



22 November 2011

Dear Friend,

In his book, 'Why is Africa Poor' Greg Mills argues, "The main reason why Africa's people are poor is because their leaders have made this choice....In assigning blame to African leaders for not seizing opportunities, it is also true that they have often taken decisions under difficult circumstances. No one disputes that leaders face big governance challenges in Africa. Yet in other parts of the world they are usually regarded as obstacles to be overcome, not as permanent excuses for failure."

Greg Mills paints a bleak picture of Africa, and ultimately lays the blame at the feet of Africa's leaders. He says leaders have externalised their issues, and have ultimately made decisions that have led Africa to further dependency. Love Trust, through Nokuphila School aims to raise up a generation of Christian servant leaders – highly educated, strong, decisive and values-driven. It is admittedly, on a micro level but as Alvin Toffler points out, "You've got to think about big things while you're doing small things, so that all the small things go in the right direction."

This year has been remarkable in its achievements for Nokuphila School - thanks primarily to your overwhelming support. We have received significant funding this year for capital projects. In particular we are thankful to a very generous gift from Assore Mining who has donated funds for additional property and some classrooms.

At the end of 2010, the bulk of our funding came from individuals. This is highly unusual in the South African space where most non-profits depend on government and corporates for their funding. This is testimony to the generosity of individuals who believe in Love Trust and give self-sacrificially. This year we have broadened our donor base by facilitating regular breakfasts for professionals and entrepreneurs. The purpose of the breakfasts was to introduce Nokuphila School to people who may have access to Corporate Social Investment or companies looking for viable BEE partners. Some guests have volunteered to become Ambassadors for Love Trust and facilitate similar breakfasts.

One of the most exciting developments has been the establishment of our Nokuphila Teacher Training Centre. Our commitment to the local community and our desire to provide excellent education has led to the need to provide Early Childhood Development (ECD) training for our teachers. We were fortunate to have Megan Helsby join the team.

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Megan was very involved with the development of the Grade R curriculum at Wits University and is an experienced teacher trainer in ECD. Megan runs training for Nokuphila school teachers as well as interested preschool teachers from the local community. The response has been overwhelming and we have 55 registered students. Further to our Grade R training we have registered 2 UNISA students who will be doing their practical training at Nokuphila.

In October, Love Trust hosted a conference for non-profit organisations known to Love Trust. Over 25 organisations across the country were represented. This would be an association of organisations that share common values, ethics and the Christian faith. The Association would offer support to organisations in the form of sharing knowledge and information on best practice, assisting with tools for marketing and fundraising, and providing guidelines on governance issues. What is encouraging is that three preschools are in the process of being established in the Western Cape using the same model as that of Nokuphila School.

At Nokuphila School, our 80 children have continued to thrive. Next year, the school will accommodate 130 children, from Grade 000 to Grade 1. The children have benefitted enormously from the efforts of our wonderful team of volunteers. This year, the Golder Trust erected another jungle gym – a great help as our single jungle gym was feeling the weight of the increased number of children at the school! The First Rand volunteers donated six months worth of meals to the families of children. Dr Ann Mathews – our volunteering doctor has done a sterling job of monitoring our children’s health and educating families on basic healthcare. Lindsay Owen – a member of Christ Church Midrand and volunteer for Love Trust – arranged for a dentist to give parents and children a talk on dental care. Janet Stander meets with one of our teachers on a regular basis to assist him with his studies towards a teaching degree. Investec staff will be hosting a Christmas party for the children at the end of this month. This is not to mention the many others who dedicate time on a weekly basis to provide children with fun and stimulating extra-curricula activities in the form of music, craft and sport. We are so grateful to all of you.

Next year presents new challenges as we commence our first Grade 1 class. We have renovated the existing property to accommodate 2 additional classrooms as well as a guest house to accommodate longer-term volunteers from abroad. We will require a significant increase in the “Sponsor a Child” units (R200 each per month) for 2012 and your assistance in spreading the Love Trust needs to others will be very greatly appreciated.

Thank you once again for your wonderful support and commitment to Nokuphila School.

Sarah Cairns
Love Trust