thank you Joy for your support!

Christmas Crafts Day

Every year we prepare for Christmas by making hand made items. On the 12th of December,



over 100 of our learners were hard at work. Our learners got down and messy with glue sticks, cardboard, wrapping paper, beads, sweets and other materials. The learners had a great time as they learned how to make and produce handcrafted Christmas Cards, key chains, 2010 calendars, and a tree with hand prints from our smaller children. We want to thank Sharon and her team for making this day possible. We also want to extend our gratitude to our elders that

assisted the younger children in this fun day event.

Our Annual Christmas Party (16 December)

On the 16th of December 2009, 150 learners and 40 adults and supporters of Teboho Trust attended



the 9th annual function at Bryanston. This year was the best! Over the years, our annual Christmas Party gets better (e.g., the food, entertainment, games, awards programme and gift giving).

All of the learners came with sincere smiles, all dressed up in their Orange and Yellow T-shirts ready to mingle, have fun and eat til their bellies couldn't take any more. The entrance of the venue was overwhelming that all the learners could not stop smiling. Then, all the fun started.



as there was a tournament prepared for the day. All teams were assembled and ready in their team colours to show the passion and thrill that they were expected to



initiate. These teams consisted of young to old; the guardians, volunteers and supporters shared in the fun with the learners. The tournament consisted of a three legged race, egg relay, pie eating contest, dodge ball, soccer penalty



shoot out and many more activities. It was a great moment to watch. From one game to another all teams showed a particular interest that they would never succumbed to anything. Well done to the Lime green team for portraying such a powerful team spirit as they were the winners for the day.

To add a bit of topping to the day; the food was scrumptious, the drinks were quenching and the dessert was to die for... (hmmmmmm). Will we see you next year?

Teboho Trust Learners' Blog Space

Learners Prepare For Final School Examination For 2009

On the 17th of October, the learners were setting strict goals for themselves for their final exams. The adrenalin of thinking of exams and the possibility of not making it can sometimes be a threat to learners' performance. The Teboho Trust facilitators (Ms Louis Bick and Mr. Jose Bright – Executive Director) held a final exam taking workshop for their learners (grades 8-12) in order to help them improve their confidence and skills on taking exams. This was not an easy task because some learners were too afraid to speak about their weaknesses. However, all of the learners adjusted and developed additional tools and strategies to do well on their exams. They created study timetables for their exams, new methods of remembering their work and how to crack a (A+) for the final year mark. We would like to thank all the teachers for helping the learners at Teboho to set high goals for themselves and preserve even more .

Our Learners Are Making Their Voices Heard

*"Every generation needs a new revolution."
- Thomas Jefferson -*

On the 24th of October the learners of the Teboho Trust were joined together again to vote for the learner government body. This is usually the greatest time of the year for most

learners of Teboho Trust because they are entitled to what is known as a 'vote'. The learners are all given a chance to vote for young leaders from the organization that will best represent them in the new year. The joyous celebration for most learners was overwhelming that people beyond the gate could hear the buzz from the learners since they were all mixed up with emotions to choose specific young people to lead them. Some learners were extremely anxious to cast their vote whilst others had no clue who they would choose. The learners that were chosen were carefully selected according to principles, behavior and socializing ability with others. We want to say well done to the following members of the Governing Body and we hope to see great things in the new year.



Mayor: Lungile Buhale, Deputy Mayor: Ntando Banda, Minister of Health: Kebelipile Majova, Minister of Communications: Cindy Sebushi, Minister of Religious Affairs: Refiloe Kgobane, Minister of sports and culture Junior Banda, Judge: Thuli Rampeba, Police Chief: Nthabiseng Mdhuli, Prosecutor: Vuyo Mlinganiso, Ward Councilors: Mpho Mametela, Sibongile Tshabalala, Gael Kabondo, Lerato kgoabane, Tshepiso Rampeba, Khotso Lesotho, Khotso Selomah and Samukeliswe Mbatha.

French Classes

Twisting your tongue and sometimes trying to get something that you do

not know right can become chaotic but nothing beats the learners of Teboho Trust. In the beginning of the year the learners were introduced to a new language “French” and they were all expected to know a bit by the end of the year. Like any other classroom, there are those who excel and yes sometimes those that try hard; really hard. The classes started off trouble-free and gradually increased to very challenging, but as stated the language has become exceedingly common. Most of the learners have considered it their home language especially the younger Grades – 4- 7 (impressive! isn't it?). We would like to thank Mr. Ibe for his constant visits to educate the learners of Teboho Trust and the patience to listen to some of them when they created their own words so convincingly.

The New Year on the Way

We have had a very long year and we have worked hard. This year we accomplished a lot of things: our Parent Guardian Advisory Board was established, many workshops were held for young and old; the Cooperatives workshop, Leadership workshops, Personal Empowerment workshops, First Aid and Wellness. We are forever committed at bringing excellence towards creating brighter futures. With the dedicated staff, volunteers and supporters of Teboho Trust, we will continue to offer more to our children and teens in 2010.

Mayor, Lungile Buhale

Books That Tell The Truth

“We are Africans!” Simpiwe Lila fully expressed himself on the 21st of

November in an English class as he proved his point. Due to the vast amounts of books the learners read this year like (*A Girl Called Lindiwe; A Kiss Before Dying And Jane Eyre*) they had a reflection section to discuss the importance of the books they read. It was a great day for some of the learners because they were able to express the importance of reading. As a result, they improved their vocabulary and were exposed to different parts of the world and different epochs in time. Many are hungry to read more good books.

Dedication Results in Success

This year our learners worked very hard toward their studies. They really made us proud as most received certificates for most improved learner in various subjects, best learner in Mathematics, Physical Science, Life Science and most punctual learner for 2009. These learners have showed their potential and we truly believe in the future of these learners because they are forever striving to do the right thing for the greatness of their futures. We want to thank the following learners for doing exceptionally well in their studies Mpilohle Kubeka Grade R, Njabulo Sibeko Grade 5, Lerato Kgoabane, Selloane Lelimo, Refiloe Kgoabane, Sibongile Tshabalala, Dineo Rathebe and Mxolisi Mpongose. Wel done guys and keep up the good work and let education and common sense be the real key to all of your experiences in life.

On Your Mark, Get Set and Let's Go Again!!!



You're probably wondering why Lungile Buhale is still appearing as a spokesperson and leader at Teboho Trust. Well, I was voted Teboho Trust Mayor again. It has been an overwhelming experience yet frightening. The most articulate answer for being frightened would be the atmosphere of me not making any mistakes. 2009 has been a good year but not like the year to come, I am back in the drivers seat, buckled up and prepared for anything that may come my way! I am extremely eager and cannot wait until all the Christmas presents are unwrapped, the joyous celebrations are over and schools are open so that when Teboho Trust re-opens I'm ready. The Teboho Trust Government as sharpened its pencils, scribbled on its books and has designed a clear structure for a fantastic year for us young people!



Hi. My name is Kebalepile Majova and I have been elected to the position of Minister of Health. Well...for most supporters that have visited Teboho Trust, it is evident that at all of our assemblies, classes and fun activities, the behavior of the learners is always tip top and it kept you dazzled. Watch this space. Next year I must admit we will do extremely great things as young leaders. I am very happy and excited! 2010 here we come!!!



My name is Ntando Banda I have been voted as Deputy Mayor for Teboho Trust. To cut everything short there are things that are planned that are going to change Teboho Trust and make it even more exciting to participate in. To mention a few the new column that you are reading is an idea that was suggested by learners so that we keep the lovely supporters of Teboho Trust like you informed with the latest youth inputs to our work and what we have achieved.

Poetry Corner

LOOK AT THE SUNNY SIDE



There are always two sides; good and bad.
 The dark and the light, sad and the glad.
 But in looking back over the good and the bad, we're aware of the number of good things we have.
 And in counting our blessings we find when we're through
 We have no reason at all to complain or be blue.
 So thank God for the good things He has already done.

And be grateful to Him for the battles you've won.
 And know that the same God who helped you before is ready, willing to help you once more.
 Then with faith in your heart reach out for God's hand and accept what He sends your way.
 Though you can't understand; for our father in heaven always knows what is best for you.
 And if you trust in His wisdom, your life will be blessed for an eternity.
 Remember that whatever that's behind you,
 You are never alone for God is beside you.

Poet: Refiloe Kgoabane (Grade 8)

“A Motivated animal”
(Listen to the reason)

As soon as possible when possible is possible,
 I hear it can't be done.
 But I know I am close to success as soon as possible.

As soon as possible when possible is possible,
 I dream the most therefore I do the most.
 I will become the planet earth when possible

As soon as possible when possible is possible.
 Impossible is not a fact; it's an opinion.
 Impossible is not a declaration; it's a dare impossible temporarily.
 Everything is possible

As soon as possible when possible is possible

Poet: Mandla Thabethe (Grade 12)

Acknowledgements

Lets talk to “Mama Thoko”

Mama Thokozile Mchunu was born in Soweto on the 31st of March 1963.

She is an independent woman from a disadvantage family and she likes challenges. In her family circle of 11 children she's the 9th child of Richard Mchunu.

During her school years she was involved in Political Activities, were she found herself being arrested several times. She never spent much time in prison. In 1978 she got a scholarship to go and study in the country next door; Lesotho. By then she was in Standard Six (Grade 8). After a year, her father passed away and she had to go and look for a job to look after her family. By then, she didn't complete high school; she only completed Grade 10. While she was working, she mobilized workers to join a trade union. She joined NUMSA Metal Union. She was appointed as shop steward. She next got married in 1982. She then resigned from the political movement for her family's



safety. In 1992 she was retrenched from work as she worked for different councilors, the late Councilor Oupa Segoene, Matlakala Sefole and MaFihla. In 2000 she formed an organization called Dube Concerned Residents, she was appointed as organizer and joined the Community Police Forum at Orlando Police

Station with Station Commander Mr. Mashau. In 2001 she worked with different schools volunteering helping children in need to get school uniforms, exemptions from schools fees, leadership skills, assisted people living with HIV/AIDS and disabilities. She also participated in a cleaning campaign. She helped to fight xenophobia through her work. Now this wonderful woman has come to Teboho Trust to help assist our learners by working with the team to prepare hot and nutritious snacks and lunches to over 180 children / teens every Saturday. We would like to take this opportunity to say thank you for your assistance this year as it is highly appreciated by the learners in particular as well as the staff.

From the Executive Director



This has been an amazing year with children and teens doing their best to excel and become better people with brighter futures. Due to their hard work, commitment and willingness to discover their greatness, we attracted much attention in 2009. Both local and international media visited us and were touched with what they witnessed at Teboho Trust. As a result, they shared our miraculous story of humble beginnings and amazing successes in our children / teens through newspaper articles, documentaries, radio stories and video / news clips on the internet. This attention has also expanded our cadre of supporters and volunteers that believe in our organization and are always ready to roll up their sleeves and lend a helping hand to the children / teens of Teboho Trust. They

have taken time from their busy schedules to assist and tell all in their network to also support the children. Through the hard work of our children, our supporters and volunteers continue to increase in numbers.

We are looking forward to 2010 with great excitement and promise. While most of the world is focusing on South Africa as the host to the World Cup next year, we will focus our energies to secure a home for Teboho Trust. Watch this space for news of us launching our new home in the new year. Once we have our own facility, we'll be able to house and expand our programmes and activities under one roof. Many new supporters / volunteers are just as anxious for 2010 to start as our children / teens, staff and boards are.

We will need to all work together to increase the number of children / teens benefiting from our programmes and activities as well as to mobilize additional resources to create an enabling environment where our children / teens can continue to explore and discover how truly great they are. We will launch new and expanded programmes and will definitely share them in future newsletters and our website.

Many people visit us and immediately feel the love and support for our children / teens. In this experience they have witnessed our children with healthy self-esteem, a vision with a road map for their futures and a willingness to help others along their journey called life, in spite of their lack of material possessions.

I've started a process to write the story of Teboho Trust after many years of being requested to do so. I'm looking forward to working with a good friend and noted author in America to get this inspirational story to print.

When your heart is honest and open to be of service and when you give

without hesitation because the need is so great that most say it's impossible, I and Teboho Trust are living testimonies that no matter the odds, trials and tribulations along the way, it is possible to of service and give. If you really read these articles written by the Teboho Trust family, you will see that our children / teens are more confident, eager and ready to achieve things we take for granted. Moreover, they will be history makers in their respective families and community. I have witnessed young children, scared and no hope for the future leave that story behind and create a new positive story for their lives. I am thankful to witness their personal growth and successes. I am also privilege to be accepted and part of the Sowetan community.

I truly believe that life is a gift and by sharing and volunteering, you are saying thank you to your creator. I know my God looks down on me and is happy that I listened to Him and allowed Him to use me to empower the children. He has also brought many more with a similar heart to volunteer and serve the children of Soweto. This volunteerism spirit is what has built Teboho Trust. This spirit embodies the philosophy of Ubuntu; love, caring, sharing, mutual respect, supporting nature and kindness to your fellow human being, no matter how small in size or so far removed from the world's riches.

Thank each and every one of you for being a part of the miracle of Teboho Trust. Please share our story with others, keep us in your prayers and do stay in touch with us. We are looking forward to 2010 as it will bring great things. Happy holidays!

Let Us Hear From You

Contributions of Article:

Should you wish to include an article in our newsletter on your

experiences with Teboho Trust, please feel free to contact us:

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Children / Teens performing at our Annual Year End / Christmas Party.

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