

THUSO

WALTHAM FOREST (HELPING HAND) IN SOUTH AFRICA



Newsletter Summer 2013 **Visit to Thuto Lesedi Secondary School March 2013.**

In March 2013, I visited Thuto Lesedi Secondary School and met the 2013 year 12 (Matriculation) pupils sponsored by Waltham Forest Thuso in South Africa. This was the final year at high school. Sponsors had made it possible for them to stay in school from year nine, second year at high school, to year 12, the final year. The pupils I met were keen to express their appreciation, and the inspiration drawn from the support received.

Lack of money to pay school fees, buy essential books and food, would have forced some to leave school before the final year. That would have denied them the bright futures they were planning to achieve. Among the ones I met, careers mentioned included Boiler Maker, Engineer, Doctor, Diplomat and Journalist.



2013 Year 12 (Matric) Learners

There are new government and industry backed initiatives to help young people from deprived backgrounds access higher education and training. What is needed is encouragement and support to help youngsters get through year 12. (Matriculation)

The food programme supported by WFTISA ensures that these children don't go hungry. We all know that a "Hungry Child Cannot Learn".

WFTISA congratulates the 2012 Matriculates who passed the examination. We wish them success in their chosen career paths.

On their behalf we thank the sponsors and supporters who made it possible for them to reach year 12 in their education.

Kopano Ke Maatla HIV/AIDS support group

The volunteers from Kopano ke Maatla continue to provide homecare for the sick and support orphans and other destitute children living in an informal settlement near Atteridgeville.



Reading Donated Books



Play space provided at a Volunteer's Home.

The children in the area have nowhere to play. Some shacks are so closely built that there is hardly enough space to walk. In this poor and dangerous neighbourhood, one volunteer has offered play space. Her home is one of very few with some where the children can play safely. She also offers some shelter where they gather to read donated books. Kopano Ke Maatla provides a slice of bread and a drink for those who come hungry.

During my visit I asked that the children are given some books to keep. The joy of being

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given a book was best expressed by a little girl who ran to her grandmother, shouting and waving the book and shouting "They gave me a book".

Some of the children in the playground were said to be wearing clothes donated by WFTISA.

Kopano ke Maatla was said to be looking for a venue where they can set-up after school club. The place would provide space for the children to do homework, get help and a meal. During school holidays that would also provide a safe and interesting place to spend the day.

Visit to Lobethal primary school

I received a warm welcome at the school. Alfred Mangoato (Principal), teachers and several parents received me. Some of the Mothers in traditional dress danced for me. Others said poetic traditional praises and expressions of their appreciation for donated clothes, books and toys. They asked me to convey their gratitude to WFTISA and all its supporters.



Welcoming Dance at Lobethal Primary School
March 2013

The Principal and teachers told me about the school's mission, progress and challenges in the rural setting. For example, a number of children had to cross a river without a bridge, and others walk long distances to get to school.

Lobethal Primary school was temporarily moved to a closed Secondary school while the primary school buildings were undergoing refurbishment. In their new location, an unused class room is a designated reading

room. The children are encouraged to choose a book to read and discuss in their English lesson. The books donated by WFTISA are the first and only collection available in the room.

