



THREE2SIX
Refugee Children's Education Project

Friends of
Three2Six
Newsletter

Volume 3, 2018



10 YEARS OF THE THREE2SIX PROJECT



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10th Anniversary

In April 2018 the Three2Six Project celebrated a major milestone – 10 years of providing access to education for refugee children. We celebrated in style, with a huge ceremony, reflecting on the achievements of the program, sharing in cultural presentations, singing and hearing from a range of people impacted by the program in different ways. We then shared lunch together in various groups around the Sacred Heart College campus and lastly the South African Music Award winning artist Tresor provided a free concert for our children.

Three2Six was delighted to have a range of special guests join us for the day, including the Southern African Provincial of the Marist Brothers, Br Norbert Mwila, guests from longterm partners in Europe – Carolin from Kindermissionswerk and Brother PJ from Misean Cara and the Irish Brothers. We also welcomed back many past volunteers who returned to celebrate with us and of course so many local partners and supporters who joined us on the day.

The photos shared with you here are a small sample of the joy and thanksgiving that was present on this day. Photos continue on page 2...

Photo: Three2Six founder, Mr Colin Northmore, addresses the gathering





4+

10th Anniversary

one PLUS FOUR

campaign | 2018

Calling all international Friends of Three2Six

On the 7th April the Three2Six Project reached a milestone, celebrating its 10th Anniversary (photos and reports coming in our next newsletter!). Over the last 10 years nearly 600 children have transitioned from Three2Six into mainstream schools, with 300 more currently accessing an education thanks to the project. However, more than 500 children are on the waiting list in Johannesburg with thousands more across the country denied access to an education.

Our past volunteers and international friends often ask how they can help Three2Six continue its inspiring work. **We are asking that you help celebrate our 10th Anniversary by signing up to donate \$10 or E10 per month for 12 months – and ask a few friends, colleagues or family members to join you.** For the cost of a few coffees a month you can help us advocate for thousands of refugee children to access mainstream education and provide bridging education for hundreds right here at Three2Six.

Join us in the fight to help some of the most marginalized and disadvantaged children access education, reach their potential and pursue their dreams.

Sign up at: <http://www.three2six.co.za/make-a-donation/>

Email partnerships@three2six.co.za with any **questions**.



10TH ANNIVERSARY (CONT)



Photos shared are credited to Michael Stavrakakis and Vincent Salinos.



The full video of the 10th Anniversary celebration is available on the Three2Six facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/Three2SixProject/videos/1778549815521925/>

Campus Update

Sacred Heart College



In August, the children of Three2six in Sacred Heart had the Holiday Program, an special event for the children when it's not time of classes. The children had classes about Nutrition, Child Safeguarding, Isizulu, Judo, Creative Writing, Art and Dance.

On September 7, the children went to the Saint David's School in a Concert presentation and shared experiences, presenting performances with drums and watching students from Saint Davids Choir, beyond having recreational activities.

The Sacred Heart College received, on September 14, the Inter Catholic Athletics, a running competition between Holy Rosary School, Mayfair Convent School, Dominican Convent School and Maryvale College, the children from Sacred Heart and from Three2six. The kids ran competitions of 100 meters running to 1.2 km. In the final result, Sacred Heart College won, with Mayfair School in second and Three2Six Project in third place.



Finishing the activities, our learners participated of the Catholic Schools Choir Festival, at Holy Rosary School on September 20. The children had a fast class to learn some musics and later presented to all the participants separated in the different ages that were on the event.

Legal Workshop for Parents



On Friday 27th July, Three2Six hosted a legal workshop with our partner Lawyers for Human Rights. It was very valuable for our community to have this access to support and advice with regards to the process of documentation and their children's rights to access education in South Africa. We hope that in turn this advice and support will assist our families to organize their immigration status and ultimately help their children transition into mainstream education more easily.

96 parents, guardians and staff attended the workshop. The participants represented all three of our project campuses, Sacred Heart College, Observatory Girls Primary and Holy Family College and also importantly families on our waiting list. We opened up the event to them as we know there are many families whose children are not able to access schools nor places at Three2Six and we want to support them also to understand their rights, local processes and improve the possibility of them accessing mainstream education locally.



We appreciated deeply the opportunity to partner with Lawyers for Human Rights for this workshop, and we look forward to future collaboration together again.

Advocacy Update

SAHRC Position Paper on Undocumented Learners



In mid 2018, the South Africa Human Rights Commission (SAHRC), released a document called Position Paper on Access to Basic Education for Undocumented Learners in South Africa. This document exposes the situation of the young undocumented learners in the country, how they are being treated and what needs to be done about it. The South African Constitution guarantees that all children have the right to access to basic education, irregardless of whether they are born in the country or not, having documents or not, the right of having education is universal. But many children are facing obstacles to enter the schools, especially the refugee or asylum seeker children who don't have all their required documents.

Recently, the government has put in place or suggested more rules and legislations for immigrants in their access to basic services like education. This is outlined in particular in the White Paper on International Migration.

Schools are directed not to accept children without documents and are punished if they do and there is still some discrimination from the schools to accept foreign students even if they have the required documents. Another question is the short time that the government gives to the new immigrants get their documentation regularized, that is 90 days. There are still some steps to be given to change the reality of the undocumented learners education, that are principally refugees. And worldwide the access for refugee children to education, according to UN statistics, is very short, just 61% of refugee children go to primary school and 25% go to secondary school, when generally 92% goes to primary and 84% goes to secondary school.

This new position paper is a strong step in the right direction in South Africa, as it requires the South African Government, especially the Department of Home Affairs and the Department of Basic Education, to ensure that their policies and directives are (a) in line with South African human rights and constitutional commitments and (b) work to ensure that there are not mixed messages being received at a school level from different layers of government. Three2Six welcomes the paper and encourages you to watch and advocate for the implementation of the recommendations.

Three2Six Volunteer Update

Since our last edition of the newsletters we have said lots of goodbyes... and lots of hellos!

Marius returned to Germany after completing 9 months with Three2Six as part of the cmi Germany international Marist volunteer program. Marius was a huge asset to our Holy Family College campus and his humour and laid back approach will be missed!

Sophia also returned to Germany at the same time as part of the same cmi Germany international Marist volunteer program, spending 9 months at our Sacred Heart College campus. Sophia's organisational skills and 'can-do' attitude were a huge benefit and will be missed!

Daniella was our third German to recently return home. Daniella spent 12 months at our Sacred Heart College campus as part of the Kindermissionswerk international volunteer program. Daniella's gentleness and kindness was appreciated by everyone who worked with her and will be missed!

Murpry was our first every full time South African volunteer with Three2Six, spending nearly five months with the Holy Family College team as part of her Mzansi Marist gap year. Murpry is now in Germany volunteering with the Marist community there and is thrilled to be close to old Three2Six friends Sophia and Marius and planning a visit to Daniella soon too. Murpry has volunteered for many years with Three2Six as part of her Sacred Heart studies and community service and her bright smile and love for the children is greatly missed!

We have recently welcomed a new group of international volunteers and look forward to sharing more about them with you over the coming year! **Katja** from Finland doing an internship through the Wits African Centre for Migration and Society, **Joao** and **Honi** from cmi Brazil, **Celine** and **Paula** from cmi Germany, **Georg** from Kindermissionswerk Germany and **Alex** from the University of Bath, UK.

