



Lesedi la Batho

LIGHT FOR THE PEOPLE

Annual Report 2024

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1 ABOUT US

MISSION & VISION

We seek to inspire, empower, motivate, engage and equip the youth and the community at large through skills training, job placement assistance, youth development, female empowerment, social enterprise development, sports, early childhood development and community support.

Our vision is to make South Africa a beacon of hope by providing our youth and community with the opportunities and skills to realise their full potential and purpose, ensuring members of our society become empowered to make a difference.

OUR OBJECTIVES

- To promote social change and justice in communities, including through sport, art, culture and education;
- To promote social cohesion and economic empowerment of communities;
- To empower the youth to take the lead in improving their own lives, finding solutions to their problems and satisfying their needs by positively focusing on, and utilizing, both individual and communal assets;
- To provide the youth and community members with opportunities that will enable them to develop creative ways to enhance the quality of their lives and that of others;
- To be a catalyst for social entrepreneurship by creating the environment for the development of innovative, effective and measurable solutions for communities; and
- To provide social services to vulnerable mothers in order to empower them, and provide them with life options, while their babies are nurtured and loved in a safe environment.

BACKGROUND

In 2004, Lesedi La Batho began as a project under an NGO by the name of SA Cares for Life. In its early years, the primary focus of Lesedi la Batho's work was youth development through sport – creating opportunities for the youth of Mabopane through soccer. This work subsequently grew into holistic youth development programmes, and then further projects within the community to address the residents' needs as they were recognised. Today, Lesedi la Batho is a multi-faceted organization and a well-known name in the field of development through skills training, job creation, education, arts, culture and sport in Mabopane.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Lincoln Marais - *Chairperson*

Retired Director for Institutional Development of the African Tax Administration Forum (ATAF) seconded from SARS

Qualifications: Master's degree in Diplomatic Studies (MA Dipl. Stud) from the University of Westminster in London

Tangkiso Matsaneng - *Treasurer*

Director: Management Accounting at National Treasury

Qualifications: CIMA (Chartered Global Management Accountant), BComm and Project Management

Kamogelo Thema - Secretary

Monitoring & Evaluation NQF Level 6 (M&E),

Chrisna Groenewald - Founder

Former Managing Director: Lesedi la Batho

Qualifications: BA-Law degree from the University of Johannesburg.

Steve Lewis - Director

Retired Managing Executive: Retail Transformation at Telkom

Qualifications: B.Sc. in Electronic Engineering – University of Natal

M.Sc. in Electronic Engineering with Distinction – University of Natal

Thapelo Mokwena - (Managing Director)

Qualifications: National Diploma in Management from Tshwane University of Technology

Experience: 3 years' experience as Project Manager at Lesedi la Batho

SPONSORS & PARTNERS

It is our heartfelt desire to render services of the highest standard to the people of Mabopane. We can only do so with the help of our loyal sponsors and supporters. We are therefore, filled with gratitude towards all the individuals and organisations who share our vision and mission to make Mabopane a great place for all.

The Department of Social Development is our main sponsor, continuously strengthening our efforts to train and find employment for community members. Through the Sustainable Livelihood Project, Lesedi la Batho is able to make a significant impact by supporting families with training and job security.

Through a grant obtained from the **Swedish Adoptionscentrum** and the **UN Trust Fund for Women**, we have been able to offer both practical and emotional support for gender-based violence survivors, training on human rights for learners, support for Commercial Sex Workers (CSW's) as well as upliftment services for young mothers in need.

Rays of Hope continue to support our Ikemele women, Ratanang Day Care, Lesedi Strikers, and many other needs identified in the community.

The Lewis Group has partnered with us since 2014 to support sewing skills training and social enterprise development. Through a contract, our sewing co-operative produces large shipments of handmade merchandise that provides a small salary for some community members.

We are fortunate to have the support of the **University of Pretoria's** JCP Module. Through their community engagement program, they have made an incredible contribution to the work that we do through various student projects.

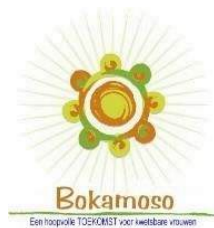
Thanks to the generous investment of local corporation **Gijima**, we have been able to rebuild our computer skills training facility to reach an increased number of learners with this essential skill.

Our other local corporate partners who support us through corporate social investment, volunteering and other resources include **XFour Solutions**, **Abbvie**, and **Momentum Metropolitan**.

It is crucial for us to work in partnership with our government. **The Department of Education, Tshwane West**, generously hosts our organization at a vacant primary and secondary schools in Mabopane. They are one of our most treasured and valuable partners since the inception of our organization. **The Department of Sport and Recreation** is also a valuable partner. We highly value our partnership as we see our work as an extension of the services of our government to its entire people.

Brooklyn Methodist Church provide us with food parcels, meal packs and on-the go sip snacks as part of our social relief outreach.

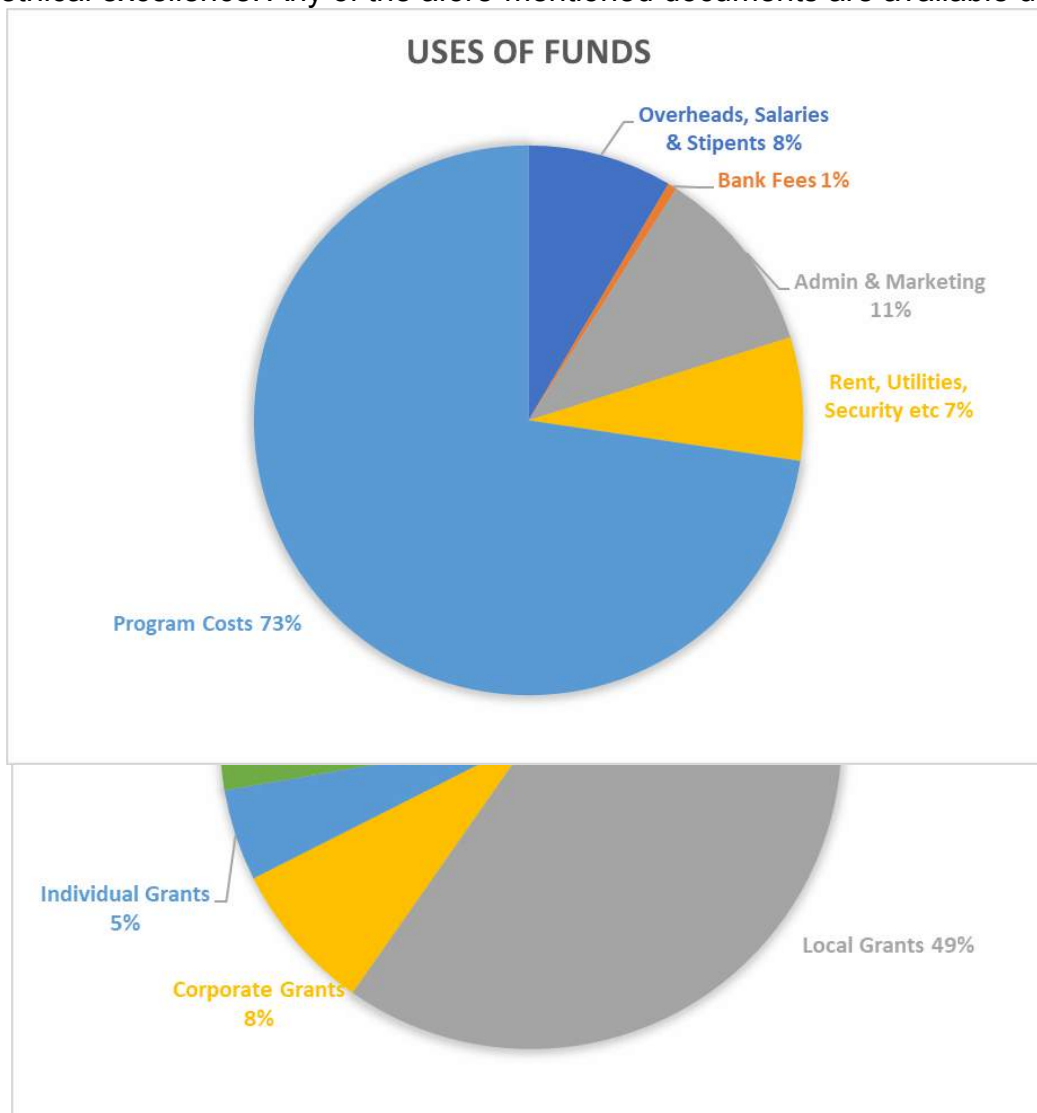
Then, a special thank you to all our **individual donors** who we cannot do this work without. Your help makes a world of difference and we honour you for it. We do not take it lightly that we are able to play a part in changing the destiny of so many lives. Thank you for entrusting us with the resources to do this life saving work.





2 FINANCIALS

Lesedi la Batho is a fully registered NPC, NPO, Public Benefit Organisation, and a Level 1 B-BBEE contributor. Our financials are audited annually by Enslin & Associates, maintaining our ethical excellence. Any of the afore-mentioned documents are available upon request.



3 EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

3.1 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

On 20th November 2024, we hosted our *Annual General Meeting (AGM)*, bringing together the Mabopane community, stakeholders, and beneficiaries. The AGM provided a platform to share updates on the organisation's ongoing projects, key achievements, and financial performance over the past year. It also served as an important opportunity to reaffirm our mission, outline the wide range of services we provide, and strengthen relationships with those who support and benefit from our work.



3.2 INDUCTION DAY

On the 4th October 2024, we held a skills training induction for the October-December 2024 intake. The purpose of the event was to introduce new beneficiaries to Lesedi la Batho's services, introduce them to the staff, and explain important rules and regulations. We were honoured to host special guests from ABSA, Standard Bank, and AVBOB, whom not only inspired the beneficiaries but also provided valuable insights into their services. Representatives from the Department of Social Development (Black like Me) also shared a brief presentation on the importance of self-awareness, with another organisation called 'Open Disclosure' highlighted their services aimed at combating drug abuse in the community. Additionally, our valued partners from the Community Media Trust (CMT) shared information about their available programs.



3.3 KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE LEARNING EVENT

Lesedi la Batho hosted a *Knowledge Exchange Event* on the 14th May under the UNTF GBV project, bringing together schools, clinics, community organisations, and beneficiaries. Key speakers highlighted the project's achievements, including support for learners affected by GBV, access to healthcare services, and community-based prevention efforts. The event closed with a certificate ceremony recognising the implementing team for their dedication throughout the three-year programme.



3.4 HIV/AIDS AWARENESS

At Lesedi la Batho, we believe that strong partnerships are essential to addressing the social challenges faced by our community. By collaborating with like-minded organisations, we are able to connect our beneficiaries to critical services that improve health, well-being, and overall quality of life.

On 15th May 2024, we were delighted to host Itireleng Residential Care Facility for the Disabled (Itireleng - RCFD) and Tshwaranang Support Group organisations that work in the field of HIV / A prevention and awareness. The Itireleng - RCFD facilitated a *HIV awareness campaign*, engaging both our team and beneficiaries in open, informative discussions. These sessions addressed crucial topics such as prevention methods, the importance of regular testing, available treatment options, and breaking the stigma associated with HIV. The aim was to empower participants with accurate information that supports informed decision-making and healthier lifestyles.

Later that day, a second Tshwaranang Support Group arrived with a mobile HIV testing station, enabling community members and beneficiaries to access free, confidential HIV testing right here at the centre. This brought an essential service directly to those who may otherwise face barriers such as transportation costs, long waiting times, or fear of stigma when seeking testing at clinics.

By combining education with practical, on-the-spot health services, this partnership not only raised awareness but also removed immediate obstacles to care. It reflected our mission to be a bridge between the community and vital services, and our ongoing commitment to holistic support that addresses both the social and health needs of Mabopane residents.

HIV AIDS Awareness



4 OUR ACTIVITIES

4.1 SKILLS TRAINING DEPARTMENT

Introduction

Our Skills Training Programme is a cornerstone of Lesedi la Batho's mission to empower young people (ages 18–35) with the tools they need to break the cycle of poverty and unemployment in Mabopane. The programme offers comprehensive, hands-on training in key areas such as:

- Life Skills (Compulsory)
- Accredited Computer
- Sewing and Beading
- Security
- Baby care and Child health



Each course is designed to build both technical competence and workplace readiness, ensuring graduates can confidently enter the job market or start their own small businesses.

Beyond technical training, participants receive guidance in entrepreneurship, financial literacy, and job-seeking skills, equipping them to navigate the world of work and build sustainable livelihoods. We actively assist graduates with job placement, internships, or market access for their products, helping them transition into independent and self-sustaining roles in the community.

4.1.1 COMPUTER SKILLS TRAINING

In today's job market, computer literacy is no longer an advantage — it is a necessity. Most employers require candidates to have proficiency in basic Office programs such as Word, PowerPoint, Excel, and Access. By equipping our youth with these essential digital skills, we are enhancing their employability and opening doors to a wider range of opportunities.

STATISTICS

Quarter	Computer accredited	Computer literacy	Total (quarterly)
1 st	42	48	90
2 nd	36	50	86
3 Rd	36	61	97
4 th	35	60	95
Total (Yearly)	149	219	368

Computer literacy skills training is offered to all community members, whilst the computer accredited training is offered to only the youth (18 – 35 yr olds). We hosted 4 lessons per day lasting 1.5hrs each. Of these, 38 students went on to secure jobs.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Train-a-Trainer Program for Digital Skills Facilitators

From 18th–22nd November 2024, Morongwa Foundation, in collaboration with Katekani Community Project, hosted a Train-a-Trainer workshop at the Mabopane Skills Centre. Our computer

facilitators attended the training. The week-long programme equipped facilitators with essential competencies to deliver high-quality digital skills training in the community.

The training covered the following four key areas:

- Digital Skills
- Teaching Methodologies
- Classroom Management
- Assessment Techniques

TESTIMONIALS

“I, Prince Mojalefa Sepeng, am writing to wholeheartedly express my gratitude and appreciation for the exceptional training I received at Lesedi la Batho Community Centre.

I had the privilege of completing an accredited computer course at the centre over a period of three months, from October to December 2024, and it was truly a life-changing experience. The training was comprehensive, well-structured, and expertly delivered by highly skilled facilitators.

The hands-on approach and interactive sessions made it easy for me to grasp even complex concepts, such as Microsoft Excel and Microsoft Access. The centre’s supportive learning environment and well-organized facilities made the entire experience enjoyable and motivating.

A highlight of my journey was being selected to attend a one-week “Train the Trainer” workshop, which enhanced my skills in accredited computer training and equipped me with effective facilitation techniques. Upon completing my course, I was honoured to be offered the opportunity to work at Lesedi la Batho Community Centre under the Sport for Social Change Network (SSCN) program.

I highly recommend Lesedi la Batho Community Centre to anyone seeking quality training and personal growth. The centre’s commitment to empowering individuals and transforming lives is truly inspiring”.

“I am writing to wholeheartedly recommend the Lesedi la Batho Community Centre and their accredited computer training program. I had the privilege of completing a 3-month course under the expert guidance of facilitator Koketso Lebese.

The skills and knowledge I gained through this program were instrumental in my successful transition into the workforce. Remarkably, even before I could attend the graduation ceremony, I was offered a position at Wits Consortium.



I attribute my swift employment to the comprehensive training and hands-on experience provided by the Lesedi la Batho Community Centre. The program's focus on practical skills and industry relevance made me a competitive candidate in the job market.

I would like to extend my sincerest gratitude to Koketso Lebeso and the entire Lesedi la Batho Community Centre team for their dedication, expertise, and support throughout my training.

I highly recommend the Lesedi la Batho Community Centre's accredited computer training program to anyone seeking to enhance their skills and employability.”

- By Preudence Nomaphelo Xelelo

4.1.2 SEWING AND BEADING SKILLS TRAINING

The Sewing and Beading Training Programme equips learners with practical, creative, and marketable skills in both sewing and beading. Through hands-on training, participants gain the knowledge and techniques needed to create high-quality garments, accessories, and beaded products.

By the end of the programme, learners are empowered to use their skills as a source of income — whether by starting their own small businesses, producing custom-made products, or supplying the local fashion and craft market.

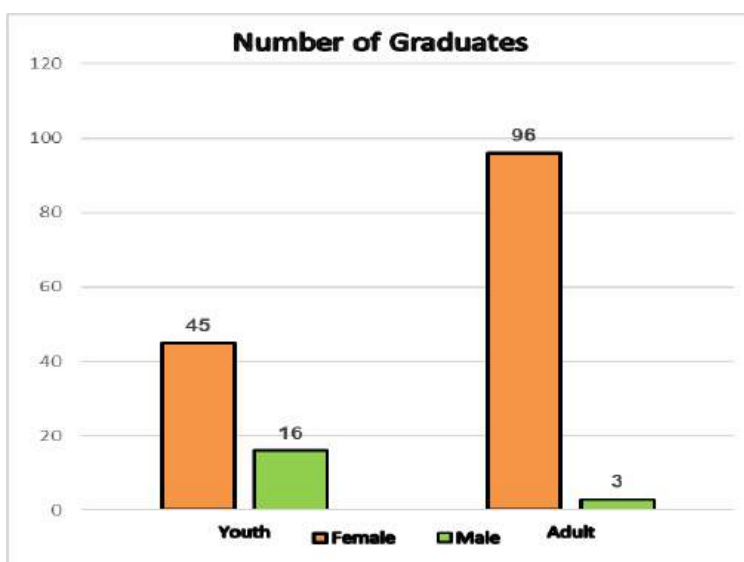


STATISTICS

Through 264 classrooms sessions, we had 160 students graduate in sewing and beading during 2024.

VOLUNTEERS

We were fortunate to have a volunteer who consistently demonstrated exceptional performance and dedication. Kamogelo not only completed our skills training programme but also volunteered her time to teach other beneficiaries the skills that she had gained at Lesedi la Batho. Kamogelo started her own beading business where she makes beaded accessories and sells in community markets and online.



TESTIMONIALS



"I Vusi Mahlangu, I would like to thank Lesedi La Batho for providing me with the skills of sewing and beading. This has opened many doors for me as I am able to sew and bead for myself and that is something

I would like to turn into a business in the future. It has been a pleasure to learn.

Lastly, I would like to thank all facilitators for being with me through this journey'.



"I Rotshidzwa Gombami, "The day I started at Lesedi la Batho, I didn't have the self-confidence or the knowledge that I have today.

I knew very little about sewing and beading, but now I can proudly say I have gained extensive skills in sewing. These skills have empowered me to start my own small sewing"

4.1.3 LIFE SKILLS

Our Life Skills course is a work readiness program, running for a period of three months – compulsory to all learners across all the skills programs. The training equips the students with the soft skills necessary to both enter the workforce and maintain employment. The training encourages personal growth through topics such as; professionalism, job Interviews & developing a Curriculum Vitae, Communication Skills, Emotional Intelligence, Goal Setting, and Entrepreneurial Skills.

STATISTICS

Quarter	Number of beneficiaries trained
1 st	151
2 nd	126
3 Rd	111
4 th	101

SPECIAL EVENT

Community Media Trust (CMT) facilitates STEP Programme and the Social and Behavioural Change Programme (Girls Club Sessions for ladies) at Lesedi la Batho twice a week to provide a platform that empowers young women with knowledge and solutions to social challenges.



4.1.4 SECURITY GRADE E, D, C

The Security Skills Training program equips beneficiaries with the fundamental knowledge and practical skills required to work as professional security guards. The course covers three key levels of certification — **Grade E, Grade D, and Grade C** — ensuring learners gain progressive expertise in security operations, safety protocols, and professional conduct. Upon successful completion, participants receive **PSIRA accreditation**, enabling them to enter the security industry with recognized credentials and improved employment opportunities.



STATISTICS

A total of 20 beneficiaries successfully graduated from the Security Skills Training Programme, having completed 20 comprehensive classroom sessions.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- 12 graduates secured employment with local security companies post-training.
- 100% of learners completed PSiRA application processes with facilitator support.
- 80% improved literacy and confidence in reporting incidents during simulated scenarios.

In 2025, we propose the following initiatives to enhance the Security Skills Training Programme and better serve our beneficiaries:

- **Increase participant intake** to meet the high community demand for security training, ensuring more individuals gain access to this valuable opportunity.
- **Establish direct linkages with local security companies** to facilitate post-training employment placements and improve job prospects for graduates.
- **Integrate basic computer literacy sessions** into the programme to equip security officers with essential skills for professional reporting, record-keeping, and effective communication in the workplace.

4.1.5 BABY CARE & CHILD HEALTH

The Baby Care and Child Health Skills Training course equips learners with essential knowledge and practical skills to care for newborns and young children. This training empowers participants to provide better care for their own children and opens opportunities for employment in childcare facilities. Initially introduced to support teenage mothers in our community, the course has since grown to welcome women of all ages, fostering parenting skills, confidence, and economic opportunities.

STATISTICS

In total, 44 students graduated from the Baby Care and Child Health training after completing 21 classroom sessions this year.

SPECIAL EVENTS

The Baby Care and Child Health class held a musical instruments project event titled **Let's Dance: Exploring Music through Instruments** where they showcased their imagination by creating their own musical instruments that make sound. The instruments created are vital in a child's development as they enhance fine and gross motor skills through playing music as well as developing the children's rhythm and listening skills.

4.1.6 AGRICULTURE PLANT PRODUCTION PROGRAMME

Mabopane faces high unemployment, poverty, and food insecurity, particularly affecting youth, women, and people living with disabilities. Lesedi la Batho's decade-long community presence has shown the urgent need for sustainable livelihoods. Agriculture offers a low-barrier opportunity for skill development, entrepreneurship, and local food production.



This programme equips youth and community members with basic plant production skills, coupled with business and financial literacy, enabling participants to start home gardens, micro-farming enterprises, and contribute to household food security while generating income.

STATISTICS:

In total, 60 students graduated from the Agriculture Plant Production after completing 6 months classroom sessions this year (30 in the first semester and 30 in the second semester).

SPECIAL EVENTS:

Mandela Day Celebration – 18 July 2024

On Mandela Day, 18 July 2024, we were honoured with a special visit from employees of Motherson Automotive. The team spent the day with the children at Ratanang Day Care, engaging in meaningful activities such as planting vegetables. They also made generous donations, including agricultural equipment, pesticides, and various vegetable seeds (such as carrots and spinach). In addition, they brought party packs for the children, adding to the festive spirit. The day was filled with joy and excitement, as the children enjoyed the activities and the Agriculture students expressed their appreciation for the valuable tools received.





ACHIEVEMENTS:

Despite limited resources and operational challenges, the Lesedi la Batho agriculture project has recorded several noteworthy successes that demonstrate its potential for sustainable growth and impact:

The garden has consistently produced seasonal vegetables such as spinach, cabbage, onions, beetroot, and tomatoes, which have supported our in-house Day Care Centre as well as the Seitebaleng elderly women organisation providing supplementary nutritious produce.

Community members and youth who participated in the program have gained practical agricultural skills, including soil preparation, seedling transplanting, composting, pest management, and harvesting. Some beneficiaries have since started their own small-scale backyard gardens while other are participating in learnership opportunities in the agriculture plant production space.



Environmental Awareness: Through this project, participants have gained a better understanding of climate-resilient farming practices, sustainable land use, and the importance of green living.

Through our partnership with Sports for Social Change Network we were able to place 60 beneficiaries on National Youth Service (NYS) work experiential learning 6 months contract. The contract commenced on the 1st of October 2024 and will end on the 31st of March 2025. The beneficiaries are working 64 hours per month.

5 JOB PLACEMENT / INFORMATION & REFERRALS

SUMMARY

The Job Placement Department aims to reduce the high unemployment rate among youth in our community by connecting them to relevant opportunities that can accelerate their entry into the workforce. Working closely with the Information & Referral Department, we guide community members who approach our centre to the appropriate departments within our organisation or to trusted implementing partners.

The primary goal of this initiative is to ensure that beneficiaries secure sustainable employment, enabling them to provide for themselves and their families. By creating employment pathways, we also strive to reduce local crime rates and substance abuse, as meaningful work gives individuals a positive focus and purpose.

STATISTICS

Services	Number reached
Number of beneficiaries placed in formal employment:	88
Number of referrals made:	79
Number of CV's developed:	68

SPECIAL EVENTS

On 24th October, Lesedi la Batho proudly welcomed Lawyers for Human Rights (LHR) for an impactful community engagement session. This important meeting brought residents together to learn about a recent constitutional judgment on land reform, property rights, and environmental justice — matters that directly affect the lives and livelihoods of many in Mabopane.



The LHR team broke down the legal implications in practical and applicable terms, ensuring community members understood how the changes might impact them. They also encouraged those affected to visit their offices for free legal assistance, reinforcing that support is available to help protect their rights.

By bridging the gap between legal expertise and everyday community concerns, this session empowered residents with the knowledge and confidence to take informed action about their futures.

PARTNERSHIPS

By implementing strategic partnerships with organisations such as Big Save, SA Youth@Work, Dakalo Langa Electrical, and Black Hut (a film-making company), we successfully placed beneficiaries in learnerships. These partnerships, along with our Work Integrated Learning approach, have proven highly effective — enabling beneficiaries to gain practical experience and, in many cases, secure permanent employment.

For example, when beneficiaries demonstrate competence during their practical training, partners such as Total and BP have absorbed them into their workforce. Triotic Security Services has also supported our efforts by providing security training to beneficiaries and subsequently employing them as security guards within their company.

6 COMMUNITY SUPPORT AND OUTREACH

SUMMARY

We at Lesedi la Batho believe that in order for our beneficiaries to engage in our services and become all they were destined to be - we must first meet their most basic needs. Our outreach department is committed to providing these commodities to those most in need – thanks to the support of our donors and implementing partners. The Outreach Team plays a vital role in addressing the social challenges faced by young people and families in Mabopane. With one qualified Social Worker and three Social Auxiliary Workers, the team works directly in local schools, as well as within the broader community, to provide education, awareness, and psychosocial support.

The outreach team spear heads the following projects:

- Pro-Active Information Program (PAIP) sessions in schools
- Young mothers support groups
- Man2man support groups
- Ikemele - women empowerment programme
- Social relief
- GBV and CSW support group

STATISTICS

Number of food parcels donated: 95

Number of material donations: 90

Number of home visits: 15

Number of one-on-one sessions: 30

Number of Identification documents: 9

6.1 SCHOOL PROGRAM

INTRODUCTION

Our implementation team comprises one qualified social worker and three social auxiliary workers who work across four primary schools and six secondary schools in the Mabopane area. Using the Pro-Active Information Program (PAIP) manual, the Youth Development through Football (YDF) resources, and the GBV toolkit, the team equips young people with the knowledge and life skills needed to make informed decisions, build healthy relationships, and improve their overall life outlook.

The programme aims to prevent teenage pregnancy, curb the spread of TB and HIV/AIDS, and equip learners with essential life skills to help them build healthy relationships and make informed, responsible decisions. We also work to raise awareness and reduce stigma around human rights, health issues, gender-based violence, substance abuse, and the LGBTIQ+ community.

We provide a range of services including support groups, counselling sessions, community outreach, social relief assistance, and academic support. Beyond our work with youth in schools, we also address the broader needs of the community through social relief initiatives, home visits, and referral services.

The following schools were part of our outreach and school program activities in 2024:

STATISTICS		Schools Engaged in 2024:	
1. Pelotona secondary school	1	Dr A.T Moreosele secondary school	
2. Tsiibogo secondary school	7	Setumo secondary school	
3. Letlotlo secondary school	8	MH Baloyi secondary school	

Male	837
Female	708
Total	1545

SPECIAL EVENTS / ACTIVITIES

In 2024, Lesedi la Batho implemented several impactful school-based programmes aimed at promoting learner well-being, leadership, and life skills development.

- Holiday Programme** – On 13th March 2024, we hosted the first holiday programme of the year at Reinotswe Special School in Mabopane, reaching 176 children. Learners were educated on important topics such as Gender-Based Violence (GBV), Human Rights and Bullying, equipping them with knowledge to make informed choices and promote safer communities. To conclude the programme, the children showcased their creativity through singing, dancing, and poetry performances, making the day both educational and fun. All learners received hygiene packs, generously donated by Known Associates Entertainment.



- Our second holiday programme was held from 10th-12th June 2024, focusing on personal growth, teamwork, and positive behaviour. The initiative also expanded into a targeted anti-bullying and behavioural intervention in response to concerns raised by the school about high levels of bullying and other behavioural challenges. The two-day programme combined engaging group activities with guided discussions to promote empathy, respect, and positive peer interactions, helping learners build healthier relationships within the school environment.

Children identified as displaying significant behavioural challenges had private sessions with Lesedi la Batho’s social worker and Tlamelong Clinic social workers to provide individualised interventions. The programme also featured awareness sessions presented by the South African Police Service (SAPS) on bullying, gender-based violence (GBV), human trafficking, and crime prevention, as well as health education talks from Tlamelong Clinic personnel. This collaborative approach ensured that learners received both educational and emotional support,



equipping them with the knowledge and tools to make positive changes in their behaviour and overall well-being.

Leadership Development – Tsibogo Secondary School delivered a targeted leadership programme for Representative Council of Learners (RCL) in September 2024. The sessions focused on leadership skills, addressing gender-based violence (GBV) within the school, and practical strategies to prevent its occurrence.



- **Teenage Pregnancy Awareness** – At DA Mokoma LSEN School, our staff facilitated an awareness session specifically for female learners, focusing on the causes, risks, and prevention of teenage pregnancy. The programme also addressed the importance of self-esteem, personal boundaries, and access to support services.
- **The Teachers’ Workshop** - The session was designed to introduce the Pro-Active Information Programme (PAIP) to educators across the schools that we work in. The session ensured that teachers gained a clear understanding of the programme’s purpose, its benefits for learners, and their vital role in its successful implementation. The primary objective was to secure teacher buy-in and foster ongoing support, both of which are

essential for achieving meaningful and sustainable programme outcomes. The event was met with strong cooperation from teachers.

7.1 YOUNG MOTHERS SUPPORT GROUP

Introduction

The Teenage Mothers Support Group provides a safe and supportive forum for learners who are raising children while still attending school. These sessions aim to equip young mothers with essential parenting knowledge, skills, and guidance to help them navigate the challenges of parenthood. The programme's focus is to educate, empower, and inspire participants to become responsible, caring mothers, while also encouraging them to continue pursuing their personal goals and education.



STATISTICS

Number of Mothers reached through Young Mothers Support Group sessions	81
Number of sessions held	57
Number of Home Visits	35
Number of one-on-one sessions	96

SPECIAL EVENTS / ACTIVITIES

Women's Day

On Women's Day, Lesedi la Batho, in partnership with Helping Hands Igniting Hope Organisation, hosted a powerful event dedicated to empowering and uplifting young mothers in our community. The programme was designed to provide practical knowledge, inspiration, and tangible tools to help participants build brighter, more secure futures.



The day featured three impactful sessions:

- **Career Guidance:** Offering practical advice on navigating the job market, enhancing skills, and accessing educational opportunities.
- **Financial Literacy:** Led by experts who shared essential tips on budgeting, saving, and managing personal finances to promote financial independence.
- **Entrepreneurship:** A presentation from a young businesswoman who shared her journey of being a successful businesswoman in Mabopane. The young entrepreneur encouraged young mothers to explore business opportunities, with guidance on starting and growing sustainable ventures.

Beyond the sessions, the event fostered peer connection and inspiration, with participants learning from other young women like Oratiloe Thipe (Miss North West Teenager Semi-Finalist) who is

pursuing her goals despite challenges. Refreshments and giveaways added a warm and celebratory touch to the day. This Women’s Day was not just a celebration — it was a catalyst for personal and professional growth.

VALUE

The Young Mothers Support Group is a vital service for the young mothers of Mabopane community, offering essential support, guidance, and empowerment to young mothers who face unique and complex challenges. Many of these women are at a pivotal stage in their lives, striving to balance the demands of parenting, education, and personal growth—often without access to adequate resources.

Through this programme, the outreach team provides a safe and supportive environment where young mothers can access vital services, receive emotional encouragement, and gain practical tools to navigate life’s challenges. The team works to foster resilience, build confidence, and equip these mothers with the skills needed to create a better future for themselves and their children.

By addressing both immediate needs and long-term aspirations, the Outreach Team not only transforms the lives of individual mothers but also strengthens families and uplifts the broader Mabopane community. The support group’s work contributes to lasting, positive change, ensuring that young mothers are empowered to break cycles of poverty, raise healthy children, and contribute meaningfully to society



7.2 MAN2MAN SUPPORT GROUP

INTRODUCTION

The Man2Man - Rea Ova Net - Programme is a community-based initiative designed to engage men and boys in the fight against Gender-Based Violence (GBV) while promoting positive masculinity. The programme creates a safe space for men to engage in open dialogue, receive mentorship, education, and psychosocial support. It encourages men to reflect on harmful behaviours and embrace respectful, non-violent attitudes towards women and children.



Importantly, this platform also allows men to openly share their own experiences with GBV, access help, and begin the process of healing.

Through support group sessions, peer discussions, and community outreach, the programme tackles critical issues such as gender equality, healthy relationships, responsible fatherhood, and positive decision-making. By empowering men to serve as role models and change agents, the Man2Man - Rea Ova Net - Programme plays a vital role in breaking the cycle of violence and building safer, stronger communities.

STATISTICS:

Number of sessions held this year:	31
Number of home visits:	40
Number of one-on-one session:	50
Highest number of attendees recorded this year:	50
Number of men who attended skills training:	10

7.3 GBV and CSW support group

Introduction

The program empowers survivors of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and Commercial Sex Work (CSW) to rise above their challenges and live positive, fulfilling lives. Through structured support sessions, participants are encouraged to rediscover their voices, rebuild self-esteem, and regain their financial, mental, and social independence.

The program provides a safe and supportive environment where participants can share their experiences, receive counselling, and learn practical life and business skills that enable them to move forward with confidence and purpose.

STATISTICS:

Number of sessions held	200
Number of attendees recorded in a session	233
Number of one-on-one counselling sessions	282
Number of home visits conducted	135
Number of women enrolled in Ikemele Project	8
Number of women enrolled in other skills training programs	21
Number of women currently self-employed	7
Number of women who received entrepreneurship support and now sustain their families	10
Number of women employed through various opportunities	21

Topics Covered During Support Group Sessions

The support group sessions covered a wide range of personal development and empowerment topics, including:

1. Developing Yourself
2. Personal Identity
3. Goal Setting
4. Gender-Based Violence

5. Forms of Abuse
6. Health and Well-being
7. Bullying
8. Human Trafficking
9. Mental Health
10. Substance Abuse
11. Problem Solving and Social Support

Special Events:

Financial Literacy Workshop

A one-day Financial Literacy Workshop hosted by Lesedi la Batho for beneficiaries who have started their own businesses and those who were selected for the United Nations Trust Fund (UNTF) seed fund business start-up was held on **14 March 2024**. The session reached a total of **23 attendees**.

The workshop aimed to equip recipients with basic financial literacy skills to enable effective management of their business finances and promote long-term business success.

The beneficiaries were taught about the importance of being good stewards of money. Using the biblical parable of the prodigal son, they were emphasized that receiving money without the necessary skills to manage it can lead to waste

Ms. Mabena, a young, successful entrepreneur who owns a company specializing in the installation, maintenance, and supply of fire equipment such as fire blankets and signage, shared her entrepreneurial journey and encouraged participants never to give up despite challenges.



The workshop included a discussion focused on managing business challenges effectively and maintaining professionalism at all times in their entrepreneurial journey which includes:

1. Maintain good hygiene—both personal and workplace cleanliness.
2. Always respect customers.
3. Provide excellent customer service.
4. Practice good telephone etiquette.
5. Wear a name badge so customers know who assisted them.
6. Keep accurate records of all business activities, including stock and transactions.

Lesedi la Batho reaffirmed its commitment to providing ongoing support to the seed fund recipients and to monitoring their business progress to ensure sustainability and success.

The Financial Literacy Workshop empowered participants with essential financial management and business operation skills. The collaboration between facilitators, guest speakers, and beneficiaries created a spirit of learning and empowerment, aligning with Lesedi la Batho's mission to promote economic independence and sustainable livelihoods within the community. Through the UNTF project, this initiative emphasized that women's financial independence is vital, as financial dependency often contributes to gender-based violence.

Success story

Sarie Phukubye's Success Story

Sarie Phukubye is a single mother of two girls, aged six and twelve, who joined our Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Support Group in Extension Thirteen after learning about it from her sister, who was already attending a similar group in Extension Fourteen.

Before joining the group, Sarie had been experiencing emotional abuse from her partner, who isolated her from friends and work opportunities and constantly accused her of infidelity. During her participation in the sessions, Sarie also came to realise that she had endured emotional abuse from her mother, who discouraged her from expressing her emotions and urged her to remain in the unhealthy relationship.

Although Sarie had already left her abusive relationship by the time she joined the group, she had not yet healed from the trauma it caused. Through the support group sessions, she gradually rediscovered her voice, regained self-confidence, and learned healthier ways to communicate, resolve conflict, and nurture her children in a more positive environment.

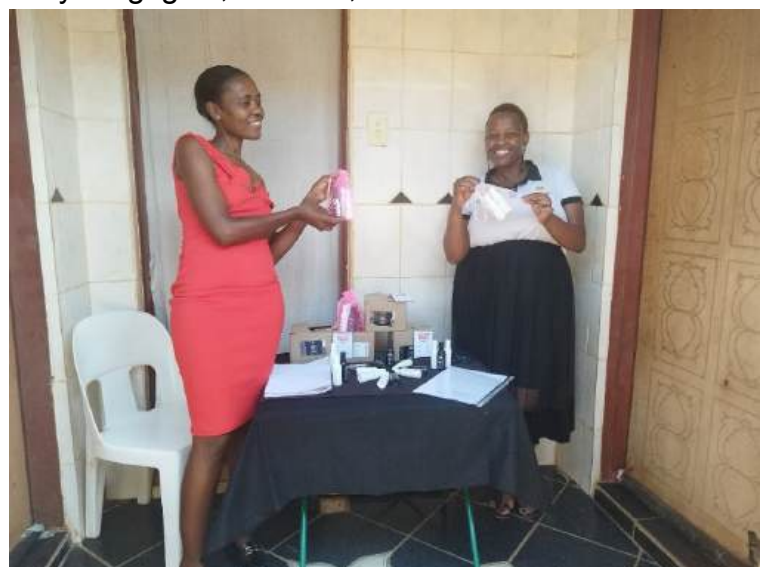
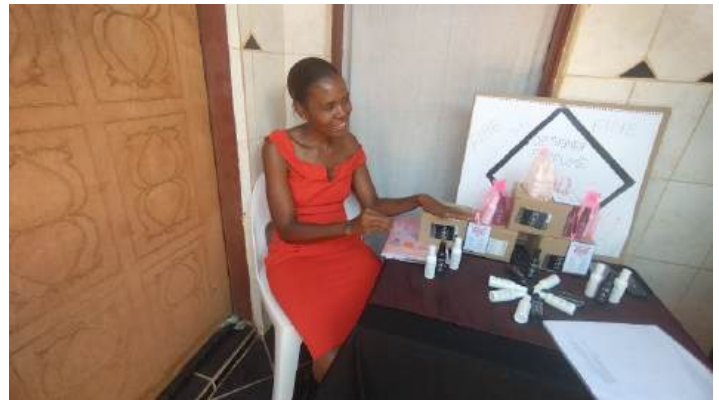
During her time in the support group, Sarie submitted a business proposal for her perfume brand, **Sarie's Perfumes**—an idea that came to her while she was unemployed. After a rigorous evaluation process, she received seed funding in October 2023 to start her business, which has since flourished.

Today, **Sarie's Perfumes** provides a stable source of income for her and her children. With her profits, she is able to provide food for her family, cover school expenses such as transport and lunch packs, pay rent, and settle previous debts. Sarie has also created employment opportunities by hiring two women who sell her perfumes on commission.

In a recent interview, Sarie shared that her business has brought her joy, peace, and a renewed sense of purpose. Her customer base includes young girls, women, and men in and around Extension Thirteen. She markets her products through walk-ins, door-to-door sales, social media platforms, courier deliveries, and the efforts of her sales agents.

Sarie's short-term goal is to expand her product range to include body lotions, hand creams, roll-ons, and deodorants. In the long term, she aspires to produce and distribute her own perfume line under her personal brand and eventually branch into cleaning products.

Sarie's journey is a testament to resilience, empowerment, and the transformative impact of community support.



8 RATANANG DAY CARE CENTRE

INTRODUCTION

Ratanang Day Care, a project of Lesedi la Batho, was initially established to support young mothers by providing their children with quality care and early education while the mothers continued with their schooling in order to later secure employment. However, due to the growing demand for our services, the programme has since expanded to serve the broader Mabopane community.

The centre provides children (ages 6 months to 5 years) with quality early education, structured stimulation, and nurturing care, alongside three freshly cooked, nutritious meals daily. These services not only prepare children for formal schooling but also ensure their holistic development.

STATISTICS

Number of children enrolled in the day care this year: 76

Number of parents' meetings hosted: 4

SPECIAL EVENTS / ACTIVITIES

- **Sports event**

Our Kiddies had a sports day event on the 5 April 2024. The games included Scooter driving Tier pushing, Bin bag, Ball kicking and Wheel driving. The event was in partnership with Tebogo Early Learning Centre. The children had fun and received certificates of participation. We would like to thank Tebogo Early Learning Centre for the collaboration.



- **Child protection event**

Ratanang Day Care, alongside other day care centres in Mabopane, attended a Child Protection Event in May 2024 dedicated to raising awareness about the safety, rights, and wellbeing of children.

The event played a vital role in empowering children with knowledge about their rights and personal safety. It helped them understand the importance of speaking up if they feel unsafe and introduced them to the role of different community protectors such as the police, emergency services, and firefighters. Events like this ensure that children feel supported, informed, and confident to seek help when needed.



Guest speakers from the Tshwane Metro Police, SAPS, Fire and Emergency Services, educated the children on safety and how to respond in emergencies. Demonstrations and activities were also used to teach children practical skills such as how to call for help, fire safety tips, and understanding the role of police officers in their community.

- **Heritage event**

On 20th September, children from Ratanang Day Care, together with all Early Childhood Development (ECD) centres in Mabopane under the Direlang Bana Forum, gathered at the Mabopane Indoor Sports Centre to celebrate Heritage Day.

The event highlighted the importance of preserving and appreciating South Africa's diverse cultural heritage. The little ones proudly showcased their traditions through song, dance, and the sharing of traditional foods, creating a colourful and festive atmosphere.



The day was filled with pride, joy, and unity as children, caregivers, and community members came together to honour cultural diversity in our country. For the ECD centres, it was an opportunity not only to celebrate but also to instil in the children the values of respect, identity, and pride in their heritage.

9 LESEDI STRIKERS

This project plays a vital role in the Mabopane Community as it is the only ladies' soccer team that has successfully overcome the many challenges faced by women's sports teams. Previously, there were seven ladies' teams in Mabopane, but ours is the only one that has remained active.

The team continues to grow in popularity, with many young girls eager to join the Lesedi Strikers. One of the key reasons for this is the support we receive from our sponsor, which allows us to sustain and develop the team. However, what sets us apart is that we are more than just a soccer team, we are also a platform for personal growth and empowerment.



In addition to training and competing, we provide Life Skills sessions that equip our players with essential knowledge for their future. Through our partnership with Lesedi la Batho, players are further supported with access to job opportunities, assistance with university applications, and free skills training of their choice at the Centre.

This year, Lesedi's Strikers were honored to be selected to represent the Promotional League at the play-offs held in Mamelodi. Although we did not win the play-offs, the experience was a great achievement for our team and a proud moment for our community. It gave our players valuable exposure, boosted their confidence, and motivated us to keep working harder for future success.



The team are also proud to celebrate a remarkable achievement by their coach, Khensani Masilela, who was selected to coach the U16 National Team at the National Tournament which took place in Johannesburg from 12th –16th December 2024.

STATISTICS

Number of women on the team	24
Number of matches played	30
Number of training sessions held	92
Number of teenage pregnancies in the team	0
Number of school dropouts from the soccer team	0

Number of friendly games played	16
Number of league games played	12
Number of play offs games played	2
Number of matric players in the team	3
Number of University players in the team	2
Number of graduates in the team	2
Number of unemployed players	3
Number of players who found employment	2

SUCCESS STORY

Amogelang Liale's Journey

Amogelang Liale joined Lesedi's Strikers in 2019. From the very beginning, she showed remarkable dedication—always the first to arrive at training, never absent, and consistently present at league games, even though she was not given the opportunity to play at first.

Recognizing her commitment, the team gave Amogelang a chance as a goalkeeper, where she excelled and quickly became one of the best. During training, her talent also shone through as she consistently scored goals, prompting the coaches to try her in the position of striker. She seized this opportunity, becoming the team's leading goal scorer.

Because of her discipline, leadership, and performance on the field, Amogelang was appointed captain of the team. Her exceptional talent and hard work did not go unnoticed; she was later recognized by the SASOL team in Rustenburg and promoted to play at a higher level.



10 Contact Us



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