



HOMESTOGROW
A brighter future for abandoned
children

ST FRANCIS OUTREACH TRUST

Six month Report January – June 2018

Education:

The year started with changes for 3 of our girls who were moved to different schools. Our 13 year old was delighted and has not stopped smiling since she was accepted in a Skill's school for the hearing impaired. Two of our younger (9 + 10 years) girls began in a Model C school and will have to endeavour to study much harder. Time will tell if they can catch up to the level required.

Nearly all of the children have now had their scholastic aptitude assessed (though costly it was mostly undertaken pro bono) to ensure that they are placed in appropriate schools and in the correct grades.

The gaps in their knowledge due to bad teaching practices in the past cannot be so easily corrected nor new subject caught up overnight.



Birthday celebration at school
classroom



Lessons in the home

Therefore we have increased the hours our tutor works with the children who have literacy difficulties allowing the homework teacher to concentrate on giving individual attention to each child on actual homework, projects and in preparation for exams.

As the children advance in age they have been at a disadvantage not having computers and internet access to prepare their school projects and as a result suffered low marks. We are very grateful to an organization (FPD) in Pretoria who have kindly donated 4 laptops to the children. Our General Manager keeps in regular contact with the schools to keep tabs on the children's progress acknowledging their successes as well as shortcomings so that these can be related back to the 2 home teachers and the foster mothers. With this feedback a teaching plan can be tailored to each child's needs. This evaluation is critical in helping them overcome academic weakness and in identifying the obstacles thwarting progress.

Teachers and volunteers, for example, are now using the same method to improve the children's reading, and we are amazed at how quickly they are responding.

Participation in sport activities is an important part of the school curriculum. Most of our children happily participate. We very proud of one of our girls who plays softball in the A-team. There has been an enormous change in her attitude which also resulted in better motivation to excel in the classroom which helped with an improved report card. A highlight for her is when the GM comes to cheer her at a game.

Medical:

We have two children who have severe hearing impairment. Due to the indefatigable efforts of our GM, Red Cross Hospital's ENT department replaced the hearing aids of one and the other received a 'Baha' device which has improved her hearing tremendously. Both applications were provided with no cost to the Trust.

In January our children and the driver, Mpho went again for their dental checkup with Dr. Saridakis and his team. A few required minor treatment and were advised to brush their teeth more regularly. We are very grateful to Dr. S. His staff is always so supportive of our 11 children during the visit.

One of the younger girls lost her glasses and SPEC-SAVERS at the SV-Mall offered her a new pair of glasses— after a check. Thank you SPEC-SAVERS team for your kindness! All our children had a free eye exam at the end of last year and some received new glasses.

Social:

Richard and Mary, old friends to the children from the UK came to visit and spent a lovely time with them.

In March our trip to Namibia- with the kids on North, work with designs . The children of from which to



friends from the Netherlands- on their way were in town for a few days and worked a craft project. On their return from their three weeks later, all the children completed the Germa's help and created beautiful and artistic pictures are now hanging in the classroom. both houses received each a beautiful book read bed-time stories.

For Easter the children, the foster mothers and Mpho, attended the service at St Francis Church.



A kind lady had brought them new dresses and outfits from her last trip to the States. They all looked really happy and very smart.

Recent improvements to Mama Joyce's home were undertaken.

The New bed- Now each separate few

personal things. Joyce has now extra storage bedding. This acquisition was possible donation of supporters in the UK.



children received room cupboards. child has their clothes space and a drawers to place area for duvets and through the kind

Family relationships continue to be an important part of our management. Two of our children visited their mother for a few days in her shack over Easter. She lives some distance away from the home and cannot visit regularly. One of the fathers comes more often to visit his children at the home and also sometimes gets involved when there are behavior problems to sort out.

With great sadness we trustees, Sir Rupert members of the trust As a peacemaker and up to a few weeks discomfort and pain.



said 'Good bye' to one of our dear Bromley. Rupert was one of the initial and was a stalwart with his advice. logical thinker he fulfilled his duties right before his passing in spite of suffering

Sincere thanks to all our friends and supporters around the world who make it possible for us to give our children a loving home environment, send them to better schools and assist with the improved level of education which they need.

It is heart-warming to see the children grow over the years and their personalities develop from young toddlers to happy teenagers and **all with your kind and generous support!**



Please, continue to pray for "Homes to Grow", and that all our children will find their niche in life and fulfill their potential as best they can.



Monika du Sautoy

Our Patron: The Most Reverend Archbishop Njongonkulu Ndungane (retired)

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