



Lesedi la Batho

LIGHT TO THE PEOPLE

A warm welcome to the first Lesedi la Batho newsletter!

Lesedi la Batho was inspired as a result of the generous investment of SA Cares for Life and its faithful partners. There are no words to describe our heartfelt gratitude towards all the individuals, churches, institutions and companies that have had a part in this. You have provided us with an opportunity to be “Lesedi la Batho”, Light to the People” Thank you.



Being a young organisation, we have experienced much growth over the past year. Exceptional staff and generous volunteers have worked hard to prepare the land for the harvest. We have planted and watered the seeds, but God provides the growth. We can only do our best and pray that God blesses the work of our hands. All the glory to Him for allowing Lesedi la Batho to make a difference in the lives of people!

Lesedi la Batho aims to be an interactive organisation, taking hands with like-minded people to increase our impact in Mabopane, a township north-west from Pretoria. We wish to continually grow our projects. Thus, be inspired, get involved and partner with us. Together we can make the world a place of opportunity for all! You have a number on your back and we will be delighted to help you find your spot in the Lesedi la Batho team.

I am convinced that these articles will inspire you to take your place in our team to contribute to our success and spread the good news.

Our website is currently under construction. Follow us on [Facebook](#), or send get in touch by emailing me at chrisna@lesedilabatho.co.za

Warmest regards,

Chrisna Groenewald

Guess who strikes again?



The youth of Mabopane has a special place in our hearts, which is why we are committed to enhance the quality of life of vulnerable teenage boys and girls.

We are a faith-based NGO that strives to inspire, empower, motivate, engage and equip the youth and the community at large. We do so through different sport, education, skills training, social enterprise development, community wellness, arts and culture projects. Our mission is to provide the community and particularly the youth with the opportunities and skills required to realise their full potential and purpose.

The Lesedi Strikers soccer team is made up of children in the Mabopane community. In 2009 the team was fortunate to participate in the biggest youth soccer tournament in the world held annually in Oslo, Norway.

Lesedi la Batho was birthed as a result of the need to create more opportunities for the Lesedi Strikers and subsequently lead to the development of a holistic youth development programme that currently reaches the entire youth of Mabopane. Lesedi la Batho works in close collaboration with the Department of Education, who gives us access to the 7 high schools in Mabopane with a learner total of 5128.

A sponsorship programme has been started for children at our soccer academy who are in desperate need of food and other practical support. Even though we are currently only buying food parcels for 20 families (only 3 families are sponsored!), we believe that God will provide provision to provide food for 200 families by the end of 2013. The Lesedi Sponsorship Programme is based on the best practice model of SA Cares for Life's Cluster Care.

Lesedi la Batho's main school sporting action comprises of the implementation of the Youth Development Through Football Programme (YDF) developed by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ). Coaches are trained in a unique way to become social workers and train peer educators to become the same.

Lesedi la Batho has employed coaches (school champions) at each of the 7 high schools to conduct sporting sessions for the learners. The school champions are assisted by the more than 200 male and female peer educators which have been trained in the YDF Programme. It is a true inspiration that so many wonderful things have started as a result of the Lesedi Strikers tour to Norway!

The Lesedi Striker team has grown significantly in the past year and is participating in the Mabopane football league. We have partnered with the SA Legends who conduct training sessions 3 xa week and prepare the players for their weekly matches.

Through this programme, talented players are offered the opportunity to compete in competitive games. Gifted children are identified by the Legends tournaments and referred to the Lesedi Striker Academy for specialised training. Today, Lesedi la Batho is a well known name in the field of development through sport in Mabopane.

Photos courtesy of UNHCR/Linh Dang.

Being a leader starts now, not tomorrow



THE PRO-ACTIVE INFORMATION PROGRAMME

A grant from the Nelson Mandela Children's Fund enabled Lesedi la Batho to contract Mmatšatši Mokgohloa, from Korema Training Institute, to develop a local, ethnic sensitive Pro-active information manual for the grade 8 and 9 learners in the schools in Mabopane.

It empowers learners to make positive choices about their emotional and physical wellbeing. Some of the topics are, "discover yourself", "youth challenges past and present" and "teenage pregnancy - action and consequences". We believe that information is the world's key to a better life which can open the door to limitless opportunities that can change the destiny of one's life.

Through the interactive discussion part of the programme, learners are encouraged to take up leadership responsibilities and occupy their minds with positive and productive thinking. Auxiliary social worker students are trained to present the 12-week information sessions that include building up self-esteem, information on reproductive health and knowing their rights. While the girls attend the program, the boys participate in the Youth Development Through Football Programme (YDF). It's conducted by trained instructors and focuses on leadership, prevention of HIV/AIDS, crime and violence and environmental and gender issues.

The boys and girls rotate between the Pro-active programme and the YDF programme.

The programme commenced in August 2011 in 3 high schools. An hour session was granted by

the Life Orientation teachers during school time. We reached an audience of 442 learners in the first phase of implementation.

Here is some of their feedback:

“Born suffering is not your fault, but die suffering is your responsibility”

“It’s not our circumstances that make us so unhappy. It’s our attitude toward our circumstances”

Here is one of the story’s of hope as recounted by the social worker: “There is a wonderful disabled girl at one of the schools, listening to her story you cannot help admiring her spirit. She was born disabled and rejected by her father from birth, he wanted her mother to put her in a home for the disabled but she refused. This girl is only loved by her mother and siblings; the rest of her family has rejected her because of her disability. When the family is invited to a funeral or party she is not allowed to attend. This really breaks her heart, the only thing that she long for is to be respected and loved by her father, and through that be accepted by the extended family so that she can also be part of the family celebrations.

Even saying all that she has accepted herself and is very confident, she sees herself as a leader of the next generation and cannot wait to pass her matric. She is happy at school where she has wonderful friends that do not mind at all in helping her to move around, they never judge her. She is a very brave and intelligent girl and judging by her participation in our session, she will make a wonderful leader.”

Together we are writing a new story for hope and a future. Lesedi la Batho is hopeful that the Pro-Active Information Programme will become part or add value to the National Department of Education’s Life Orientation Curriculum in years to come.

Who would've thought a bakery would raise the bar



More than 55 unemployed young mothers from the Mabopane community are enrolled in the Sizani Skills Training Programme and regularly attend the different training sessions at the Lesedi la Batho Centre in Mabopane. The main objective is to improve the quality of life of both vulnerable young women and their children. The training assists the Sizani women to become empowered, financially independent, self-sufficient members of the community. The skills programme includes training in sewing, beading, baby care, child health and computer literacy.

Through our Social Enterprise Development initiative, we strive to be a catalyst for social entrepreneurship. Each of the training facilities has a business component which enables us to provide community members with a business opportunity to stimulate economic activity and growth in the community.

Bakkers for Bakkers is a Dutch organisation working towards assisting prospective bakers from developing countries to start their own bakeries. The bakers donated a container with bakery equipment to Lesedi la Batho to start a bakery at the centre in Mabopane.

We also received a donation from CM Consulting, a local South African company specialising in air purification, to transform an old storeroom at the centre into a workable kitchen and bakery.

The bakers from the Netherlands diligently raised funds for the Lesedi bakery project and applied for a matching grant at the Wilde Ganse Foundation. Wilde Ganse is a Dutch foundation which have supported more than 10 000 Social Enterprise Development projects all over the world for the past 55 years. Funding was approved and matched by Wilde Ganse and a grant was awarded to Lesedi la Batho to implement the bakery in Mabopane.

Specialist bakers Eric Van Otten and Dick Jansen, accompanied by technical expert, Bert Ter Haar from Bakker for Bakkers arrived in South Africa in May, 2012 to install the bakery equipment and train project participants. Community entrepreneurs, Maggie Songwane and Nnana Makhubela, were identified and trained to head the project.

Bakels is a Dutch manufacturer and distributor of bakery ingredients to 120 countries worldwide and provides the Lesedi Bakery with ingredients through their South African distributor, South Bakels. Frank Van Der Linde from South Bakels has been exceptionally helpful with advice, training, acquiring additional bakery equipment and sourcing of the most

cost- effective bakery necessities.

The Lesedi Bakery was opened the first week of June, 2012 and 5 Sizani mothers are currently being trained in the art of baking.

All the staff of Lesedi la Batho is eternally grateful to our generous sponsors who made the Lesedi Bakery a reality.



©2012 Lesedi la Batho | PO Box 2011, Newlands, 0049



Add a comment...

f Facebook social plugin

Powered by [Mad Mimi](#) ©