



A JOURNEY OF HOPE

IN THIS ISSUE

2016 – What a year!

This newsletter marks the closing of an old year as we look forward to what 2017 has in store. It's been a rollercoaster of a year, but one that's brought many blessings and much joy to us here at The Love Trust.

2016 has seen the opening of our new Nokuphila School, an event that has been anticipated for some time and was celebrated with much joy and excitement.

It was also a year that saw many of our Early Childhood Development (ECD) students graduating to become fully fledged teachers. We are dedicated to supporting these talented individuals on their road to success and we are certain that they will go out and make a huge and positive difference in the lives of many, many young children.

This year was also yet another year where we were shown again just how amazingly generous the human spirit can be. To each and every sponsor, donor and volunteer, both new and existing, we thank you! We would not be able to do what we do without your valuable support and contributions.

Thanks you to, we are able to make a difference in the lives of so many children and adults, changing the world one good deed at a time.

We wish you all a very joyful festive season and a prosperous and blessed new year. Whether travelling or 'staycationing', stay safe, and we look forward to greeting you all in the new year!

- The Love Trust Team



94.7 Cycle Challenge

The Love Trust participates in its first 94.7 Cycle Challenge [Read more...](#)

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The origins and inspiration behind the Nokuphila School Song [Read more...](#)

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Love Boxes

On the 29th November, Nokuphila School was alive with laughter, happiness and excitement, as a delivery of 'Love Boxes', specially wrapped and thoughtfully filled gift boxes arrived for the children.

A wonderful initiative put together by Aimee Dixon and the incredible team at Active Academy, the 'Love Boxes' are something that the children look forward to every year. Each child received a beautifully wrapped box containing some essentials such as soap and facecloths, along with entertaining toys and games – a true luxury for them

The school rang with the sound of laughter and smelled fantastic as kids tried out their body sprays and initiated immediate challenges to play card or board games.

We extend a hearty thanks to Aimee, Brad, Fiona, Eddie and their team for inspiring such joy in the hearts of these kids, for many of whom this will be their only Christmas gift.

A special thank you all who have contributed towards the boxes and contents.



Food, glorious food!

Christ Church Midrand, together with The Love Trust, completed a very successful food drive, collecting a very large load of dry goods, non-perishables and toiletries for less fortunate families.

Among the goods donated were large bags of mielie meal, several bags of rice, plenty tinned food and hygiene products such as soap and toothpaste.

We would like to extend our sincere thanks for all who contributed and everyone who participated in collecting these wonderful items. Thanks to you, many families will not go without this December.



94.7 Cycle Challenge

One could feel the electricity in the air as, on the 20th November 2016, over twenty cyclists kitted out in full The Love Trust regalia, took to the streets of Jo'burg to cycle for a purpose – a journey of hope.

The Telkom 947 Cycle Challenge is one of the biggest timed cycle races in SA and this is the first time that The Love Trust has participated.

The weather started off pretty cool but then turned into blistering heat of about 28 degrees, challenging our cyclists. Every one of the members of our team crossed the finish line, despite the heat, and we couldn't be prouder of them.

We cannot fully express our gratitude for those who rode for the love trust. Thank You for your amazing spirit and we hope to see you all next year – with friends!



DID YOU KNOW?

School fees for learners who attend Nokuphila School are almost completely subsidised by **The Love Trust**. It currently costs R1900 per child, per month, in order for them to receive quality, private school level education and food on a daily basis.

The Love Trust offers donors the opportunity to sponsor a child, either in part or in full, so that Nokuphila children can continue to benefit from full tummies and full minds.

For more information, kindly visit <http://www.lovetrust.co.za/donate.php>

A day in the life of a Nokuphila learner

My name is Tshepo and I am a learner at Nokuphila School. I am 9 years old and in Grade 3, and I would like to tell you a bit about a day in my life.

My mom wakes me, and my brothers and sisters, up at 05:30 after she has had her wash in the tub. We clean ourselves, get dressed, grab our school bags and head off to the bus with my mom. We are not allowed to walk on our own, which is good because in the winter it is still dark. Luckily my house is not too far from the bus stop, but some of my friends have a long walk to get to the bus stop in the morning.

I am hungry this morning, and I am looking forward to the nice hot breakfast that is waiting for me when I get to school. It fills my tummy and gives me energy for the day. My favourite is porridge with lot of sugar! After breakfast, the teachers fetch us from the dining room and, at 07:30, we start class. I don't mind doing sums and I like reading, especially if it is a good story, but it's really nice that every day we get to do something that is just for fun and not for marks.

The Christ Church gap-year students come and do sports with us twice a week. My favourite sport is soccer and I can't wait to be big enough to be in the soccer team because it must be very exciting to play matches against other schools.

Once a week we go to the library to choose a book to read, which we get to take home. After I have read it, my brothers and sisters also read it and if they have books, I read them too. Sometimes my sisters choose really boring books, but I like to read them anyway.

Today is the day that the volunteers from The Link come and we get to spend some time reading and playing word games. I like to learn new words and find out what they mean. My volunteer and I like each other and it makes me feel special when I get the words right and he tells me he is proud of me.

Tomorrow is music day. Mr. Greyling from Christ Church College is coming to teach us. He teaches us new songs. Last week we learnt about musical instruments.

Next week is my class assembly. We have to practice hard because we do poems and songs in front of the whole school and we want to perform to the best of our ability. The Principal says that whatever we do, we must always try our best. I want to make her and my teachers proud! We also sing the school song at assembly. I love singing the words and doing the actions.



On Friday, Dudu from Christ Church came with her friends to teach us about the Bible. We love singing about Jesus and learning from the Bible.

At snack break today we got a piece of apple and when I walked past the kitchen, I saw the cooks peeling potatoes and cooking butternut and mince. I am lucky because my mommy works and gives us supper at night, but I know some of the children that go to school with me only eat at the school. Sometimes I see some of my friends getting a bag of vegetables to take home and it makes me happy to know that they will eat properly that night.

We love it that every week we get the extra vegetables from the supermarket. My teacher says that the vitamins and minerals in vegetables will make me big and strong.

When we are finished at school, the bus fetches the pre-schoolers, and my teacher makes sure that we have packed our homework books so that we can do spelling and reading at home. We also have to have our shoes and socks on before we leave. We eat our fruit before we get to the bus. I am excited to see my mom when the bus drops me off. She will carry my bag because I am tired after the long day at school.

I like being at home for the weekend but I am glad when it is Monday again so that I can go back to school.

Nokuphila School Song

Nokuphila School is immensely proud of their school song – the official version being a collaborative work comprising music and lyrics by Bronwen Anderson and Nathan Smith, recorded and mastered by Fuzz Man at Odyssey Records, and sung by talented vocalist, Lilly Million.

Bronwen was first approached by Nokuphila School principal, Marj Lund, to write the song with the imperative that it be ready in time for the new school's official opening. The brief was for a song that was upbeat and Christian-focused, with an African feel to it, and containing the school's slogan: sharing faith, offering hope, giving love.

While Nokuphila is an English school, most of the children come from Zulu or Sotho speaking homes, so it was important that the song reflect this diversity. After spending months writing the English version and outlining a rough melody, Bronwen engaged the congregants and members of staff at Christ Church Midrand, where she works in the music department, for help with appropriate translations.

Once the lyrics were fine-tuned, session guitarist Nathan Smith was brought on board to add an African element to the melody and, at last, the song was complete, approved and ready for recording.

Between November 2015 and January 2016, several recordings of English, Zulu and Sotho versions of the song were recorded and mastered by Fuzz Man at Odyssey record. Lilly Million added the perfect voice – and a few rhythmic translations – to the song, especially when backed by the vocals of ten of the Nokuphila School students, who were in raptures at the experience of being recorded in studio.

In the end, we wound up with the perfect school song, and the learners proudly sing it at every opportunity!

Listen to it [here](#).

Nokuphila School Concert

Nokuphila Pre-School held its graduation and year end concert at Christ Church Midrand on the 1st of October at 9am. About 300 family members/caregivers and supporters of the school attended what was a fun-filled and joyful event.

Proceedings kicked off with our Grade R students graduating – they will be moving to Grade 1 at the primary school next year. The rest of the graduation ceremony comprised of each subsequent grade officially graduating to the next grade, and there were proud smiles from parents and students all around.

After the graduation, the children performed their carefully rehearsed year end concert. This year they put on a creditable performance of the 3 little pigs, each student acting and dancing like the shining stars they are. Family and friends were delighted as they watched the tale unfold in new and wonderful ways.

Afterwards, attendees were invited to take a guided tour of the school, grounds and facilities, led by selected senior students.

Heroes like these

Heroes come in all shapes and sizes, and we had the profound pleasure of meeting two of them quite recently. Ross and William are two young boys who took it upon themselves to raise money in order to buy stationery for the learners at Nokuphila School.

Stationery is something no school can do without and the learners are incredibly grateful for these supplies. On top of this, Ross and William surprised the children with cupcakes and sweets – a rare treat indeed!

It's not often that one comes across young individuals who are so keen to make a difference and who possess the perseverance and commitment to act on it. The Love Trust, Nokuphila School and the learners at the school are immensely grateful to these two upstanding young men. The world can certainly use more role models like these.



THE LOVE TRUST WISH LIST

Our projects rely on donations and sponsorships, but we are often asked precisely what we need so that donors and sponsors can match a contribution to a direct need.

Here are the top 5 items from our wish list, per school:

Nokuphila Primary School

- Borehole;
- Reading mats for Gr1- Gr3 classes;
- Art room - trestle tables & chairs;
- Blinds for windows of media centre and music room;
- Tennis racquets, tennis balls, soccer balls and netball balls.

Nokuphila Pre-School

- Fans - 6 for the classrooms and 1 for the kitchen;
- 2 x Microwaves;
- Sand pit toys;
- Children's play house;
- 20 Plastic scooters.

There are many more items on our list; please get in touch if you would like to find out more.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Kindly contact The Love Trust for information on additional requirements and how to donate.

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