

NEWSLETTER



BISHOP
SIMEON
TRUST

WINTER 2017 ISSUE 12

Transforming Communities Changing Lives

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The time for giving

This year Safe Parks across Gauteng, South Africa have been working in unity to share practice and learn from each other. Youth Committees have been giving young people their own voice in decision making at the Safe Parks and the results so far have been very promising for both the young people involved and the centres themselves. There is still much to learn, but by visiting other Safe Parks in the neighbouring communities, staff and children alike can work together to make the support offered to young people in their community even stronger!

Young people gathered together at Repheleng Safe Park to celebrate the end of a film project that they had worked on together. The process of drawing the storyboards, writing the scripts, acting and creating the films has helped them to highlight the most important issues in their lives. It has also allowed them to share these important messages with their peers within their communities, those neighbouring them and beyond.



Child Care Advocates



Child Care Advocates are people from the local community who have the passion, commitment and local knowledge that is vital to assuring children receive the support and protection they need within the Safe Parks. With our support they help young people to have their voices heard and to help them to access their rights.

Linky works as a Child Care Advocate at Ncedo Thuso Safe Park

"As a Child Care Advocate I find joy in making the children happy. It pleases me that we are able to give children a safe space that does not only offer them food and assistance with school work, but also gives them an opportunity to explore their different thoughts. I am very happy to see the young people's progress because they apply the knowledge we give them into their lives. I've found my purpose by helping these children, I am contributing to building the future generation."

Lunga, 16 values the support offered by Child Care Advocates at Lethi'themba Safe Park

"Our Child Care Advocates play an active role in making sure that we are fine. The Safe Park feels like home. We all respect each other here and no one makes me feel like I don't belong here. I am very thankful for the Safe Park because it helps me to avoid harmful activities such as consuming alcohol, smoking and stealing."

Sibongile is a Child Care Advocate who is passionate about encouraging youth leaders and strives to prevent teenage pregnancy in the community of Katlehong.

"Every day is different when working with these young people. I cannot begin to explain how good it feels to work with children that come from different backgrounds and have their imagination influencing their outlook on life.

The activities that we introduce to these young people guide them to see things differently by developing their knowledge, skills and personal character as well as helping them excel in their school work.

The Youth Committee programme has also reduced the rate of teenage pregnancy in our community as young people now have higher aspirations than they did before."



Big Give Christmas Campaign

Sir Michael Parkinson CBE is a long-time supporter of the Bishop Simeon Trust. He first came to know our work when he visited our local Safe Park partner Lethi'ithemba ten years ago. He has described his conversations with parents there as the hardest interviews of his life. Sir Michael has remained very committed to our work and this year has been keen to offer his support to encourage new and existing supporters to support our Christmas so we can continue our vital work.

Sir Michael and the Reed Foundation have very generously pledged to match donations from our supporters up to a value of £19,000 via our Big Give Campaign. That means that between midday on 28th November and midday on 5th December every donation up to this target will be doubled! With your help we could even get past this mark – if we could reach a total target of £40,000 this would help us to recruit new Child Care Advocates like Linky and Sibongile to work with young people like Lunga, reaching up to 300 more children each month in 2018.

This is a great opportunity to make your donation go even further towards helping some of the most vulnerable children in South Africa build a better future for themselves. Please give directly by going to the Big Give website below, typing in Bishop Simeon Trust, and then clicking donate.



Sir Michael Parkinson on his visit to Lethi'ithemba Safe Park



theBigGive.org.uk
CHRISTMAS CHALLENGE 2017
MIDDAY 28TH NOV - MIDDAY 5TH DEC

Safe Park spotlight

Bonisiwe Safe Park has been a place of hope for the community of Magagula Heights since 2007. Established by Patricia, Bonisiwe consists of a Safe Park and a home based care service for the sick in the community. The Safe Park takes care of over 500 children and their families and they provide both children and the sick with 3 nutritious meals each day. The staff and children at Bonisiwe Safe Park have developed a vegetable garden where they grow their own food to assure that those without can eat each day. They are determined to work together to improve the lives of the vulnerable in their community.



Supporter communications

Thank you to all those who we have spoken to on the phone, who responded by email and who posted back our support survey questionnaires. You have given us quality information which we can use to further develop our strategy and to grow our supporter networks. Over the next year you will hear some of the fantastic stories that link our supporters to Bishop Simeon Nkoane and South Africa that we now know about thanks to the survey. We will also be taking those up who offered their kind support to test and comment on future ideas we might have. Thank you to everyone for your stories, generous offers and time. It is much appreciated and will help us to fundraise to support even more young people in Gauteng, and to produce better information for our donors to stay up to date.



Conference at Leeds University

At the beginning of November our Director Martin Keat and Sinethemba Makanya, our colleague from our South African partner organisation Themba Interactive, attended an international practice sharing conference in Leeds. The Centre for World Cinemas and Digital Cultures at the University of Leeds were their hosts as we also celebrated the end of our joint project "Voicing Hidden Histories," which linked into other community film making projects in India and Brazil. We also marked the start of the new "Changing The Story" project with the University by signing a Memorandum of Partnership. We are very proud to be working with the University of Leeds and so very excited to be able to bring the voices of the children we support to an international stage. We're looking forward to continuing working with the University. You can view all our remarkable films on our YouTube channel.





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The Director's Report



Dear Supporter

Welcome to our winter newsletter. It is normal at the end of the year to be reflective - the last year has been a highly productive but challenging one for us.

In South Africa our work has continued to strengthen. We have made great progress in helping communities to create safe spaces where children can find care and support, reaching more than 2,000 children every day. We have learnt so much from the children we serve through

our work developing Youth Committees, with support from our partnership with the University of Leeds. Youth voice is being heard – I do recommend a look at our YouTube channel if you haven't already. Their voices are so much more interesting than mine!

Our challenge is in the year ahead of us. We are not a large charity awash with funding. We depend upon your generosity and donations to keep doing what we do. It costs us £12 a month to support each child we help.

You will find in this newsletter details of our Christmas Appeal which I hope that you can help us with this year - please share it with friends and family. During the Appeal all gifts will be doubled, which is a great opportunity for us all!

Please help us to help protect children from the violence, abuse and poverty which plagues their lives, making sure that they are can become leaders in their communities and build a brighter future for themselves and South Africa.

*Thank you for your support,
with best wishes for the festive season,*



**BISHOP
SIMEON
TRUST**

THINK DIFFERENTLY, BE THE

CHANGE!

Donations Form

This Christmas please consider a regular gift, so that we can make sure that Child Care Advocates like Linky are there when young people like Lunga need them



Contact Name:

Address:

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Email:

Post code:

Telephone:

Donation by Standing Order

To the Manager: Bank/Building Society

Address:

.....

.....

Post code:

Please pay the sum of £ each month/quarter/year starting from:

until further notice, to Bishop Simeon Trust, CAF Bank Ltd, Kent, ME19 4JQ sort code 40-52-40, Account no. 00016211 from my account as follows:

Sort code: Account No:

Signed: Date:

We welcome your Christmas donation too but remember you can double this through our Big Give Appeal from 28th November to 5th December!

Donation by cheque/charity voucher

Yes I want to help. Please tick the amount you wish to donate:

£10

£20

£50

Other £

Please make cheques payable to 'Bishop Simeon Trust'

Make your donation worth 25% more. Please note, you must be a taxpayer paying more tax than the amount we reclaim in order for us to claim Gift Aid from your sponsorship.

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You can make a donation online at www.bstrust.org or call 0208 133 9369