

March 2013

Growing the Good

In his book, *'The Beautiful Tree'*, James Tooley describes the fascinating phenomenon of burgeoning private schools for the poor. He travels to a number of developing countries – India, China, Ghana and South Africa among them – and discovers the same trend all over: a significantly high growth rate of private schools serving the most disadvantaged children. This, even in countries where free primary education is provided for by governments. As Tooley puts it: “If you go to a market and are offered free fruit and vegetables, they will be rotten. If you want fresh fruit and vegetables, you have to pay for them.” Low-income families – the developing world over – are sacrificing to pay more for private school education because they perceive higher standards. And it appears their perceptions are accurate.



In South Africa, researchers at the Centre for Development and Enterprise are observing similar trends and advocating for a space for private schools for the poor. “Private schools, especially in low-income communities, are a growing and vital part of ensuring more choice for parents and driving better performance by all schools, public and private.” (Source: *Centre for Development and Enterprise; PROMOTING SCHOOL CHOICE FOR THE POOR: Practical ideas from international experience; June 2012*)

Nokuphila School

Love Trust, through one of its flagship projects – Nokuphila School – is a very real example of this phenomenon, offering the highest quality education to the most vulnerable children of Tembisa. It seems unbelievable that in just over three years, we now have a school accommodating 220 learners from Grade 000 (3 – 4 years) to Grade 2. This year our primary school moved to its new site – a few hundred metres from the preschool – where we hope to see our primary and secondary school develop.



We recently received exciting news from Assore Mining – one of our key donors – who have committed R10 million to the development of the primary school facilities. We were bowled over by this enormous act of generosity which will cover Phase 1 of the school’s development and go a long way to realising the development of a world class education facility for the children of Tembisa.

As you may have read in previous newsletters, our ongoing challenge is to cover our operating costs as the number of learners grow. It costs us R1200 per child per month to run the school. This includes staff salaries, tuition, meals, transport and extra-curricula activities. It is important our children are provided with a safe means of going to and from school, but the expense forms a significant part of our budget (one third of our costs). To resolve, this we are actively seeking donations for the purchase of a

bus. We have secured funding for one vehicle – through Assore Mining (once again!). However, two buses would cut running costs tremendously as well as add significantly to the sustainability of the school.

The vision of Love Trust was always bigger than Nokuphila School and the last year or so has seen the beginnings of the vision realised. Nokuphila School will remain our flagship – acting as a model for other aspiring Early Childhood Development (ECD) centres (preschools), primary and secondary schools. Sharing our knowledge, expertise and resources has seen the establishment of two ECD centres in the Western Cape (Trinity in Mitchells Plain, and iThemba in Masiphumelele). This year, a new ECD centre opened its doors in Bezuidenhouts Valley. We wish all at the Valley Community Preschool every success for the future! Many others – in Khayalitsha, Cato Ridge, Hammersdal and Magaliesberg – have sought our advice and formed associations with Love Trust. Visit the Nokuphila website www.nokuphila.co.za

Nokuphila Teacher Training Centre (TTC)

One of the more surprising successes at Nokuphila has been the Teacher Training Centre. With 75 preschool teachers - from all over Tembisa - registered for training, growth has only been limited by funding. The demand and enthusiasm for the programme has been overwhelming! It has led Management of Love Trust to create a separate legal entity for the Teacher Training Centre which will now be managed and fundraise in its own right – as another flagship of Love Trust. We believe this will enhance the growth of the centre as well as provide it with the focus it needs.



Like Nokuphila School, Nokuphila TTC has shared its model with others and hopes to see the same growth that the school has enjoyed. We have recently had some interest from a preschool in Himeville. Members of Noah's Ark Pre-primary in Himeville recently visited Nokuphila TTC with the intention of starting their own preschool teacher training centre, recently established as "Asifunde Sonke" (let us learn together). It would be wonderful to see more teacher training centres and we will continue to work towards growing this project.

Self-sustaining Schools – Hillbrow Independent School

Hillbrow Independent School is the result of investigating ways in which to grow that don't depend on donor funding. This school – targeting slightly higher-income but still needy parents – is providing the same high standard of independent education to children from the Hillbrow and Berea areas. The difference here is that school fees cover the costs of staff salaries, with facilities being functional but inexpensive. Our first class of Grade 0 (R) and Grade 1 started this year. You can get a good feel for the school by watching the short video which can be found on the website: www.hillbrowschool.co.za. It is our dream that Hillbrow Independent School will be a thriving, self-sustaining school in the near future, proving the ability to open many more schools like it.

Ensuring Excellence

With growth such as this, comes the challenge to ensure top quality and high standards across all associated organisations. As Excellence is one of the cornerstones of Love Trust, this is imperative to everything we stand for. We are currently in the process of trying to secure funding that would allow us to better share our resources – in the form of standardised ‘toolboxes’ for ECD Centres and Schools; enhance our website to create an improved platform for information-sharing; as well as facilitate training workshops with all associated organisations.

Please make a note that we will be hosting the Love Trust conference for associated and interested organisations on 22nd and 23rd October 2013.

Investing Long-term

We at Love Trust take a long view on our investments. Our children may only be 3-7 years old at the moment but we keep our eyes fixed on the day when we can see them, grown up - equipped with an excellent education and firm moral foundation – making positive and lasting changes in a country that so eagerly awaits them.

Thank you, as always, for sharing the journey with us.

Sarah Cairns

Love Trust

