



HOMES TO GROW
A brighter future
for abandoned children

Established 2009

General Manager: Michelle Daly - petedaly@mweb.co.za
Treasurer: Dennis Clark - sfotoffice@gmail.com

St Francis Outreach Trust

IT1631/2009 – PBO930031283 – NPO 080387



December 2020

Christmas Letter and End of Year Report

Dear friends of the children of 'Homes to Grow',

**The candles will still flicker and the Christmas tree shine,
and our hearts will be filled with joy and thanksgiving
for the birth of the Christ child!**

... with or without Covid-19!

The Christmas trees came out of storage and the decorations have begun. The children are looking forward to Christmas and their being together. Our brother-sister team will visit their mother over the holidays.

2020 was a challenging year and we reflect on the blessings we received through these difficult times.

Covid-19:

We are grateful that our children and mothers are safe, healthy and in good spirits. They have shown great discipline once instructed in precautions and apply them consistently. The children will come to take our temperature and bring the disinfecting spray for our hands, and the notebook is open and ready for the findings to be recorded. Our youngest boy's comment expressed very truthfully, how we all feel: "I don't like Covid! Now we are not allowed to hug each other any more!"



Birthday serenade



School:

The exams are over and the children can finally relax from their very intense and long school days, which begin at 6 am for them, when they all hop into the bus, and end studying with Shirley, our home tutor, at 6 pm.

The kids have all definitely gained in computer knowledge and missed little of the school curriculum. All thanks to our supporters who made it possible for us to purchase extra laptops for the children, to work on-line with the schools.



HOMES TO GROW
A brighter future
for abandoned children

Established 2009

St Francis Outreach Trust

IT1631/2009 – PBO930031283 – NPO 080387

Spshelo, our driver and "IT specialist", was for a while the connecting element between home teachers, children, mothers, and trustees. Our General Manager Michelle was the concerned friend of the children who spent hours with them on the phone. Presently the children are transported to 7 different schools, located all over Cape Town and surroundings, which keeps our bus and driver long hours on the road every day.

Following the communication and instructions of 7 different schools was not easy in "normal times", but the now continually changing messages due to circumstances changing in the schools were a hard task for Michelle and our home teachers. The situation did not only involve the teaching matter, but also the transport schedule, and that created even more challenges, which required trustees to jump in to help out.

Our Mothers:

Our mothers have given up their lives to devote it to our children.



Mama Emily

They are Xhosa women in the midst of their lives with a big heart, who had little school education but have grown immensely with the workshops by Home from Home and the understanding guidance of our General Manager Michelle. During lockdown our mothers learned quite a lot about basic computer use through Spshelo.

They are loved by the children and have become their playmates, their teachers, friends and occasionally their disciplinarians - which is the most difficult role for them. Both mothers have spent their annual leave in spite of the pandemic, and the children enjoyed living all together for a short while in one house.



Mama Joyce

Looking ahead:

As our children are/becoming teenagers, the time they will still be with us, is getting shorter. We are thinking even harder to prepare them for the future and try to pinpoint their interests and skills. One of the older girls who is seriously involved with golf is continuing to make good progress. We have great hopes that she might be able to make a career of it. The oldest boy has technical talents and we hope that the attendance in the skills school will help him find his work directions. Some of the children show artistic inclinations, and 4 go presently the academic way. It is our project for 2021 to work on a skills development for all the children and prepare them also on a practical way for their independent living.



Our Waldorf girl
and her work of art



HOMES TO GROW
A brighter future
for abandoned children

Established 2009

St Francis Outreach Trust

IT1631/2009 – PBO930031283 – NPO 080387

Health Issues:



Learning how to cook
at the skills school

Therapeutic and medical interventions are monitored regularly. Our girls with hearing problems are checked every 6 months and during the recent consultation an implant was exchanged and new hearing aides were applied.

Dental appointments as well as annual eye tests are made now in the close government hospital for all the children. At the beginning of the year our friend from the Netherlands, Germa, worked with 2 of our children during counselling sessions, meanwhile her husband Con taught the children mathematics.

South Africa and especially the Western Cape have entered the "Second Wave" of Corona infections and we are all asked to be especially careful and precautious. And so is the rest of the world!



Nativity play

We wish you health and happiness and that you will be spared from this virus!

To all involved this year in the provision, teaching, care, and love given for our children may the Lord richly bless you! Thank you for the wonderful support you have given us!

We wish you a blessed Christmas, more meaning full than ever!

And to all of us may the New Year bring things a bit closer to an acceptable normal Next Year!

WHEN WE CAN ALL HUG EACH OTHER AGAIN!

Blessings

Monika





HOMES TO GROW
A brighter future
for abandoned children

Established 2009

St Francis Outreach Trust

IT1631/2009 – PBO930031283 – NPO 080387

Please, follow our children's development on Facebook: www.facebook.com/homestogrow

Other ways to support our kids are to:

★ **Sponsor individual children**

with R 50 — R 100 — R 150 — R 200

with a monthly contribution, which will help us to cover some of the expenses to raise a child.

Bi-annual reports would give you an update of the child's development

★ **Partake in a sporting event**

for our children's benefit

★ **Pledge your birthday celebration**

Use your celebration to bring awareness to our work and improve the lives of vulnerable children and raise funds instead of accepting gifts

★ **Use the My School Card in S.A.**

with St Francis Outreach Trust as a beneficiary and without any expense to you when you shop at Woolworth (ask me for the application form)

★ **Become a volunteer**

... the most rewarding way to get involved

★ **Provide us with a financial donation**

which will enable us to provide the needed therapeutic intervention, educational assistance and skill development – essential building blocks for a successful future of our children. Please request a tax certificate for your donation (only South Africa)

Our bank details:

St Francis Outreach Trust

Standard Bank Acc.: **271 907 185**

Swift: **SB ZAZA JJ**