



“Making Mabopane a great place for all!”

Newsletter January – March 2018

Because of YOU...

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Dear donors, supporters and friends,

We have had a very exciting start to 2018 indeed, with all departments actively pursuing the ongoing work of Lesedi with unmatched energy and motivation. Please share in our achievements and successes – we trust you will find encouragement and inspiration through our stories!

With love,
The Lesedi Family

Skills Training: Accredited “Cashier & Merchandising” Skills Training is finally here!

A long-awaited dream at Lesedi has been realised – on 1 March, beneficiaries began their accredited 6-week Cashier & Merchandising course.

The course will be divided into two phases. In phase one (two weeks long), candidates will be taught theory in class. The remaining four weeks of phase two will be dedicated to practical exposure – candidates will be sent to different work places to put into practice what they learnt in class.

It cannot be over-emphasised that the positive attitude and work ethic are the best-selling proposition to any potential employer – we see so much passion and hunger for employment!

Thank you to Aluwa Training accredited service provider and our COO Mondo Mashilo; we are so grateful and look forward to this mutually beneficial relationship.

Ratanang Day Care Centre: Parent-Teacher Teamwork



On 20 March, our caretakers at Ratanang held a parent-teacher meeting, to empower and connect with the parents of the precious children in our care. Together they discussed and resolved day-to-day issues, and created a School Governing Board (SGB) for which four parents became voluntary members. We salute our Ratanang teachers for fighting for healthy relationships and a nurturing environment!

Job Placements

Lesedi La Batho celebrates the successful placement of 12 beneficiaries in jobs this year!

- 3 at a day care centre as teachers
- 4 at Ghekko as stock packers
- 1 at Bumbo SA manufacturing company as a general worker
- 1 at Shoprite
- 1 at Leseding Holdings
- 1 at Mat and May retail store
- 1 at Afrit



A Partnership to Change Lives in Mabopane

Lesedi has finally sealed a practical placement with Big Save in Mabopane! "Big Save is always prepared to collaborate with businesses in our surroundings to make Mabopane a better place", said Mr Tony Ferreira, one of the managers at Big Save.

The practical placement agreement affords 13 Cashier & Merchandising learners from Lesedi an opportunity to acquire 20 days work experience in a retail environment. Among other things, learners will assist with packing behind the tills, packing the stock in the shelves and some will assist in the liquor store. "All competent and hard-working learners will be compensated wherever necessary and may eventually be employed", added Mr Tony.

A Special Event: Lebone la Bokamoso (Light for the Future)

On 24 March, our community centre hosted an interactive information event aimed at empowering teen-moms, the disabled, the vulnerable ladies from our Bokamoso Project, and senior citizens through Pro-Active Information and Physical Education.

Motivational speaker Lesego Modipa (former LRC president of Setumo-Khibi) shared on God's presence in trying times and the pride of motherhood. Our teen-mom coordinator Kamogelo Mophuting facilitated a discussion on TB and HIV/AIDS, and our social auxiliary worker Lydia Mathebe facilitated a human rights workshop with the learners from different schools. Our SAWs Monica Rihlamvu and Ntswaki Monyoko performed a TB screening, to assist in referring those who might be suffering from TB to nearby clinics.

It was wonderful to see the active participation from those who attended! We were also blessed with four powerful beneficiary testimonies, thanking Lesedi La Batho and sharing how we showed them the light!



A special few of our beneficiaries' success stories...

Substance Abuse

Mabopane has a widespread problem with abuse of the addictive drug Nyaope.

Recently, a young boy passed on from overdose. The community was alarmed and concerned by the sudden death of their friend, and is realising the impact of this destructive drug.

We opened a support group, facilitated by our social auxiliary worker Freeda. Drug abusers can freely talk about their drug-related problems, their will to quit, and about finding help and rehabilitation centres.

Five boys attended the sessions. They enquired with Black Like Me social workers about rehab centres, who promised to help if they attend the counselling sessions at Lesedi first. They attended every single one.

Lesedi donated clothing to the boys so they don't look different to others at the rehab centre, and food parcels to help their families. All five boys are going to rehab before the end of March. We hope to see them soon, clean and ready to take on the world!



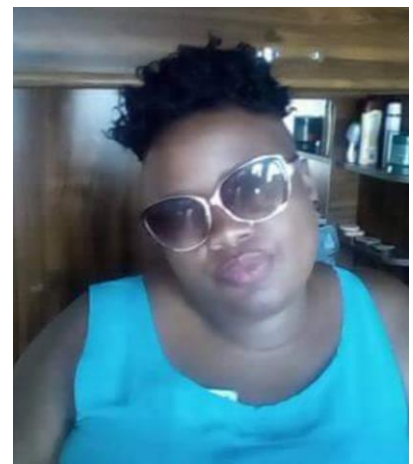
Thank-You from Matshidiso Pokwane, a Teenage Mother



As ~~the~~ teenage mother I would like to thank Lesedi la batho for helping through the journey of raising my daughters and also making a better choices for my future. I matriculated last year and im attending Lesedi la batho Computer Skills and they have also introduced me to the affordable college called icollege, they also take care of my child while i go to school and for that i would like to thank them and hope that they will keep on doing a great job by assisting teen moms who are in need...

“Being disabled doesn't mean one is incapable of being productive!”

26-year-old Solane Mona is a mother of two. Solane was disabled in an incident a few years back. She stays with her family, and isn't receiving a disability grant. After one of our social auxiliary workers conducted one-on-one sessions with her, she started attending disability support groups at our community centre. At first, she was not confident enough to share her personal stories, but over time she has opened up to her journey. With the help of Lesedi la Batho, Solane got a learnership from Afrit Skills College, and she receives a stipend from the college every month.



Fair-Trade Social Enterprise



Handmade bags for the CSIR

Our sewing groups whipped up a beautiful product for the CSIR – a bag in which to gift their attendees goodies at a conference they hosted in March. We made this functional and well-crafted design from shwe-shwe fabric, and included a pocket embroidered with the company's logo on the outside.

When corporates invest in our fair-trade social enterprise through a project like this, it helps to sustain income for our artisans and their families. If you would like to order conference bags – or any other custom product to your preference – contact project manager, Mary Lant at maryl@lesedilabatho.co.za.

Marketing

Telling Lesedi's story live on the radio!

We were so honoured to be hosted on local radio station Tuks FM 107.2, on the Quintessential ZA show. The interview with our marketing manager Mary Lant covered all things Lesedi La Batho, including how we teach a man to fish rather than feed a man a fish, and the role Christianity plays in our organisation. Follow [this link](#) to listen to the recorded audio clip!



Convenient Payment Systems For All

Over the course of the beginning of the year, we have been setting up new payment systems to make it as convenient as possible for the blessed giving hearts to contribute towards our work – particularly those supporting us from overseas. Donors can now donate via PayPal, credit card, or an EFT. We are even on the digital payment apps Snapscan and Zapper, enabling a donor to share with a few taps on a smart device. Check out our website's [donate page](#) for more information! *It is important to note that we can offer a Section 18a tax receipt in return.*

Stay in touch with us...

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As well as our treasured individuals who generously contribute.