

Welcome to our first General Newsletters for 2004. Our goal is to send you a general update every two months to keep in touch. In addition, if you have already signed up to a project, you will hear from us on the alternative months with project specific news.

WHY GUMBOOTS?

2004 signifies a decade of democracy in South Africa – but as most of us know there are still daily challenges in the way forward. The Gumboots Foundation has come into existence based on a desire to be part of those challenges and changes. You may be a SA national living in the UK, looking for an audited channel through which to make a real difference. You could be a non-national who has been captured by the beauty and spirit of SA. Gumboots offers you a way of getting involved and making a significant difference in the future of SA on a personal and local level

Our philosophies and goals are simple – to select projects that cover a broad-base of relevant SA issues so that you can choose one that works for you. We select projects that show strong natural leadership and a positive, pro-active attitude so that your money goes towards helping individuals and communities who are committed to helping themselves. Our projects are small and intimate – so that you can grow with them. The issues

facing SA may be complex but the solutions are often simple and a small contribution of only £10 per month can make a tangible difference – you could train a teacher in agricultural development, provide educational support for an underprivileged child, or provide food and medical care for a homeless person in Jo'burg.

All our projects stem from the existing needs and leadership of the community – not projects imposed by 'outsiders' with an unrealistic view of community needs, and which ultimately lack the necessary commitment from the community members themselves. It is an unfortunate reality that the goodwill of many people has been abused by corrupt schemes and charitable donations have gone to waste. We want to provide you with peace of mind, so although all our projects are self-managed, they agree to transparent fund management with Gumboots – so we let you know exactly where your money goes!

SO HOW DOES IT WORK? Become a donor in 3 easy steps!

1. Read about our projects in this newsletter or visit the projects page on our website www.gumboots.org.za

We suggest you take time to see what really defines them – we have taken time and care in selecting them and they're all individual and inspirational

2. Choose a project

3. Become a donor by completing the standing order form (available online) and return it to us.

Can't decide...?

You may decide you want your donation to go to all projects – in which case simply select 'no preference' on the standing order/dd form and Gumboots will split your donation for you.

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

Following the success of the UK launch, we received a number of new supporters. Our current focus is on ensuring that donor money is administered to our projects in SA and that we lay a solid and accountable foundation from which to grow.

We have now transferred donations for the first quarter of 2004 and the projects are in the process of using the funding as stipulated. We look forward to providing feedback on how this money has helped.

Specific reports will be given to our donors in the Donor Newsletter next month. General updates will be reported in the next General Newsletter in June.

Gumboots is still in its infancy but we are continuing to grow. We're very excited to announce that we are in the process of registering our USA wing, giving friends there a chance to get involved, and affirming Gumboots as a truly international organization connecting people to the grassroots changes in SA.

Gumboots believes in the talents and abilities of communities to change their lives. Anyone who has visited our projects and been witness to the incredible leadership, determination and sheer positive spirit in the face of adversity will never doubt the difference one person can make. We hope that you will identify with our vision and goals and look forward to your continued support.

Project News

KZN Gardening Project

One of the latest additions to Gumboots is the The Kwazulu-Natal Gardening project, situated in the rural heart of the KZN Midlands and run in cooperation with the Rotary Club of Hilton and Howick. In an area challenged by 80% unemployment, the project aims to enable people to become self sufficient by growing their own fruit and vegetable gardens. This is achieved through training of school teachers and community members in agricultural methods and providing land plots and seed & equipment starter packs.

The Injoloba High School formed the model for this project where subjects such as agriculture have been introduced to the curriculum. The pupils have also been taught to plant and harvest their own fruit and vegetables on the school's premises. Based on the great success achieved at Injoloba, a further ten rural preparatory schools and their

surrounding communities in the KwaZulu Natal Midlands have been selected for the project. The Gumboots foundation feels that this education is vital in these rural areas and all funds raised by Gumboots are being used to train the teachers (1 per school) A week's training course in sustainable gardening and entrepreneurial development costs R1000 (or 100 pounds) including accommodation.

"Whilst home in SA, I had the opportunity of visiting one of the rural high schools where the project is being implemented and it immediately found a place in my heart!" UK project manager, Kerry Powers

To be become a donor or learn more about the project visit the projects page on our website. Your UK contact should you have any questions is:
Kerry Powers - kerrypl@gumboots.org.za

Tlholego Eco-Village

The Tlholego project is found on 150ha of land near Rustenburg in the Northwest Province. Since its inception as a charity in 1991, Tlholego Eco-village has pioneered the development of processes needed to build environmentally sustainable rural communities. Tlholego is currently expanding and finding innovative ways to alleviate rural poverty and educate the general public about environmental conservation. The Tlholego Organic Herb Business is one their initiatives responding to the growing demand for natural and organic products in South Africa. In cooperation with the women of the community, Tlholego is establishing an enterprise producing a line of organic herbal teas, soaps, candles and aromatic pillows. The business generates employment for rural women in the area and provides them with training, skills development, empowerment, and economic stability. The Tlholego community consists of about 20 adults and children in six

extended families who have lived and worked in the Tlholego area for the past three decades. They are representative of the Sotho/Tswana peoples who are indigenous to this region. One of the most significant achievements of the project is the ongoing development of skills for each resident to ensure a better future.

The Herb Business is in that difficult phase between start-up and financial stability. Having just started selling products, it is integral that the community can continue to work through this phase. Your donation will provide seed capital for staff and equipment.

To be become a donor or learn more about the project visit the projects page on our website. Your UK contact should you have any questions is:
Lisa Morgan - lisa.morgan@gumboots.fsbusiness.co.uk

Sakh'umntu Saturday School

Sakh'umntu Saturday School is situated in the township of Pimville Soweto, and is run by the volunteer organisation Community Youth Empow'ment (CYE). The school offers pupils of grade 8 to 10 an opportunity to supplement their academic education with extensive self development programs including: life-skills training, HIV/AIDS education and art & drama classes. In addition, students are also tutored in Science, Math and English. The objective of the self-development program is to equip the pupils with enough knowledge, skills, insight and confidence to face challenges and pioneer positive change in their communities.

At present there are between 40 - 60 pupils in attendance and volunteer 7 tutors. Attendance is completely optional and pupils are recruited from high schools in the area by means of application forms sent to the schools. Many of CYE volunteers grew up in Soweto and felt inspired to contribute their resources and energy back into their community. The school is currently funded entirely by the volunteers so any donations made to Gumboots will be used to subsidise transport, meals, stationary and general administration costs. This project is a prime example of positive result from positive input and Gumboots is proud to be a part of the process.

To be become a donor or learn more about the project visit the projects page on our website. Your UK contact should you have any questions is:
Dave Wagner - magnifly@hotmail.com

Project News (continued)

Paballo Y Batho (‘Caring for the People’)

Paballo, which is run from Johannesburg City Centre aims to provide support for some of the estimated 10,000 homeless people living in Johannesburg. Paballo is managed by Mcenisi Ndai, who’s personal success story from being homeless, is a tribute to the work being done. Paballo aims to support the homeless community, be they ‘rough sleepers’ or persons squatting in abandoned buildings. These people are given little or no support or assistance from the Government, and accordingly their sole source of support comes from charities and non-governmental organisations.

Overwhelming and diverse needs, combined with the minimal resources from these organisations, presents a constant challenge. Paballo assists by providing weekly food and medical care to the homeless, but also by providing support and understanding on issues pertaining to their situation. This system provides both practical assistance and emotional support with the aim being to uplift people, rather than simply providing for their basic needs. The organisation and medical support (DOCS) is staffed by volunteers, many of whom are or were homeless people themselves. The most recent use of Gumboots funds to Paballo, has been in the purchase of prescription glasses for people with visual problems. This had added to the recipients sense of personal security, as well placing them in a position where they will be more employable, and thereby change their personal circumstances for the better.

To be become a donor or learn more about the project visit the projects page on our website. Your UK contact should you have any questions is:
Kim Bouwer - kimbouwer@yahoo.co.uk

Leratong pre-school

Leratong is a pre-school in Alexandra, north of Johannesburg. Founded in 1990 by the Rosebank Union Church, Peggy Chauke the head teacher has run the school since its inception. Today in 2004, 114 children are enrolled at Leratong (31 more than last year).

In 1992 funding was withdrawn from the school, Peggy however has managed to run Leratong independently ever since. School fees have been the only source of income to the school until Gumboots began to give its support in 2003. An income of approximately R36,000 per month is needed to run the school, currently however only R12,000 per month is received.

Parents pay R150 per month for a child to attend Leratong. Children whose parents are unable to make the monthly payments can be sponsored through a program called Joy-for-One. This is a project within Leratong initiated by Peggy. Donations from Gumboots go to the general expenses of the school, but donors may choose to support Joy-for-One directly.

Currently there are 20 donors from Gumboots both in the SA and the UK supporting this project.

To be become a donor or learn more about the project visit the projects page on our website. Your UK contact should you have any questions is:
Vivien Hunt -

Goals for 2004

- Educational material - Picture charts, drawing materials, paint and brushes.
- Playground and equipment -The school annex which houses 60 children has a playground which consists of a barren patch of hard ground and we are intending to grass it, plant a garden and provide it with swings, a slide and jungle-gym.
- Kitchen and eating utensils -The stove donated recently by Gumboots is inadequate and we are advised that a gas upgrade will be more efficient and economical. Children’s eating bowls are also needed.
- Plastic tables and chairs - With the increased enrolment, a further 48 children’s chairs and 12 tables are needed.
- Building maintenance - Painting, plumbing and repair to the floors.
- School outings
- Teacher remuneration - The teaching staff are key to Leratong’s success and we at Gumboots have set as one of our priorities, a goal to supplement remuneration of teachers.

SUCCESS STORIES

"You asked why Gumboots? Last year we had a fabulous holiday in SA, and in Jan some SA friends who live in the UK invited us to your launch party. Our trip last year took us to places like Soweto and Tugela Ferry (KZN) and gave us a glimpse of both the progress achieved in the last 10 yrs or so, but also the challenges. We plan to visit again in 2005 and would like the opportunity to visit a project we were supporting, so that decided us on the Community Gardening Project.

Mr & Mrs Manning

"Thanks so much for the tickets. The seats were fantastic - 5 rows from the front and right in the middle. It was brilliant ... loud, but brilliant.

My colleague, Maryanne, came with me and was stomping all the way home (a bit embarrassing on the train, but she was having so much fun I couldn't stop her!). Thanks so much once again. Kitchen utensils have a whole new meaning to me now!!!!"

Going home?... visit a project!

Our project leaders and community members would love to show you personally how your donations are helping. So when planning your next trip home, why not visit the project you support? To arrange this please contact your UK project leader. Jax - we could insert a quick summary here of UK project leaders with relevant e-mails?

Send this to a friend...

If you have someone you'd like to include on our mailing list please let us know by e-mailing: cindys@gumboots.org.za

Up for a Challenge? Ride to Prove It!

Jax could we somehow flag this with a cycling icon or something visual to draw attention?

Gumboots is organising a UK bike ride to raise funds for our projects. The 3-day UK ride will take place in late September and will follow the gorgeous Thames Valley London to Oxford route. There will be a promotional event at South Africa House which will detail more about the ride. For dates and details watch the news column on our website or contact: cindys@gumboots.org.za

Jax, this should be as a footnote on page 2.

We don't believe in pestering people - If you would like to be removed from this mailing list, please reply using "unsubscribe" as the title.