



Dear Parents

One of my personal heroes is Imtiaz Sooliman, who heads up an extraordinary organization called The Gift of the Givers Foundation. This foundation is the largest disaster response, non-governmental organisation of African origin on the African continent and, to quote from their website “works to unite people, with a common vision, to make a real and telling difference by serving mankind for the greater good’.

Before I moved here, I lived in Makhanda (Grahamstown) for seven years. In all that time - and still today - that region has experienced the most debilitating drought that has left the main feeder dam for the town empty and the municipality scrambling to pipe more water from distant rivers. The Gift of the Givers came down in 2019 to sink some much needed bore holes and, while he was in town, I was privileged to hear Mr. Sooliman speaking about the organisation and his personal journey. I was also truly humbled to get home that night to find five 2 litre bottles of water on my doorstep... a gift from this amazing group. I handed the water on to someone who had more need of it than I did but it was the act of selfless charity and kindness that has stayed with me long after the event.

The gift of giving is beautiful and to give without expecting anything in return makes the giving all the sweeter. I know that times have been hard for us all in the last 18 months. I know that money is tight and every cent counts. And so, to those families who have supported our Jars of Hope drive this week and to those who donated clothing for the orphanage last term (which we have finally been able to deliver), THANK YOU.

Children learn by imitating the actions of the adults in their lives and what you are teaching your children is a life lesson that is invaluable.

If they feel loved, they will love in return
If they hear laughter, they will echo that sound
If they see kindness and charity, they will learn to give

YOURS IN EDUCATION

Dionne Redfern

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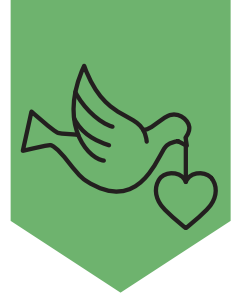
Imtiaz Sooliman

VHUTSHILO MOUNTAIN SCHOOL

HOPE FOR LIMPOPO

OUTREACH

RIDGEWAY COLLEGE STUDENTS INITIATIVE



At the end of last term, we planned on donating a pile of clothing and warm blankets, donated by Prep and College pupils and parents as well as a financial donation from Kumon and a blanket donation from Premjees, to an orphanage outside town. An early closure of school prevented this as did the delay in opening. Three pupils (Lavhe Fambe, Reabetswe Lekotoko and Anesu Mapfumo) finally delivered a huge load today.

The girls reflected on the outing and wrote these words:

Anesu Mapfumo

Heart-warming. The words I choose to describe my experience, the feeling of giving back to those who cannot afford to live the life I live and not by choice. I really enjoyed visiting Tshiriluni Mountain school, looking into the eyes of the small toddlers, hearing them sing with all their might and seeing the adorable smiles on their faces which was passed on to me. I like to think of helping other people as a privilege. The fact that you could have the resources to help someone else in need, is a gift in itself. I'd just love to thank the Prep School for their huge contributions, and the rest of the College who took a moment to think of others other than themselves. May we all continue to grow in the spirit of giving and not taking.

Reabetswe Lekotoko

The school gives off a very warm atmosphere, filled with love and happiness. Whilst roaming around I listened to their little voice singing with joy and saw faces filled with smiles from ear to ear. They were most excited when we handed out the blankets and seeing their little hands reach for the donation was the most heart-warming moment. They might not have much but they are surely grateful for the littlest things which inspires me to want to do more for them. I would love to visit them again.

Lavhe Fambe

Really, I did not think that the little that we came up with could make a difference, but you should have seen their faces or heard their laughter. It grew this bubbly feeling in me... a feeling indescribable... the feeling of giving. It seemed like Christmas and I was Santa Claus and that feeling is very addictive. We did not have time to really connect with the children, but every second with them felt amazing. I hope in the future to have more time with them.



JESUS SAID, "LET THE LITTLE CHILDREN COME TO ME, AND DO NOT HINDER THEM, FOR THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN BELONGS TO SUCH AS THESE."



MATTHEW 19:14



OTHER NEWS

First Aid Training

First Aid Training

One of our hostel staff, Mrs. Energy Jeke and one of our College teachers, Mrs. Estelle Pretorius, recently attended a First Aid course in Polokwane. Having properly trained staff to deal with emergencies is important in any school and we thank them for their time and effort. They were joined by Mr. Jaya (Prep) and Mrs. Shaw (ECD)



Cycling News

Andani Raphalalani competed in a local mountain bike challenge – a half marathon race of 35 km called the Akkedis MTB Challenge. Set in the scenic Soutpansberg mountains, Andani said: "It was a lovely route with amazing views and fun trails. I obviously had the home advantage and was super happy to come first on the day."

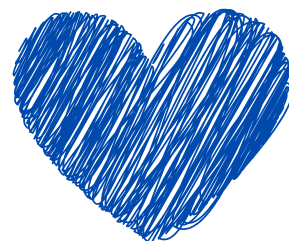


English News

Ntebetini Ntini has been named as one of several winning entry writers for an international online short story competition run by WriteFluenza and will have her entry published as well as receiving a merit certificate for her achievement. She entered two stories, with her entry called "The Baobab Tree" being the entry listed. This is fantastic news for her and for our school and we are very proud of her.

Condolences

Our thoughts and prayers are with the Patel family who lost a much loved aunt last week. We hold you in our hearts.



← hope →