

Lerato Educational Centre

PO Box 1119, Mondeor, Johannesburg, 2110

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Dear friends,

I'm not sure if you are following our facebook page. That's where we publish what's going on at Lerato through pretty regular postings with lots of pictures. (Lerato Educational Centre)

I'm also not sure if you had a chance to visit Lerato recently. Those who have will agree that our learning centre is indeed a treasure for the children.

But before I give you an update, let me express my greatest thanks to all those who help to make Lerato such a wonderful place. It's not only the money we receive from so many. It's not only the bags of clothing, blankets, the books and toys we can redistribute to those who are in need. It's the visits that enhearten us, the kind words of encouragement and the smiles we see on your faces and on that of our children and staff that make the real difference.



Thanks You so much!

Well, we look after 500 children who get great education, food and the opportunity to play and learn. We have great teachers and our facilities have grown tremendously to help us with all our projects.

A highlight of the recent weeks was a visit from "WILD ONES Educational Animal Shows" The kids had such fun. If you remember how scared many of these kids are when it comes to even imagining these animals ... they were really courageous ... This was really a great thing for the children ... thanks ...

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We built a new toilet block for the children. We needed to upgrade our numbers to comply with the strict laws ...

Unfortunately, all our efforts to register the school with the department of education have been thwarted by the endless red tape ... We are still at it, but don't receive any government subsidies and rely completely on donations ...

Lerato is more than a creche and primary school. We also try to answer to the needs of the older children and youth. This includes allowing the community use our facilities if needed, but also to run specific projects to support youth.

We do have computer classes, study groups and also provide learners with bursaries. At present we pay for the training of 4 teachers and one person who trains in administration.

Just a few words of thanks to all the people who helped around Nelson Mandela's 100th birthday. We wish this great man had a birthday every week ... It's amazing that he still creates so much love long after his death ...

Lucky for us we get support throughout the year:



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Taking home a new friend

MARIST Brothers Linnmeyers' Grade 10 learners held their outreach programme at school on June 20.

They hosted 75 of the Grade Three learners from the Lerato Educational Centre situated in the Jackson Drift informal settlement. The centre is run by Sister Helen and the Salesian Sisters.

The Grade Three learners each made a "Build-a-Bear" with the help of the Grade 10 learners and the kind help of Mrs Newton and her company, Creative Crafty.

They enjoyed the experience and were happy to take their newly made friend home with them.

All the funds needed to sponsor this event were raised by the learners and educators at Marist Brothers Linnmeyer.

It was a wonderful day enjoyed immensely by the little visitors; everyone involved gained so much from the experience.



MY NEW FRIEND: One of the learners from Lerato Educational Centre with the bear which was made on the day.

Marist Brothers Linnmeyer said it will certainly host this kind of event again next year.

Our computer classes are a hit not only amongst the older users ...



And we have a great library that helps to improve literacy ...

A big thanks to the volunteers of the Shine reading program ... What a pleasure to see their dedication and the progress of the children... There isn't a day they miss ...



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If you remember where these kids grow up: Amazing how they manage ...



And grow from this:



to this:



And many of them got Matrik and are doing well ...

Thanks to all of you. Please, keep us in your hearts and support Lerato ...

Bruno Pauly, chairperson

Post scriptum:

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Not all has been well at Lerato. Recently, Amanda, our principle passed away. She was a pillar of strength and will be sorely missed ... We had a very emotional memorial service. Thanks to all who supported us ...

Tribute to Ms Amanda Lebopo RIP

Our much loved Amanda Lebopo, Principal at our school for seven years, passed away after a brief illness on July 29th. She was laid to rest on Saturday, August 4th at Soshanguvu, Pretoria.

She has left us with many beautiful memories of her presence. For Amanda it was always 'children first'. In the morning when she would arrive at school, before going near to her office, she first went around to each class to see the children and to see whether there were any who were sick, upset or not dressed warmly enough in the cold weather.

Amanda was truly gifted with leadership qualities. She could always reach out in a positive way to the staff, parents and the community at large. Her welcoming attitude towards visitors, benefactors and young people doing 'Community Service' created an atmosphere of trust and appreciation. She never took for granted the goodness and generosity of so many who came to be of service to the Lerato Project.

Her presence has been a great blessing to the school and indeed she is going to be sorely missed. She was truly a person of integrity, kindness and goodness which she expressed in so many different ways.

Perhaps we can sum up this tribute to Amanda with the words of scripture:

Jesus said " I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die"

