



THREE2SIX

Refugee Children's Education Project

*Friends of
Three2Six
Newsletter*

Volume 10, 2019



**JULY 2019
NEWSLETTER**



Inside

- **Advocacy update**
- **Joint Prosperity's visit**
- **Donations for Mandela Day**
- **Testimony from the mother of a past learner**
- **Parents meeting**
- **Funder visits Three2Six**
- **Fun Day with Turquoise Harmony Institute**
- **Grade 10 Community Service with Three2Six Children**
- **Three2Six alumni receives his South African residence permit**
- **Fundraising report**

Three2Six's director talks at a side-event of the United Nations

The Three2Six project was invited by its long-standing funder Misesan Cara to take part as a panellist in a side-event of the UN High Level Political Forum (HLPF) on sustainable development this month.

The 2019 focus of the HLPF is on "empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality". To tie into this, the side-event looked at "Addressing inclusion, inequality and institutions".

The event took place on the 10th of July at the Church Centre for the United Nations and was hosted by the Salesians of Don Bosco.

The panellists included representatives from Anglophone West Africa Province of Salesians, from the inter-congregation sustainable agriculture program and from our project. Participants to the event also included representatives from Franciscans International, Misesan Cara Ireland and Don Bosco Network.



**HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM
ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

The panellists were all from countries presenting their Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) at the main HLPF event which focused on sustainable development goals number 4 (education), 8, 10, 13, 16 and 17 this year. They shared their grassroots experiences of working towards achieving those goals and discussed how they are in fact interlinked.



During the event, the project announced the international launch of its Talking and Thinking about Refugees resource (available here: <http://www.three2six.co.za/ttr-2/>) and shared its efforts to support the South African government in achieving Goal 4 (Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all) for refugee, asylum seeker and migrant children in South Africa while looking at the current situation in terms of access to mainstream schooling for those same children.

The event was well-attended and a Q&A session gave the audience the opportunity to engage with our director and the other participants. Through this event, the project reached civil society organisations (CSOs), state representatives from African countries as well as members of religious congregations.

The entire event was recorded. You can watch the video on: <https://bit.ly/2YEC6As>

We couldn't be more grateful to Misesan Cara, Salesian Missions and the Don Bosco Network for offering this one in a lifetime opportunity to Three2Six.

Achieving sustainable development goals is of utmost importance as they were set to eradicate poverty, achieve sustainable development and establish global peace and justice by 2030. It is only if States and CSOs work hand in hand on the long term that these goals can be achieved.

Attendance to conferences

Achieving sustainable development goals is of utmost importance as they were set to eradicate poverty, achieve sustainable development and establish global peace and justice by 2030. It is only if States and CSOs work hand in hand on the long term that these goals can be achieved.

The panel shared their key recommendations to tackle the global learning crisis and to increase access to early childhood education in all contexts (both development and emergency contexts). Data on global progress towards this goal was also presented and explained, which revealed the efforts that are still to be made in this field.

Democracy Prep visit

The team also had the pleasure to visit Democracy Prep Harlem High School. Democracy Prep has been actively engaged with our project over the last few years by sending some of their students over to our campuses to run fun activities with our children, as we recently shared with you in our 2019 newsletters.

James Lee, a Korean program coordinator in the organisation, showed us the campus and introduced us to the model of Democracy Prep which slogan is "Work hard. Go to College. Change the world!"

We also had the opportunity to join two classes of their summer academy program which supports with extra classes learners who struggled, to help them pass.



The school model has a focus on civic engagement and the goal it set out is to prepare learners to become active citizens and leaders in the United States.

To find out more about this innovative school model, visit their website: <http://democracyprep.org>

Thanks a lot Democracy Prep for organising this inspiring visit!

Meeting with our 501c3 team

This visit to the United States was also a great opportunity for our management team to meet in person with its American fundraising team. New possible fundraising pathways were explored. We also had a conversation about the possibility of a documentary being made about the project for Amazon Prime. More on this soon!





On July 18th, a group of Joint Prosperity employees visited the Three2Six project at Sacred Heart College to celebrate Mandela Day. The group of visitors watched the Three2Six presentation video and met with our pupils in the media centre.

The group explained to the children what Joint Prosperity does as a company and why Nelson Mandela's legacy is so important for everybody. At the end of their visit, each Grade 5 pupil was given a backpack with school materials and snacks that were donated by the company.

Our learners were very happy to receive those donations and are very excited to use their new stationery and new backpacks!

We thank Joint Prosperity for the visit and for the very generous donation that will support our children's academic progress.



Donations for Mandela Day

On Friday the 19th July, the Grade 6 learners of Sacred Heart College together with their teacher Mrs Pam Paton-Mills donated food parcels to all our children based on this campus, as part of Mandela Day's celebrations. We really appreciate their support and their solidarity. As Mandela himself said: "There can be no greater gift than that of giving one's time and energy to help others without expecting anything in return". Let's all work to provide support to the ones in need and especially to the children in need in our country.

Thanks so much to Sacred Heart College for one more wonderful support in favour of our children!



"There can be no greater gift than that of giving one's time and energy to help others without expecting anything in return"-Nelson Mandela

The mother of a past learner visits us to say thank you



On Friday the 26th of July, Skhanyiso Mpfu, a former learner of the project came to visit Three2Six on its Sacred Heart College campus, together with her mother Thembelihle Tshuma. The visit was intended to show gratitude and thankfulness to the project for the assistance received when Skhanyiso was still a learner in the project, between 2016 and 2018: "I never thought that I could ever find great teachers and great friends. All I thought was that I

was going to be alone and alone forever" says Skhanyiso who is now 11 years old.

Having Skhanyiso at the project had a positive impact on her mother's life too. Thembelihle said that she pushed harder to secure a place for her daughter in the project because Skhanyiso used to always ask her if she will ever get an opportunity to go to school as her friends from her neighbourhood were attending school. But it was not easy for a mother living under difficult conditions in Johannesburg. After arriving in South Africa from Zimbabwe, Thembelihle had to look for employment: "It was not only for my child but for me too. I managed to change my life and if there was no support from Three2Six, I was not going to make it because I was going to be stuck at home, worrying about the school fees and the documents but at least Three2Six project took half of my luggage" Thembelihle added.

After spending three years at Three2Six, Skhanyiso who is now in Grade 6 at a mainstream school gives advice to children who are in the same situation that she was in before joining the project: "All I can say is to use all the opportunities and learn how to be kind and be sweet to other people and never give up".

Most of our learners face a lot of difficulties and it is always a great pleasure to see them overcome those challenges and perform well.

Finally, Thembelihle wanted to thank the people who supported her, her daughter and the children of the project: "To all those people, I don't even know where should I start to thank them. The job that they are doing it's so overwhelming and we are very grateful for the chance which they are giving these kids "

Parents Meeting

On Saturday, July 27, a parents meeting was held at our Holy Family College campus.

It gave the parents of our learners the opportunity to discuss with our staff the performance of their child during the second term. They then all enjoyed a drama around refugee stories that was put on by students of the University of the Witwatersrand.

This is part of an artistic partnership between those students and the African Centre for Migration and Society based at the same university.



Thanks to everyone who joined this meeting and to these very talented students for the fascinating play!

Terre des Hommes visit the project



On the 29th of July, representatives from Terre des Hommes (TDH), one of our funders, visited us on our Sacred Heart College campus. During the meeting that was held, our team had the opportunity to explain to the representatives from Head office the internal structure of the project and presented the services provided to the learners on the three campuses. Our guests were then welcomed by our learners at assembly and attended our afternoon classes.



Thank you Terre des Hommes for the visit of our project and for supporting us through our partnership!

 terre des hommes
Help for Children in Need

Three2Six Fun Day with the Turquoise Harmony Institute



On 31 July, the Turquoise Harmony Institute together with a team from the University of Johannesburg led by Professor Juliet Perumal organised a Fun Day for the Three2Six children of the Sacred Heart Campus. Following the Concert for Refugees on 21 June to which the Turquoise Harmony Institute had invited our children; this time, they reached out to us to celebrate Mandela Month with our community.

Professor Juliet Perumal has been involved with the Three2Six Project since 2011. Among the main activities she has done for us are mentoring the Three2Six Teachers through the process of upgrading their qualifications, recommending the Three2Six Learners for scholarships in public schools, organising various functions and donations to the Project.



Professor Juliet Perumal came with Professor Susan W. Mills from the United States who had also been part of our Holiday Programs in previous years. We also had students from St Mary's school who joined to help with the function. They came along with Ms Nazly from the Unite and Share for Peace and Prosperity organisation.

After enjoying sharing a nice hot dog that our visitors brought for us, children had lots of fun that afternoon doing dance, face painting, cake decoration, balloon blowing, racing games and jumping castle.



We are very thankful to the Turquoise Harmony Institute and to Professor Juliet Perumal for organizing this event and are very grateful for the pack of stationery that both of them prepared for our children.

Grade 10 Community Service with Three2Six Children



As part of the recommendation to students to get involved in community service activities, the Grade 10 students at Sacred Heart College run sports activities and games with our children. Each week, a different grade from our Sacred Heart College grades is chosen to benefit from this initiative.

It is a great opportunity to strengthen and deepen integration between the Sacred Heart College students and the Three2Six learners especially as they share the same school facilities and equipment and are together part of the Marist family. It is always a great pleasure to have Sacred Heart College students get involved in the activities we carry out for our learners who are always delighted to spend some time and play with them.

Thanks so much to the Sacred Heart College students for their involvement in the project!



Three2Six alumni receives his South African residence permit

From Angola, Sedler Miguel joined the Three2Six Project in 2012 when he was 12 years old. With the help of his godfather and his good marks at Three2Six, he went to a regular school and is now enrolled in Grade 12. Recently, he received his South African permanent residence permit. Following is more on him and his story, with a testimony about the time he spent at Three2Six:

“My name is Sedler Miguel. I am 13 years old. I am from Angola. I stay with my cousin in Johannesburg in South Africa since the time I was born. I never went to school until last year (2013) when Andrew Bannister, the godfather of my cousin, registered me into the Three2Six Project. I was then 12 years old and I was placed in Grade 5.

Before I came to the Project, my cousin had tried hard to find a school for me but in every school that he approached they had all said no. I used to wake up in the morning and watch the other children going to school, how they laugh with their friends and look so smart in their uniforms and I would wonder when will be my turn to even sit in the class, raise up my hand and discuss with the other learners on class matters, then I would feel like I am losing hope for my future. When I met Andrew [Sedler's mentor], he asked me many questions and the one that troubled me was, 'which school do you go to?' I told him my story then he looked so sad.

He said, 'I will make a plan'. Two weeks later, he made a call and told my cousin that he had found a school for me. I was so happy and excited and when he took me at school in my Three2Six uniform, I felt so smart and happy and I knew that, with the help of God, my future will be bright.”

From the time that Sedler was given a chance to start his schooling, he worked hard so that after his first year in Grade 5, he would know how to read and write properly. His immense efforts helped him to achieve his Grade 5 academic goals. He completed Grade 6 among our top learners and earned himself a scholarship for his high school. Andrew has played a huge role in mentoring him, and we are very grateful to him for all the support and help through these years. He went as far as assisting Sedler to get his permanent residence here in South Africa.

Sedler is currently in Grade 12, and we wish him the best with his matric exams, and indeed, to fulfil his dream of having a bright future at University and a successful life. We are very proud of all that Sedler has accomplished since he has left the project.



We are halfway towards the end of the year and we have many exciting activities planned for the year. We would like to thank all of our partners and donors who visited the project in the last quarter to have an experience of our project and spend a day with the children. We value the opportunity to share the work that we do and all your valid contributions to the project.

-  **Johannesburg Stock Exchange**
-  **HCI Foundation**
-  **Terre des hommes**

The project will once again like to welcome on board the following funders who have opened their doors for a new cycle of funding for the project starting this mid-year.

-  **Terre des hommes**

To all our partners who have committed to providing funds for this year, we remain grateful for this and appreciate your commitment. We are still in the process of collecting some of the funds committed for 2019 and looking ahead at new funding opportunities for 2020-2021.

We are also very grateful for the generous donations of two anonymous donors. They allowed our children to enjoy a delicious meal on Champagnat day along with the Sacred Heart College students.

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 us for further details on the returns.

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.

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

We are always available to answer any questions you may have and are always looking for new partners to assist with the long-term needs of the project, why not lend a helping hand, refer a friend or two and make a difference.

Sincerely,

Nthabiseng Seane
Three2Six fundraiser
011 081 2200/ 065 860 2506
partnerships@three2six.co.za

Three2Six staff update



We would like to say a big thank you to Jimmy, who was our IT intern for 11 months. Jimmy helped the project with all its IT requirements, provided an IT support to all our campuses and staff, worked on updating our website, on finalising our monthly newsletters, annual reports and also on our learner record management system. He has now left the project to kick off his professional career in IT. We will miss you. Best of luck from all of us!

We want to welcome our new Communication Intern Mucyo Léon France Régis, who started volunteering with us at the beginning of July. He studies Public Relations and Communication Management at the University of Johannesburg. He will be working on all the communication related aspects of the project, such as our social media pages, our monthly newsletter and documenting our events. France will work with us until the end of October. We are delighted to have him in our team.



At the same time, we would also like to welcome our new Information Technology intern, Palesa Morele. She recently graduated from the University of Johannesburg, in Business Information Technology and will be our new IT person. Welcome Palesa and we wish you all the best in your new role!

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



amazonsmile
You shop. Amazon gives.