



MIDYEAR REPORT

JUNE 2024

Thirty years ago, our country was at a crossroads, facing the potential of civil war and social anarchy, but we chose a route of reconciliation and rebuilding that was lauded as the start of a Rainbow Nation. Even though our rainbow seems faded due to the lack of strong leadership, our people have joined together demanding (through our recent general election) that a new way be found to serve the people. Will our new Government of National Unity (GNU) put aside differences and power struggles to default to serving the primary interests of the people? Our democracy has shaped our nation in profound ways previously, hopefully it will now strive for progress and unity.

I feel that a number our Home from Home people could give valuable advice to our leaders at this point, like Abongile (young adult in our transition programme), who on being asked, what political ideology or party he thought would be best to run our country said, "I don't actually care who governs. I would support anyone who can practically make a difference to representing the people".

Moreover, the stories within this newsletter exemplify the effectiveness of the value of family. From our generous supporters hosting fundraising events abroad, to foster moms coordinating the memorial and funeral of a colleague, staff members courageously advocating for our teens, to our young adults accessing support for their transitioning journey long after having left foster care; — these narratives all offer guidance.

Our country's leaders would do well to follow this value of Family in their leadership of South Africa. We would surely then have good reason to be hopeful of a rainbow nation.



FAMILY:

CREATING A SECOND CHANCE AT A FAMILY IS AT THE CORE OF OUR WORK. WE STRIVE TO CREATE THIS WITHIN THE ORGANISATION, AMONGST STAFF, AND WITH OUR PARTNERS (COMMUNITY MEMBERS, DONORS, ASSOCIATES, TRUSTEES, SUPPORTERS AND SERVICE PROVIDERS). WE RECOGNISE THE NEED FOR PERSONAL CONNECTION IN A WORLD THAT IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY DISCONNECTED AND UNDERSTAND THAT IT REQUIRES A COMMITMENT TO BUILD RELATIONSHIPS AND FIND OPPORTUNITIES FOR CONNECTION. THIS COMMITMENT AND THE INTENTION TO ACTIVELY INCLUDE DIVERSITY WITHIN OUR FAMILY, IS WHAT ENABLES US TO FUNCTION AT OUR HIGHEST EFFICIENCY BY UNLOCKING SYNERGIES AND SHARED LEARNINGS.

- HOME FROM HOME VALUE



BRAVERY IN DEFENDING FAMILY

Our Programme Team members (Social Workers and Social Auxiliary Workers) are those who directly support our Foster Mums and families in the communities where they live.

Every month there are many stories of how these team members put in extra time with emotionally charged situations in their work and so it is unusual for us to single any individual out. In this past month however, a very frightening situation arose where one of our teens was accused by a local gang of stealing one of their cell phones. They came to the home to find him and threaten the Foster Mother and family that if not returned by the following day, our young person would be hurt, or worse. We could obviously not leave the Foster Mum and her family to face these people, but who and what to do? The police were not an option as it would likely cause greater danger for the family going forward.



Boniswa Dyaloyi (Social Auxiliary Worker) stepped up to volunteer! She was able to contact local leaders in the community to join her for this meeting with our youth and the gang members. Thankfully it turned out well with proof that our young person had not been guilty of theft and the situation ended peacefully. The importance of being connected in our communities is highlighted, but it was the bravery of Boniswa that pulls family together in these moments.

HOME FROM HOME ART AUCTIONS IN SWITZERLAND AND AUSTRIA

Lilo Strolz, a passionate and energetic supporter of ours since 2020, has been volunteering at Home from Home each year for a month or more. Additionally, she has raised funds from her St. Anton, Austria, community through auctioning the art that our children produce through their involvement in the Orange Art Project. At the beginning of the year she announced that another auction would take place at the end of March, at the height of the skiing season, and asked that our Director, Peter, attend to open the auction.



Initially this seemed too costly trip to justify, however when we reached out to other stalwart Family Members (supporters) in Switzerland, they embraced the idea of Peter also visiting them and presenting to their groups of supporters. Erica Fretz, who runs the Jacaranda Foundation and Laura Schmiedeknecht, who coordinates Friends of Home from Home Switzerland, both volunteered to host Peter and coordinate opportunities for him to present the Home from Home cause to them. Laura organised a similar auction of our children's art at her local church and Erica has coordinated a fundraising music concert on the 14th June for us. These supporters, while far removed from the context of South Africa, have been loyal to our organisation for many years and continue to be enthusiastically involved, like family members in their support of us.



MICHELLE'S JOURNEY TO SUCCESS

Michelle's remarkable journey reflects the challenges faced by vulnerable children. Despite trauma, abuse, and disrupted education, some thrive against the odds.

At age 11, Michelle and her four younger siblings were welcomed to Home from Home after a tough life on the streets. It took resilience, therapy, compassion and grit to navigate the first few years.

Michelle did well throughout her schooling and received a bachelor pass in Matric. (A remarkable achievement, despite pandemic disruptions).

Michelle completed her psychology degree at the end of 2023 and graduated in April this year. She is 21 years old and no longer qualifies for foster care grant support from the State. Fortunately, Home from Home's Transitional Support Programme was able to offer her a place in our James Town transition house on the outskirts of Stellenbosch. Further support will be given to her as she searches for an internship position within her field of study.

Michelle's resilience, persistence and hard work has been impressive. With guidance, support and opportunity, great achievements are possible.



TRANSITIONING OUT OF FOSTER CARE

Jessica's path has been marked by significant challenges. In 2001, she was abandoned at a hospital and temporarily cared for at Nazareth House. After regaining her strength, she faced homelessness until being placed in Home from Home's care in 2008. In 2018, Jessica reunited with her biological sister, but changing circumstances led to an unsuccessful reunification. Jessica returned to Home from Home during her matric year, which presented its own difficulties as she had to readjust to foster care while completing her studies.

Despite these obstacles, Jessica completed her schooling in December 2020. Ordinarily, turning 18 would mean leaving foster care, but our Transition Support Programme allowed her to stay at our Westlake transition home. She completed hospitality and job readiness courses, and in 2022 she secured employment at a local Pick n Pay.

Now, after two years of permanent employment at the local Pick n Pay, Jessica has achieved yet another milestone: transitioning into independent living. Her unwavering determination and hard work have led her to rent her own space, moving beyond our care. We couldn't be prouder of her accomplishments!



CREATING FAMILIES
FOR VULNERABLE CHILDREN,
THROUGH SUPPORTED AND SUPERVISED
COMMUNITY-BASED FOSTER CARE, TO BECOME
HEALTHY AND WELL-ADJUSTED ADULTS WHO
CONTRIBUTE POSITIVELY TO SOCIETY.

- HOME FROM HOME MISSION

MANDELA DAY



TRADE YOUR 67 MINUTES FOR R67

COLOUR MANDELA DAY

BY PAINTING A

FOSTER HOME

OUR TARGET:

1670 LITRES

OF PAINT

OR

R150 000



EVERY R67 DONATED IN MEMORY OF NELSON MANDELA'S
LEGACY MAKES A BIG DIFFERENCE TO US!



Although creating a second chance at family for foster children is mostly about love and care, having a well painted home also makes a big difference to the family atmosphere. Join Home from Home in trading your 67 minutes for a contribution of R67, R670 or R6 700 towards our campaign in creating family environments.

These funds will go toward purchasing paint for our foster homes. Our goal for Mandela Day is to acquire 1670 litres of paint or raise R150 000.

We welcome donations of white paint too, which can be dropped off at our office at 73 Main Road, Plumstead.



THANK YOU
FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

#MANDELA DAY



TO MAKE A DONATION



BANKING DETAILS

Acc name: Home from Home Trust

Acc number: 1011109700

Bank: Nedbank

Branch code: 10 11 09

Swift code: NEDSZAJJ

Ref: Name/Email address

Email proof of payment to info@homefromhome.org.za



Snap here to pay

 SnapScan



<https://www.payfast.co.za/donate/go/homefromhometrust>



Sign up for a MySchool MyVillage MyPlanet card and make a difference today.
Simply make Home from Home your beneficiary on your MySchool MyVillage MyPlanet card!

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

We invite you to please follow us on Facebook and Instagram to stay up to date with the many activities happening at Home from Home!



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