



NEWSLETTER AUGUST – DECEMBER 2008

MAJOR STORIES

Teboho Trust Upgrades Website

After many years of trying to update our website we are very grateful to Insite Solutions (www.insitesolutions.co.za) for the crisp and professional new look. They upgraded our website and will host it for a year. They gave us a great discount to design the new website where we can maintain it ourselves. We are very grateful to AFROX for sponsoring the website design, hosting for one year and domain registration. Please take a look at our new website at: www.tebohotrust.org.za and make sure to subscribe in order to receive special invites, news and events of Teboho Trust.

AFROX strengthens the Teboho Trust capacity with Interns



On the 18th of November our staff was introduced to a group of students that are sponsored by AFROX for their

tertiary education (Dithomo, Rulie, Jose and Nonceba). The students are in the fields of engineering and education - the most crucial industries where skills are scarce in South Africa. We at Teboho Trust appreciate the interns; as they are hard at work developing our English, Sciences and Mathematics manuals for our 2009 Saturday School Academy. They inspire our children due to their compassion and recent high school educational accomplishments. They are proving to be good role models for our children and teens. Thank you Renee for making this possible.

Teboho Trust Children / Teens Say Yes to “Girl Power”!



During the month of August – Women's month - the Teboho Trust learners elected their new Learner Governing Body to represent the voices of our children and teens in our planning, project designs, budgets and activities. The learners state they are following the lead of the South African Parliament – where women are in large numbers and

in key positions. Many of our girls were elected by their peers to take leadership roles in the new Teboho Trust government. They got off to a great



start by taking the initiative to enforce discipline as well as develop new and

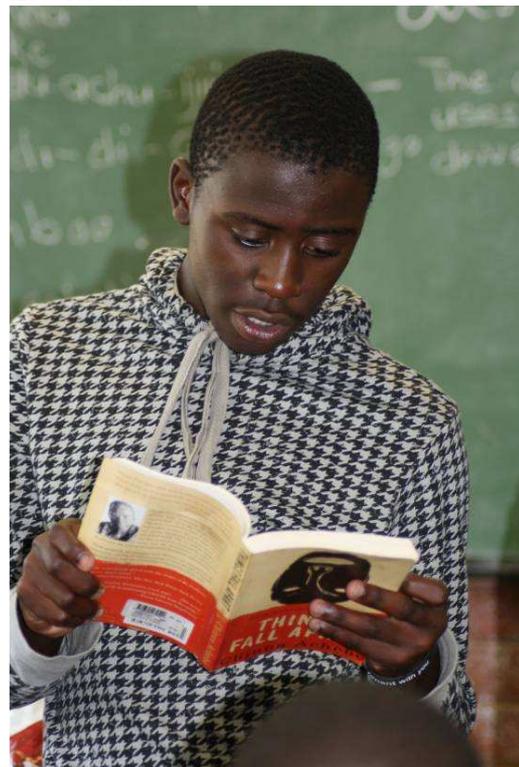
exciting activities. Tumelo Maumakwe is our Minister of Health. She is currently doing her matriculation year (grade 12) and recently received a certificate for level one first aid. Her aim is to promote wellness to the learners, help when there are emergencies and also educate all about the various types of illness. Refilwe Kola, our chairperson of the ward council, is currently in grade 11 and is very optimistic about her goals. Her responsibility is to access information from the learners to the governing body, give feedback to every individual and maintain order at Teboho Trust. Cindy Sebushi is our Minister of Religion, a grade 8 learner, and is a very dedicated, spontaneous and full of life. Her responsibilities are important because she assesses the problems of society; formulates prayers and teachings to help our learners and tutor's stay on the path that God wants us to take. These newly elected officials will assure the solid input into the Teboho Trust objectives, programmes and activities at all times.

Learning How to Help Save Our Environment

On the 30th of August 2008 Teboho Trust was kindly invited to participate in an agricultural project in one of the township schools (Nkathuto Primary School). The project informed and educated the children and teens on preparing the soil for growing vegetables in different soil moistures.

There were 10 learners from the Teboho Trust chosen to participate. They were very eager to learn about the process of growing plants and how weather patterns can affect vegetables and fruit gardens. All of the learners were blissful and determined to experience first hand the process of food gardening. This agricultural project was a fun-filled experience, were everyone socialised and asked questions about our environment. Our greatest lesson for the day was that "earth is a beautiful place; our aim is to keep it clean and safe for everyone." Sharing is caring, let's unite and plant our future.

Teboho Teens Read West African Literature



The Grades 8-12 teens were introduced to one of Africa's greatest authors - Chinua Achebe - in their English Tutorials at Teboho Trust. They read, "Things Fall Apart" and were intrigued by this book written 49 years ago. As Africans, they discussed such issues as culture, modernisation and coping with a

changing world. They also compared the similarities between the Igbo culture in Nigeria – where the story takes place – and the African cultures in our young democracy here in South Africa. The discussions were very lively and compelled they become more aware of change as it happens all around them. In previous years, the teens have read South African authors: Athol Fugard – “Tsotsi”, Kopano Matlwa’s “Coconut” and Bessie Head: “Maru”. They’ve also read Brazilian author: Paulo Coelho’s “The Alchiments”. Reading literature has certainly opened a whole new world to them and has made reading fun. In their English tutorials, they get a chance to identify figures of speech and improve their vocabulary. Visitors that have witnessed these tutorials have commented that the tutorials are equivalent to university literatures.

Teboho Trust and Guardians / Parents Strengthen Ties

On the 25th of October 2008 Teboho Trust held a guardian / parents meeting for the preparations of our 2009 programmes and activities. There was a huge turnout of guardians / parents who learnt more of our programmes and activities and shared with one another success stories of their children and teens that are currently participating in Teboho Trust. It was exciting to see many new grandparents eager to enrol their grand and great grandchildren to be part of the Teboho Trust family. A large number volunteered to help us with meals, cleaning, tutoring and just being around us more to help as the need arises. We at Teboho Trust are looking forward to building a stronger bond with the families of our children to work together and keep the children / teens on the right path to knowledge, wellness and full of promise and opportunities. With the support of our guardians and parents we are more confident to take on more children / teens in the next year.

Improving Communication Skills



In the month of October learners spent their time focusing on communication skills and how important it is to share views on different issues with others in their life orientation sessions at the Teboho Trust Saturday School Academy. They explored the elements of communication and where they needed to improve on such elements as listening skills. They did skits and role plays and learnt about “mutuality” and how to cope with difficult situations where communication is necessary. We were visited by Van and Mike Tierney and they helped us to workshop the children to learn how to respect each other through mutuality as the goal of their communication.

The children and adolescents have great life orientation facilitators: Mr. Bright, Mr. Gosani, Mr. Ezenagu and Mr. Maesela. Thank you for doing such a great job this year!

Teboho Trust Holds Staff Retreat to Plan 2009 and beyond



The Staff:
Mr. Jose Bright – Executive Director;
Mr. David Rantho –

Programmes Manager; and Mr. Thabiso Maesela – Saturday School Project Manager, met over three days (12-14 November 2008) to reflect on the 2008

achievements, failures, constraints and risks. We also assessed our strengths, weaknesses as well as the external opportunities and threats. With this information, we developed a new vision, mission statement, values, clear objectives and detailed action plans for 2009 programmes and activities. We are excited about our growth and successes and will strengthen our weaknesses and minimise our threats in order to continue providing quality interventions in the following areas: personal empowerment, social development, education support, wellness and economic development.

Below are a few highlights of our Retreat:

Our Vision: To empower orphan, vulnerable and at-risk children / adolescents to reach their full potential in society.

Our Mission Statement: We provide personal empowerment, social development, educational support, wellness and economic development through innovative experiential programmes, activities and events to our children / adolescents in order to build tomorrow's leaders today.

Our Values:

R = Respect
E = Excellence
S = Security
P = Professionalism
E = Empowerment
C = Compassion
T = Trust

Our Objectives:

Personal empowerment: To help our children / teens to discover their greatness

Social development: To break the barrier of social challenges that our children / teens face within the township lifestyle and beyond

Educational support: To create endless educational opportunities for the children / teens for their future success

Economic development: To facilitate the development of financial independence to our older teens and adults in the community

Wellness: To build a healthy body, mind and spirit

Our Proposed 2009 Programmes

Personal Empowerment:

- Life Skills workshops
- Mentoring Programme

Social Development:

- Camps (one for male teens and one for female teens)
- Children's Day Camps (ages 4-12)
- Spring Cleaning Day
- Community Service Day

Educational Support:

- Saturday School Academy
- Life Skills Workshops
- Nutrition
- Learner Exchange Programme

Economic Development:

- Develop more cooperatives
- Take a child to work during school holidays

Wellness

- Spiritual retreats
- Wellness day
- Road safety awareness campaign
- Child protection week events
- Social / psycho counselling
- World AIDS Day event

If are interested in assisting us with the above programmes / activities, please contact us as we need your support to help the children / teens.

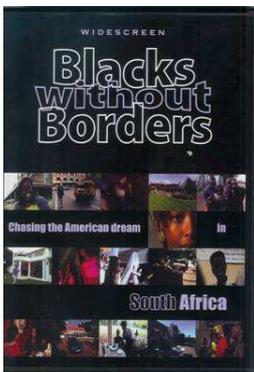
**For tomorrow belongs to the people who prepare for it today.
African Proverb**

Annual Arts & Crafts Day



On 7 December, more than 80 children and teens participated in the annual Arts & Crafts Day. They made Christmas Cards, Crackers and Christmas ornaments. They had a great time learning how to make things as gifts to those that are important to them. Thank you Sharon and team for bringing smiles and joy to the children and teens of Teboho Trust.

Executive Director Featured in Documentary



Jose Bright was featured in a documentary produced by Los Angeles film makers Stafford and Judy Bailey. It was released this year and chronicles the lives of 12 African Americans living in South Africa. The section that features Jose Bright chronicles Teboho Trust and shares insights into Mr. Bright,

the Teboho Trust children / teens and the Soweto community. The documentary has won several awards in the USA and reporters in several newspapers indicate that the most poignant story is of Mr. Bright. Please make an effort to get hold of the DVD and share our story with many more. We have grown a lot since the shooting of the documentary in 2005, as our newsletter testifies. For more information on the DVD, please visit: www.blackswithoutborders.net.

Children Receive Early Christmas Gifts



Long time supporter, Beverly, gave early Christmas gifts to 40 children, ages 4-12. She organised a range of new stuff animals for the children. They all were happy and gave their new friends names. The children all had huge smiles on their faces and were happy to have a new friend that they can always hold. Thank you Beverly! We love you!

*When you give hope to a child,
you give promise to our future*

Top Teboho Trust Girls Recognised



Sibongile (top left) and Refilwe (top right) were the top Grade 7 learners at their respective schools. Both received the highest marks and symbols compared to all of the Grade 7 learners at their respective schools. Lerato (bottom right) and Seloane (bottom left) both earn perfect marks on their report cards. Tshosofatso (top middle) earned 4 distinctions. Great job girls. Keep up the good work! Many guardians / parents have come to Teboho Trust to thank our team for the greatly improved academic performance. Many were surprised that their children/grandchildren could perform so well. We new they could do it and are so proud of each and every one of them.

Teboho Trust holds Its 1st Wellness Day



Given the many health challenges we face in the township, we held our first Wellness Day. Dr. Ebrahim gave an interesting talk on HIV/AIDS, STDs and other topics relevant to our teens as well as to the adults present. We also

provided free and voluntary testing on blood pressure, depression and blood sugar levels. We are very grateful to our sponsor Civirelo and Kedibone Kekana for making it all possible.

Annual Year End / Christmas Party



We held our Annual Year End / Christmas party and we would like to thank all those that made it possible, especially our hosts Mr. Hugh Dalton (father) and Danielle Swanston (daughter) for opening their home to over 200 people. The morning was a bit wet with the early rains. However the day was beautiful as we were able to host our outside

activities without any rain. All had a great and fun day. The children played games, watched movies, held sports competitions, performed and had a chance to relax and have fun.

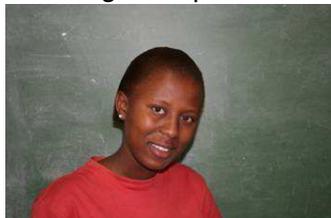
We handed out certificates and gifts to our volunteers and supporters, whom without we would not have had such a successful year. Thank you Black Management Forum Young Professionals for donating gifts to the children and teens.

LEARNERS SECTION

Learners Share their Feelings / Thoughts on Teboho Trust

“Teboho Trust is an empowerment organisation that is always striving to make a positive change in the life of our children / teens in the township. The values that we have are practiced everyday to promote the growth of an individual. We are proud to see the positive changes in behaviours and mindsets of our children / teens. We are pleased to witness the proactive choices they are making now for a brighter future. Below are a few of the comments from our learners:

“This year I learnt how to persevere and to overcome my fears. I was taught to never give up in life and to have



confidence in whatever I do. The most important quote I've learnt was that' you don't live for people but you live with people.”

Refiloe Kola Grade 11

“I have achieved a lot of things as a result of participating in Teboho Trust

programmes. My English skills .at school have improved greatly and I now get full marks and speak more fluently in English. I have also improved in mathematics and I am satisfied with my successful results”

Kgotso Selomah Grade 6

“I learnt that you must respect and dedicate yourself to produce good marks at school and love one another.”



Mathu Didlisa Grade 5



“I have achieved a great sense of confidence and communication skills. Before, I was shy and unable to talk in front of a crowd. Now, I am very grateful and honoured to be a part of Teboho Trust as I am no longer shy and can participate in discussions and speak in front of crowds.” **Nthabiseng Mdluli Grade 10**

“I have gained so much through the Teboho Trust. It has been a privilege and I think it is very hard to find an organisation like this. .When I first attended here I did not know much including some of my subjects and I have been helped a lot. Thank you Teboho Trust! I am successful now!”

Tsholofelo Tshabalala Grade 8

QUOTE FOR THE DAY:



“Listening is a skill, but it is considered a qualification if you want

to be successful in life. It can only be obtained by concentrating and listening without being argumentative, judgemental and defensive!"

Lungile Buhale, age 16 and Grade 10

POETRY CORNER

Let me be...

Take my hand and never let go
Bake a cake that we can all share
As I'm in the middle of time
The precious time that I still need to have

Let me be for I am still finding my way

The power of my faith cannot be measured

For it is the soul that touches all and
My mind is on point

Inner dedication brings out the best in me

Let me be for I am still binding my thoughts for a better life in the future

By: The Teboho Trust Learners and Staff

Obama Gives Hope to Soweto Teen



Nkhosinati, a Grade 10 learner at Teboho Trust now believes that anything is possible as Obama was elected as the next US President. "Obama, you are my hero!"

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Firstly we just want to thank all of our supporters and volunteers that have made 2008 a success! We want to especially highlight Mama Mthombeni.



She comes every Saturday to prepare morning snacks and warm up the lunch meal, feed over 100 children and clean up afterwards. She does this quietly and humbly and our children look up to her for guidance. She tells us, "It makes me feel good in a way that I can't express my feelings of being part of Teboho Trust. It brings me closer to my children and my new children of Teboho Trust. I can communicate and learn from them as they are a new generation with lots to say and having lots of opportunities". A mother of five small children giving up her Saturdays to assist us with our growing number of children and teens is truly a blessing to all of us. We certainly could not provide our nutritious morning snacks and lunches without her. Moreover, our children would miss out on your wisdom, love and guidance. Siyabonga Mama Mthombeni! Mama Mthombeni, we salute you and love you!

We would also like to thank our volunteers on the cooking committee who without fail spend Friday evenings to prepare our nutritious lunches every Saturday to feed over 100 children a healthy lunch.

We have a bright future ahead

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Happy Holidays dear family and friends of Teboho Trust. Thank you all for a very successful 2008! We have witnessed tremendous growth in our numbers of: children / teens; volunteers; supporters; and programme offerings to our children and community. We could not have done all of this without your support, commitment and compassion.

I'm asked many times why do I continue to sacrifice self for others and for so many years now. Below is a blog I submitted to the Global Fund for Children at their request. I hope it helps you to understand the passion and drive to be of service, especially to those in need – our children...our future.



Another amazing day at the Teboho Trust Saturday School Academy

Approximately 100 children and teens (grades 1-12) came through today to acquire academic tutorials, a nutritious lunch and life skills that will help them do well in school and to cope with life in the township. As we reach the end of our calendar and school year, I'm reflecting on every Saturday our children and teens came for personal growth, social development and educational support. This was the first year we accepted children from grades 1-6 and we are so grateful to the many teachers and volunteers that have come on board

to help us with them. It's very rewarding when a five year old learns how to read and wants to read to you, another wants to recite the letters of the alphabet and another bursting with joy to show you her class work. The younger children have certainly brought a lot of excitement and energy to Teboho Trust and I look forward to every Saturday morning where a lot of small children run towards me as they see me entering the school. They wear big smiles on their faces with arms reaching out wide for a big hug and shouting, "Baba Bright" at the top of their lungs. (Baba is father in Zulu).

The children and teens give up their Saturdays to come to our academy not only to learn about academics and life skills, but to see their friends and peers where they show and receive love, respect, support, security and genuine trust for each other. Our volunteers and supporters often observe this – orphan, vulnerable and at-risk children / teens with adults from all walks of life working together to keep that old African Proverb alive: "it takes a (global) village to raise a child". They find it utterly amazing and many say that the love of our "family" keeps them coming to help as they take some of that love home with them to share with others.

It's great to experience the community coming together to help the children on Saturdays, from preparing the lunch, cleaning the classrooms and washing dishes as well as to help us with academic tutorials where the African languages are needed with our younger children as they are just learning English. Moreover, we have a dedicated staff and core volunteers that make Teboho Trust come alive: providing a safe, loving, creative and enabling environment for our children and teens.

Many say that I'm blessed, but I wish people could really understand the blessing – I'm blessed because so many children and teens are blessing me by allowing me a glimpse into their young lives. I learn so much from them and feel I'm a better man because of them. They have taught me humility, patience and unconditional love. They have helped me to discover the true meaning of compassion, giving, sharing and optimism for a better tomorrow. Moreover, they have helped me to have an awesome relationship with God as I experience God through them and the unconditional love and support from the community. Thank you everyone for this awesome blessing.

Let Us Hear From You

We would love to hear from you and share your words with the Teboho Trust family and friends.

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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We'd love to hear from you. Send us a message to the children / teens

Please Donate Today

Your Time / Talents: Interested in Volunteering?

Please contact us at our contact details on opposite column.



Your Treasures:

Our banking details are:

Name of Account: Teboho Trust
Bank: Nebank
Account Number: 1970 841 737
Branch Code: 197 005

For Electronic Wire Transfers:

Swift Code: NEDSZAJJ



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

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Ms. Lungile Buhale – Learner Reporter
Mr. David Rantho – Photographer