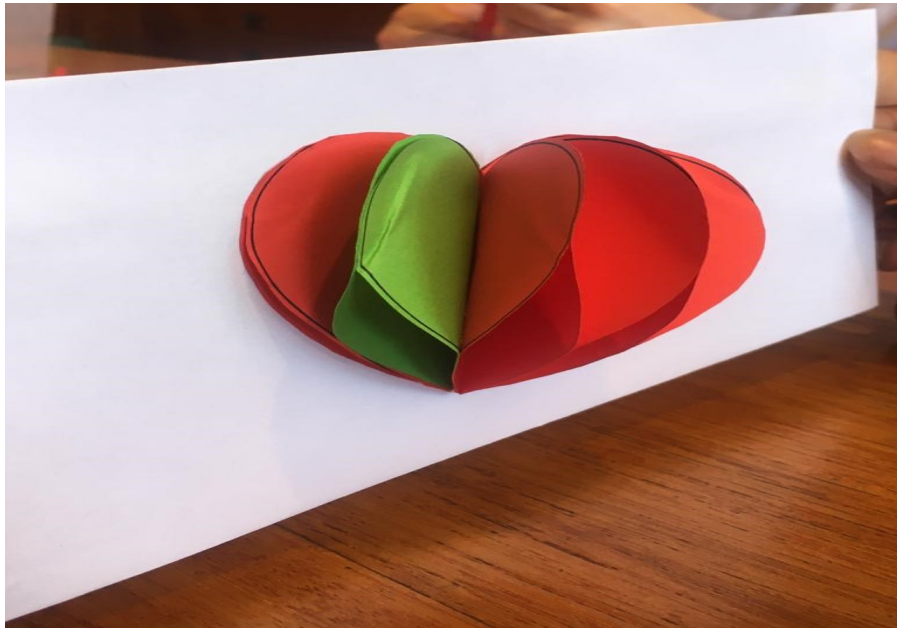




THREE2SIX
Refugee Children's Education Project

*Friends of
Three2six
Newsletter*

**Volume 15,
2020**



FEBRUARY 2020

NEWSLETTER

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Change of leadership

Mr Colin Northmore has stepped down as director. After thirteen years at the helm and given the stellar achievements made by Colin and the team, this is now the natural time to pass the leadership to a new generation, to take the project forward and deliver further value. The principal of the Sacred Heart College Primary School, Mark Potterton, has been appointed as the incoming Director. Mark has had extensive experience in the Three2Six project, having been a principal of two of our campuses for 4 years, and has worked in an NGO environment for 17 years. There will be no disruption to the project. Mark has worked closely with Colin on the project during his time at Holy Family College and while at Sacred Heart College. In addition, Mark has been involved in all major strategic decisions since Colin's departure from Sacred Heart College and as part of a hand over process.

The Three2Six team remains intact. Charlotte Margerit continues in her role as the overall project manager and the current campus Coordinators remain unchanged. Nthabiseng Seane will continue raising funds and reporting on progress in the project.

The campuses have all had a good start this year and we are currently working closely with the auditors on the 2019 audit.

We appreciate and are grateful for the tremendous contribution made by Colin over the years. We are confident that there will be a smooth transition and that the project will go from strength to strength.

From the Director's desk

I am excited to take over the leadership of the Three2Six Project from Mr Colin Northmore. Over the past twelve years Colin established a formidable project that provided a safe learning space for refugee children in Johannesburg. The need for the project is still as great as it was in the early years. Even though the context has changed, refugee parents still face many challenges getting their children into public schools.

We are pleased to accommodate 225 children this year on three campuses. We still ensure that the children get a meal and that we offer the best possible education in the limited time we have available.

We were excited to welcome a new Grade 1 class to Sacred Heart College this year. The children have settled in well and are building solid foundations in literacy and numeracy.

Thank you to all our donors for your continued support and interest.

Dr Mark Potterton

Visit from our past volunteers



From the 13th until the 20th of February, our team at Holy Family College was delighted to welcome back some of our past volunteers, Marius and Celine, for a short period of time.

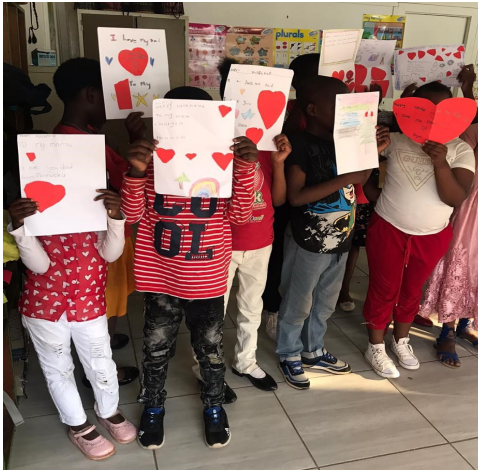
Marius volunteered at Holy Family College for almost a year between 2017 and 2018 and Celine for 9 months between 2018 and 2019. They both came from our partner organization CMI Germany.

Our old volunteers came with their siblings to help in the classrooms for a whole week. As part of their contribution to the project, Marius and his brother also kindly donated clothes to our children.

Our children were ecstatic to see them and to spend some time with them!

Thank you so much to our volunteers for coming back to the project. It is always a pleasure to see them and stay in touch.

Valentine's day



On the 14th of February, the sea of red and white on Valentine's Day transformed the school hall at Observatory Girls' Primary School into an explosion of color and music. Our learners dressed up in their best Valentines colors, danced to music in the hall and played games.

Later on, they made beautiful Valentines cards to give to their parents when they went home.

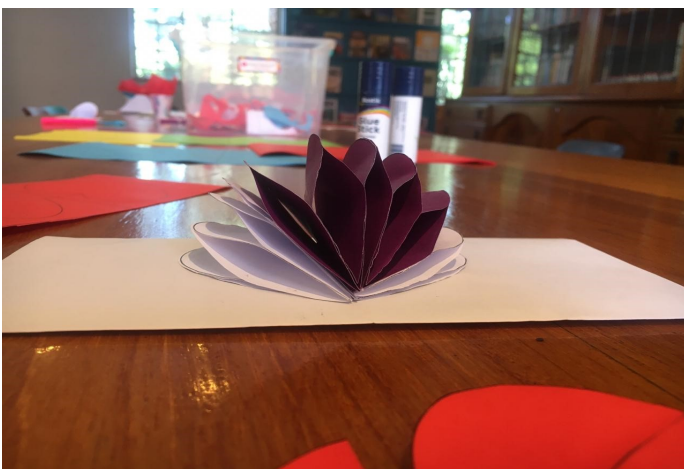
Alumni day

We had our latest Three2Six Alumni Service Day on Saturday 15th February 2020.

We decided to celebrate Valentine's Day as part of our day activities. We did that by talking about kindness, not only to others, but also to ourselves. We then created some Valentines gifts to give to our family and friends, including some notes of kindness, to show gratitude to the people in our lives.

The Alumni then made their own pizzas. They learned to roll the dough, and selected different toppings they wanted on their pizza. These were a huge hit and a filling treat for everyone. Finally they finished the day with an ice cream cone. This was a day of celebration and fun, and it was great to have so many Alumni attend.

Our next Alumni Day will be held on the 7th March from 9.30am – 12.30pm. We hope you can join us.



Visit from Democracy Prep Public School



On the 20th of February, scholars from Democracy Prep Public School in the United States visited our learners at the Observatory Girls' Primary School Campus. The high school students and our young learners played games all afternoon and organized relay races.

The team then went on to Sacred Heart College and spoke to our project manager, Charlotte, about the history of our project and its roots at the College. They also shared with her their impressions of our children.

The Democracy Prep team was impressed by the gregarious and mature nature of our students. Our kids were not afraid to chat to them about their lives, creating a bond between them in a small time period. Our visitors also indicated their willingness to volunteer with us for a longer period of time the next time they come visit.

Thanks so much to Democracy Prep for our continued partnership!

Remedial support at Holy Family College



In February, our past learner, Musafiri Ivan, who joined the project as a Grade R student at its inception in 2008 has started running a remedial class with our Grade 3 learners at Holy Family College. He is currently a student teacher at the main school.

Ivan is currently helping four of our learners who have learning difficulties, twice a week for 1h30. This remedial support will carry on until the end of the year.

Well done Ivan. It is very inspiring to see you giving back to the project!

News from our alumni

Sedler Miguel, our past learner who left the project in 2014, has completed his Matric with exemption. He is currently studying Business Management at the University of Pretoria.

This young man joined us in 2012 when he was 12 years old, which was his first time attending school. Sedler excelled and completed grade 6 as one of our top boys. He won a scholarship at Rand Tutorial in Bez Valley in Johannesburg, where he completed his Matric last year.

The other learners have learnt much from his resilience, determination and his work ethic.

His guardian, Andrew Bannister, came back to see us on the 10th of February to say thank you for what the Project has done for Sedler.

Ivan Irakoze, a past learner who left the project in 2012 is currently doing his Bachelor's degree in Education with the University of South Africa (UNISA). He wanted to teach to give back to other children, to honor what our project did for him. He paid tribute to the project in a speech given at the Three2Six 10th Anniversary. (Ref. Ivan Irakoze, representing Three2Six Alumni at the 10th Anniversary Celebration).

To subsidize his fees, he is working as an intern teacher, assisting teachers at the Holy Family College. He has also started a cultural dance group. This allows him to gain extra income to support himself and the rest of his family.

His last exhibition was at a wedding on 22 February 2020. We are very proud of you Ivan!

Research Project

In September 2019, Three2Six started a new research project to answer the following question: "Is there school-based violence among children in the Three2Six project?"

We first completed a literature review of the topic and started data collection in February.

If the data collected on this topic proves that there is indeed violence among them, the research will look at its occurrence and the form it takes.

Data is currently being collected through interviews with our staff members in direct contact with our children (teachers, drivers and volunteers) as well as through observations in the classroom, at playtime and lunch break. These are being conducted in partnership with consultants from the Catholic Institute of Education (CIE) who have extensive experience in the field of school observation, especially looking at school-based violence.

This research is supported by our funder, Terre des Hommes. We are grateful for this new research opportunity from which we will implement activities to address the needs of our children on this topic. We will also look at supporting their parents to foster non-violent behavior among their children.

Fundraising update

Thanks to the continued support of our funders, we were able to start this new year with nine classes and to accommodate 225 children, from Grade R to Grade 5.

This continued support helps us work towards the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal #4 - quality education - for refugee children in Johannesburg, allowing us to make a difference in their lives.

We would like to thank the following funders for this:

- Misereor
- Misesan Cara
- A private Dutch funder
- The Breadsticks Foundation
- Mary Oppenheimer & Daughters
- The HCI Foundation
- Terre des Hommes
- Various individual donors.

In February, we received renewed support from the Caring Women's Forum and the Harris Mathews Charitable Foundation, for which we are very grateful.

To help us find funds to cover our activities until the end of the year, we welcome any suggestions of foundations, organizations, corporations or any institutions that fund educational programs for refugees in South Africa. If you would like to contact us in this regard or to offer your direct financial support to the project, please do not hesitate to reach out to us on partnerships@three2six.co.za

The project has various ways in which all its 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 of our 501c3 mailing address:

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

♦ Section 18A allows a South African 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 on the same address as above.

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

Sincerely,

Nthabiseng Seane

Fundraiser

Partnerships@three2six.co.za