



THREE2SIX

Refugee Children's Education Project

Friends of
Three2Six
Newsletter

Volume 13,
2019



2019 end-of-year NEWSLETTER

Inside

- Letter from director
- Kitoko radio
- Computer literacy training
- Sacred Heart College day
- Weltwärts partner conference
- Primary school's athletics meeting
- Parents meeting
- Africa day
- Alumni day
- GAM celebrations
- Lilian Ramathan visit
- Child safeguarding training
- Turquoise Harmony Institute dinner
- Grade 3s camp
- Grade 5 farewell
- Sacred Heart College prize giving
- Right to play workshop
- Parents' English class certificates
- Play day
- Reading activities
- December holiday program
- Fundraising update
- Staff update

Letter from the director

2019 has been a very exciting year for the project. We were invited to give a talk at a side event at the United Nations High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development Goals in New York. At this event, we highlighted the predicament of refugees, stateless and displaced children in Johannesburg and South Africa. We used this opportunity to call on the Government to institute a new documentation process.

We call for the introduction of a 'Dignity Passport' for all children in our country. This will ensure that they are given access to health and education services, regardless of their status. This is a core promise of our Constitution and anyone who works to prevent this is guilty of breaking the most fundamental laws established by our democracy.

We also met with deans of education, both directly and in provincial meetings. We spoke to trade union representatives, members of the departments of Higher and Basic Education and partners involved in the pre-service and in-service training of teachers. Our purpose in these meetings has been to encourage the inclusion of our teaching resource developed to introduce conversations and lessons about xenophobia in South African schools.

We received the following news recently:

"Congratulations! On behalf of the Wharton-QS Reimagine Education Awards Steering Committee, I am delighted to inform you that your project, Three2Six Refugee Children's Education Project, has been shortlisted for the Presence Learning & Teaching Award. This year's awards process was the most competitive yet. Over 1500 applications were submitted – a 30% increase year-on-year – and the moderation process reflected that, with a 60% increase in independent judge evaluations. To be shortlisted is a testament to the excellence of your work." As a shortlisted project, we are entitled to showcase our project at the event.

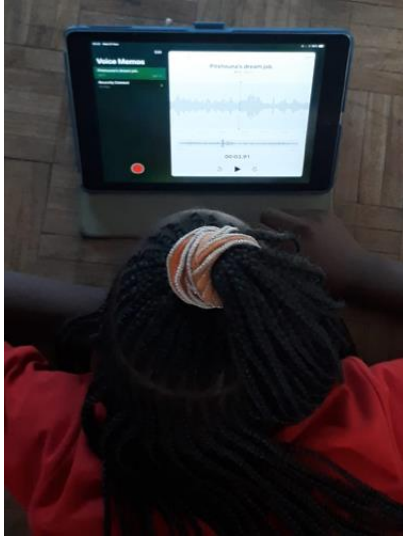
2019 has also had its difficulties. We started the year underfunded. Thanks to the generosity of various funders and the efforts of our fundraising team, we were able to secure enough funding for the project by the end of April. We are approximately 71% funded for 2020 and have funding agreements that continue into 2021 and 2022. The fundraising team is hard at work submitting proposals for the remaining 29%. We have several prospects and currently have two proposals that have been submitted by the 501c3 team in America. On that note, if any of you have contacts in the United States that you are willing to introduce us to, we would like to follow up on additional opportunities.

We have a very capable team in New York who has raised close to a million rand this year and all they need is for someone to open the door. A personal introduction goes a long way to achieving this. If you have family who use Amazon in the USA, please ask them to use the link to smile.amazon.com that we always include in the newsletter. Every cent is important and gives children a better chance in life.

I will conclude by wishing you all a happy holiday and a blessed Christmas. To be given recognition as a human being worthy of the opportunity to grow up without fear and to satisfy your curiosity about the world should not be a privilege. Join us in calling for those in power in South Africa to fulfil both the spirit and the letter of our Constitution by opening the doors of our educational and health institutions to all children living in our land. #childdignitynow

Colin Northmore
Director Three2Six
November 2019





Our grade 3s developed the **Kitoko Radio project**, supported by two Brazilian volunteer journalists, Joao Heim and Honi Rubik. The goals of the project were to promote child participation in the learning process, critical thinking, listening and interaction in a group.

The project taught the children about citizenship and what it means to be a refugee. The children learnt more about culture, identity and belonging, empowering them to voice their opinion about being a refugee. The children also learnt about values, discipline, democracy and gender equality.

The class teacher noted that, "In general most learners improved academically. Their listening and speaking skills have improved."

As the final activity, the children produced podcasts telling about their dreams for the future. You can listen to their productions on Soundcloud:

<https://soundcloud.com/three2sixproject>

Computer literacy training



Our Holy Family College campus held computer training lessons for seven weeks every Friday from the 28th of September till the 15th of November. Our volunteer, Honi Rubik, and our IT intern, Palesa Morele, facilitated the training. Our overall goal for the training was to improve our teachers' computer skills and provide them with working knowledge of computer programs such as Microsoft Office (Word, Excel and PowerPoint) and how to

administer our ADAM software to assist with capturing learner marks and basic internet functions.

We decided to implement the training to help our teachers address some of their challenges around creating lesson plans and other documents to use for their class work. The majority of our teachers have no practical computer background – the training was critical for our staff. We had four teachers involved in the training who were enthusiastic about learning and discovering new things and computer programs they could utilize not only to benefit themselves but also the Project.

Sacred Heart College day



The Sacred Heart College Marist Observatory celebrated its 130th birthday on Friday the 4th of October. The college has stood on the Observatory premises for 95 years. Our Three2Six children were invited to take part in the celebrations.

The Sacred Heart day included a variety of activities, such as Holy Mass for the entire college, pre-primary school performances, traditional sharing of sticky buns and coke, and a sports day.

The theme for this year's festivities was "Celebrating Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow". Sacred Heart College alumni were invited to attend and share their school memories.

We learnt about the history of the college and bade farewell to the class of 2019 as they take on new challenges for their future.

Our children attended the Holy Mass. We also joined the rest of the College in sharing classes and playing games.

We would like to thank Sacred Heart College for inviting the Three2Six Project to join in celebrating 130 years with you!

Weltwärts partner conference



From the 7th to the 11th of October, the project participated in a Weltwärts conference in Botswana. Weltwärts is a German volunteer service. Three2Six has a partnership with a Weltwärts organisation that deploys volunteers in various countries, including South Africa. Over 50 organisations participated in the week-long event. This was a wonderful opportunity for the project to exchange ideas on challenges and best practices

with receiving and sending organisations and to learn more about the experiences of volunteers in the field.

The event also included a field visit to one of the organisations represented in the conference and implementing activities in the surrounding areas: Stepping Stones International and Hope Worldwide. Participants introduced their organisations and the work they do. Throughout the event, our teaching resource "Talking and Thinking about Refugees" was widely distributed to organisations working in South Africa, Malawi and Botswana, to always ensure a mind-set shift on a larger scale.

Thank you to Weltwärts for organising this and to our partner Kindermissionswerk – Die Sternsinger for inviting us!

Primary Schools athletics meeting



On Wednesday the 9th of October, Sacred Heart College, in collaboration with the Catholic Schools Office (CSO), organized the Foundation Phase Catholic Athletics meeting. The participating schools included Maryvale, De la Salle, Veritas Prep, St Ursula, St Dominic, St Theresa, St Catherine and Holy Family College along with the Three2Six project (Holy Family College campus). Many parents came to support the children.

This Primary Schools Catholic Athletics meeting was for the foundation phase learners (Grade 1, Grade 2 and Grade 3). Both boys and girls competed in different categories. The last category was for the teachers and coaches. Activities included the 60m sprint, 60m shuttle relays, 20m ball and hop races, 20m bean bag and sack race relays and an obstacle course. Our Three2Six children shone, as they outraced everyone on the day. We achieved first place for many of the events.

We know our children can compete but, on this occasion, their efforts were exceptional. We are so proud of their winning spirit and we congratulate all the participants!

A big thank you to Sacred Heart College and to the CSO for letting us take part.

Parents meeting



The Three2Six Project parents from Sacred Heart College campus attended a parents meeting on Friday, the 11th of October. The main agenda for the meeting was to remind parents about their responsibilities toward their children and to encourage them to get involved in their children's education. Dr Mark Potterton, the principal of the primary school, trained the parents on how to read with their children. The Campus Coordinator requested parents to confirm whether their children would remain in the project in 2020 and verified whether the Grade 5 learners had been placed yet in public schools in 2020.

We would like to thank everyone who attended the parents' meeting.

Africa day



On Friday, the 18th of October, Three2Six children from Observatory Girls' Primary School campus participated in Africa Day, celebrating together with the rest of the learners from the primary school. The Africa Day celebration was combined with Heritage Day.

Heritage Day is usually celebrated on the 24th of September but this year, we combined the two events. Our children performed together with the Grade R-Grade 7 learners. It was a busy, fun day. Learners modelled African fashion outfits, performed dances, mini-dramas and poems. The Three2Six children performed a Congolese dance. Our children were excited to take part in the day's events.

We would like to thank Observatory Girls' Primary School for including Three2Six children in the performances and for celebrating such a meaningful event, to conserve the culture of Africans!

Alumni day



On Saturday, the 19th of October, we celebrated our monthly Three2Six Alumni Day. Our alumni, with the help of the Marist Young Adults Johannesburg, learned how to prepare burgers and how to make pancakes. The alumni had the opportunity to practice what they were learning. The food prepared tasted delicious and everyone enjoyed it. It was a fun and productive day. As well as learning how to cook and bake, the youth from the Marist Young Adults Johannesburg helped the alumni with their homework as they do every month and the attendees participated in different sports.

We would like to show our appreciation to the youth from the Marist Young Adults Johannesburg for the great work that they are doing with our Three2Six alumni. You may get in touch with the Marist Young Adults Johannesburg through their Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/MaristYoungAdultsJohannesburg/> if you would like to get involved.

A huge thank you to everyone who participated.

Global Action Month celebrations



In November, Three2Six took part in the Global Action Month on Child's Rights celebration, an initiative of its partner, Terre des Hommes. This yearly initiative takes place every November to celebrate the anniversary of the adoption of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and is a great opportunity for children and youth worldwide to raise awareness on topics they care about and for which they wish for change. This year's topic was on promoting environmental child's rights. A display around this and refugee related questions was installed at each of the project's campuses. The display had various questions and quotes posted for the school children and staff to reflect on. Everyone was then encouraged to pin their answers to questions on the display. A pamphlet was also provided for further information.

We thank everyone who took part in the initiative.

Lilian Ramathan's visit

Lilian Ramathan and her family visited Sacred Heart College campus again on the 1st of November; in loving memory of their late son, Kray Ramathan, who passed away on that same day last year. She made sandwiches for children to take home for their supper and gave scientific calculators and mathematical instruments to our outgoing Grade 5 learners. Lilian told our learners that Kray's heart was always dedicated to those less fortunate than him and the gesture from their family would be the best way to honour and remember him. She had previously brought winter blankets to the children when she first visited the project earlier this year.

Thank you so much for your continued support.

Child safeguarding training



On the 14th of November, child safeguarding training was held at Sacred Heart College, hosted by the College's Primary School principal and the College's social worker. Our staff and volunteers, as well as some of our children's parents and some members of our judo partner, Judo for the world, attended the three-hour training. The training started with an introduction to what abuse is, identifying it and reporting on it.

This was followed by a practical training on various scenarios of different types of abuse to test what had been previously discussed. This was a refresher course for some of our staff and the first training on this topic for others. It was an enlightening training that equipped our staff and partner with the knowledge to address these crucial issues.

Many thanks to Sacred Heart College for organising this for us!

Dinner with the Turquoise Harmony Institute

The Refugee Concert organised by the Turquoise Harmony Institute held on the 21st of June this year has been awarded the Pioneers in SDGs Project Stakeholders Award at the UNGA Conference in New York on 25 September 2019. Pioneers in SDGs Awards pay tribute to outstanding individuals and organizations who contribute to sustainable peace and development while promoting and protecting the culture of peace, diversity, inclusive society, Human Rights, women and youth empowerment at the local, national, and global levels.

To celebrate this award, the Turquoise Harmony Institute organised a dinner on 15th November where the Three2Six Project was invited to acknowledge our partnership and contribution to the concert. Many thanks to the Institute for the invitation.

Grade 3s farewell camp

From the 20th to the 22nd of November, the Grade 3s from our Holy Family College campus went on their annual camping trip to Maraneman in the Vaal, to spend time in nature and to take a break from working hard throughout the year. Activities included swimming, camp competitions, climbing, running, singing and animal and star gazing. The tour was facilitated by the Marist Brothers. At the end of this year, the Grade 3s will be leaving the Three2Six project as they progress to other schools.



Grade 5 farewell

On Friday, the 23rd of November, we gave our Grade 5 children from our Sacred Heart College campus a wonderful farewell. The children celebrated their graduation together with their parents. The core of the celebration was presentations from the children and speeches by parents and teachers. At the very end, Dr Mark Potterton, the principal of the primary school, gave each child a gift to prepare them for their next year in another school. After this, we enjoyed some snacks together.

Thanks to all participants for the marvellous event!

Sacred Heart College campus prize giving

The Sacred Heart College Campus Prize Giving Ceremony for 2019 was held on Friday, the 29th of November. Parents came to support their children and to celebrate their achievements. Children received academic certificates and we gave special certificates to the most resilient child in every grade, as well as Leadership certificates to learners who have assisted the Project in monitoring their peers throughout the school year. Children cheerfully interacted and parents had time to connect with each other and share refreshments.



Right to play workshop

On the 29th of November, our international volunteer Honi Rubik facilitated a workshop with some of the Three2Six teachers to discuss children's rights, including their right to play. Seven teachers from Holy Family College and the teachers from Observatory Girls' Primary Schools participated.

This was an opportunity to share a Marist experience and a production from Brazil. Honi is a journalist and works for the Marist Centre of Children's Rights Defence. Honi came to South Africa to work with the children and teach them about the global Marist Mission to protect refugee children.

The learning concepts were based on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, focusing on the right to play. The teachers played some games to remind them of childhood and watched a video from the series Brincadiquê, which was produced to support teachers to discuss and strengthen their knowledge about how to play.

You can watch the series Brincadiquê on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xulTc9GgzMQ&list=PLrl6B1Ndk3husfLsl8oRe3YtUY7CJK66&index=13>

Parents English class certificates



On Saturday, the 30th of November, 11 of our parents completed their 36 hours of English class sessions. The program is run by the Turquoise Harmony Institute and it aims to assist parents with basic English conversational skills to enhance their communication ability in their daily attempts to settle into the South African society. The program will carry on next year with a new group of parents.

Play day



On the 27th of November, a team from **A Chance to play Southern Africa** hosted a workshop with both parents and learners from the Observatory Girls' Primary School campus. The purpose of the workshop was to teach parents how to play with their children at home. The facilitators talked about different types of play and why play is important to children. Parents were also told to actively participate in their children's education and to learn from them. The

children participated in group work activities and could choose what they wanted to do. The different activities included painting, drama and different games. Our learners were excited to participate and to learn with their parents.

Weekly reading activities



At our Holy Family College campus, our Three2Six students participated in weekly reading activities with the international volunteers. Each child chooses a book to take home to read with their families. After each week, they can then practice reading with a volunteer, and talk about the story they read. Their families are also involved. The campus coordinator and volunteers encourage families to support and learn with their children. The teachers have noticed vast improvements in their learner's reading skills. Our grade 2B teacher says the learners are now able to read fluently.

Our Grade 3 teacher notes that the children can also communicate better, with improved vocabulary.

December holiday program



On the 2nd of December, our annual December Holiday Program kicked off. Despite the rainy weather, our children and volunteers had a wonderful time. This year's focus was on play, resilience and reading. The programme management team organised many playful activities.

The new additions to this year's edition were isiZulu classes, a performance by Hooked on Books, judo lessons for all our grades, a body positive talk and a visit to Sci Bono and one to Play Africa - an NGO that promotes the children's right to play. We also reintroduced our cooking lessons and we continued with our swimming lessons, science lessons (on the environment), our craft activities, drama games and visited the zoo again this year.

We finished off with a lovely disco party that got everyone moving! We were very lucky to welcome our Australian volunteers from the Australian Catholic University again and our team from Marcellin College. Thank you so much for bringing your energy and your skills to the holiday programme! We also want to thank our teachers, our project's volunteers and local volunteers from the surrounding schools

for dedicating their time to our children as well as our team for being part of this great adventure.

See you all next year!

Fundraising update

This last quarter we renewed our partnership with The Breadsticks Foundation to enable us to keep running project activities. We remain grateful to all our partners, funders and individual donors for all the contributions that allow us to make such a valid impact on the lives of refugee and migrant children living in South Africa.

We receive continued support from:

- Misereor
- a private Dutch funder
- Miseen Cara
- Mary Oppenheimer and Daughters
- Johannesburg Stock Exchange
- HCI Foundation
- Terre des Hommes
- Harris Matthew Trust
- Various private donors

The project would like to thank the Sacred Heart College campus parents for their continued support with our feeding scheme.

Looking ahead

Because of the shortage of funding at the beginning of 2019, no new classes were started, and we reduced our numbers from 325 to 225. If funding is discontinued at any point, our priority is to serve the children already in the program, with a reduction in numbers by 75 children per year. This means that the entire program can be closed in 3 years without negatively impacting children already in the program. In our future project planning, our Board is looking at this very carefully to ensure enough funding requests are made and new funding explored to avoid this occurring. Ideally, the project should at least be able to maintain a level of 225 children per year. This is dependent on the state of the economy and inflation.

The project has made a strategic decision not to open new classes and enrolments but to maintain the number of students in the project until funding is confirmed. The project will retain 225 learners at the beginning of 2020.

A program like ours will always be vulnerable to our capacity to do fundraising and the willingness of foundations, corporations and individuals to provide us with funding.

The project has various ways in which all our partners can benefit from contributing to the project in cash or in-kind:

- 501C3 - Section 501(c)(3) is the portion of the US Internal Revenue Code that allows for federal tax exemption of non-profit organizations, specifically those that are considered public charities, private foundations or private operating foundations. If you are based in America and would like to make a contribution to the project, please contact our American fundraising team on 484-602-7365 (cell phone number) and 212-410-1185 (office number) or contact partnerships@three2six.co.za. A reminder that the mailing address of our 501c3:

Sacred Heart Marist Observatory % Margaret Minson
PO Box 1294
New York, NY 10028-9998.

- Section 18A - allows a taxpayer, who has donated to a PBO or certain other institutions, to claim a tax deduction.

If you would like to partner with us and support some of our children to transition into mainstream schooling or offer additional support to those who have transitioned, such as mentoring and extra academic support, please get in touch with us: Partnerships@three2six.co.za

Thank you for all you do for our kids. You are a part of their lives too.

Sincerely,

Nthabiseng Seane
Fundraiser
011 081 2200/ 065 860 2506
Partnerships@three2six.co.za

Staff update



After four months with us, our Communications officer, Leon France, has left the project to carry on with his studies. We are grateful for all the work accomplished. All the best to you Leon!

In November, we welcomed Erica Penfold in his place. Erica is an independent communications consultant who has worked in the public health sector for several years. She consults for three HIV focused organisations and is now working for the Three2Six project in a part-time capacity. She is a skilled technical writer, editor and creative thinker.

In December, we also bid farewell to our long-term volunteer Honi Rubik. She has volunteered with us for a year and a half, working with our Holy Family College campus and for the Holiday Programme. In that time, she has continuously looked for ways to positively impact on the learning experience of our children. She for instance started an Educommunication project on the campus to help build the children's resilience and to share their voices. She will be really missed!

Get involved in our campaigns

Subscribe or make a once off donation to our **ONEPLUSFOUR** campaign



Support your charitable organization by starting your shopping at
smile.amazon.com

amazonsmile
You shop. Amazon gives.

